



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Field Crop/Rice Registration

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) mailed out grower field registration appointment postcards on Monday, July 6, 2009. The appointment period has been set from July 27th through August 7th to process field crop registration and agricultural burn permits for the Fall 2009 burn season. To assist the agricultural community, the District holds registration appointments to explain changes to the program and assure each grower's opportunity to participate in the program.

Continuing this year, the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner made a countywide finding of rice disease levels based in field inspections and statistical rice disease levels in the County. This allows for the registration and permitting of rice straw for burning without the requirement that each grower individually certify the disease levels in their field; **Inspections for disease WILL NOT be required for the 2009-2010 burn season.** State law limiting the burning of rice straw to no more than 25% of the grower's planted acreage or 125,000 acres basinwide still applies. Other program changes will be reviewed with growers during the registration process.

Any field crop producer who has not received a registration appointment postcard may contact the District at 891-2882 to schedule an appointment. Producers who would prefer to complete the registration process by mail may contact the District at 891-2882 to request the necessary registration materials. The documents have also been posted on our website, [www.bcaqmd.org](http://www.bcaqmd.org) in the "burning" section under "agricultural burning".

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