Friday, June 17, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6 p.m.

County of Santa Barbara Establishes Email “Helpline” for Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Sherpa Fire

(Santa Barbara, CA) – Santa Barbara County has established the following email “helpline” for farmers and ranchers impacted by the Sherpa Fire: sherpaag@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

When a request for support is submitted to the helpline, a member of the County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office will respond and coordinate relevant resources to address any issues reported.

“If you are a farmer or rancher and you believe your crops or livestock will be impacted by the Sherpa Fire we stand ready to assist,” said County Agricultural Commissioner Cathy Fisher. “Agriculture is the number one industry in the County. We want to help minimize potential losses from this challenging event,” she added.

Damage to agricultural resources remains a significant concern. Damage assessments are underway. The results of these assessments will be released as soon as they are available. No livestock injuries or deaths have been reported. Santa Barbara County is home to a $1.48 billion agriculture industry, the largest industry in the County.

The public should be advised that animals should no longer be taken to Earl Warren Showgrounds. Anyone in the evacuation area needing assistance with animals, including livestock, should call (805) 681-4332.

Farmers and ranchers contacting the email helpline should provide the following:
- Name of Person Making the Contact
- Ranch or Farm Name
- Best Phone Number to Contact
- Nature of the Assistance Requested

The Sherpa Fire started off Refugio Road at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016. To date, 5,866 acres have burned and the fire is 20 percent contained. Currently, 1,230 personnel are devoted to the fire under the unified command of U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE and Santa Barbara County Fire. Two-hundred seventy structures are under evacuation warning or mandatory evacuation orders. One out building has burned. One injury has been reported.

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