



December 7, 2007

### **Coffee Talk meeting set for Dec. 14**

Fresno County Farm Bureau will hold a Coffee Talk meeting with Supervisor Phil Larson on Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 a.m. at K&C Donuts in Easton.

The informal Coffee Talk meetings provide Farm Bureau members and others a chance to get up-to-speed on current local issues. Coffee and snacks are provided. There is no cost, and this meeting is hosted by the Central Region. To RSVP or for additional details, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or email: [info@fcfb.org](mailto:info@fcfb.org).

### **Growers urged to attend ARB meeting on Dec. 14 in Easton**

Growers and agricultural representatives are urged to attend an informational meeting on Dec. 14 to understand the statewide proposal for in-use heavy-duty diesel trucks by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and for growers to explain to ARB how this proposal could impact their operations.

The event will be held on Friday, Dec. 14 at the C.P.D.E.S. Hall (Portuguese Hall), 172 West Jefferson Ave. in Easton, beginning at 9 a.m.

Direct questions to FCFB, (559) 237-0263, the Nisei Farmers League, (559) 251-8468, or the California Cotton Ginners & Growers Associations, (559) 252-0684.

### **Ag Pump Efficiency Program workshop set for Dec. 13 in Fresno**

By Cassie Dellaganna  
FCFB Intern

An Ag Pump Efficiency Program workshop will be held on Dec. 13 at the Center for Irrigation Technology on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Barstow avenues from 9 a.m. to noon.

The workshop will discuss the APEP and PG&E Energy Efficiency Programs, and will cover the following topics: Mobile Education Center, dynamic pump display featuring real-time pumping costs and equipment, backflow prevention and chemigation. Attendees will have the opportunity to see if their agricultural or municipal pumps are operating at their highest efficiency.

A free hot lunch will be served at the conclusion of the workshop.

Also two hours CE credits from CDPR are available, one for laws and regulations, and one for other PCA, private applicator or commercial applicator.

Space is limited so RSVP to (800) 845-6038. Questions and additional information is available at: [www.pumpefficiency.org](http://www.pumpefficiency.org).

### **Community Food Bank needs food donations for holiday meals**

By Cassie Dellaganna  
FCFB Intern

Community Food Bank needs your help to put an additional 1,000 holiday meals together for our neighbors in the Central Valley.

Due to several hardships in the agricultural industry this year, such as the January freeze, there are many Central Valley families in need of a helping hand this holiday season.

The food bank is in need of the following items; canned fruits and vegetables, potatoes, gravy, dinner rolls, stuffing mix, macaroni and cheese, rice, juice, turkeys, chickens, and ham. All of these items can be dropped off at Community Food Bank, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The address is 3403 E. Central Ave., Fresno, CA 93725.

If you are unable to make a food donation but would still like to help, monetary donations also are gratefully accepted and can be mailed to the address above.

Community Food Bank also needs volunteers for their Christmas meal box food sort on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Direct questions to the Food Bank at (559) 237-3663. Help make the Holidays merry for all Central Valley families!

### **Asian vine crop workshop is Dec. 13**

By Cassie Dellaganna  
FCFB Intern

A workshop demonstrating how a permanent trellis system will benefit growers of Asian Vine crops will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to

noon at Cherta Farms, at 8269 E. American Ave., near Del Rey.

The workshop will be conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Attendees will receive information about pest identification, pesticide safety, and understanding their soils. In addition, there will be an equipment demonstration by Bryan Burke, of Kuckenbecker Tractor Company, to show how a mulcher, in one pass, can cultivate and shape a field to prepare it for planting either by seed or transplantation.

Also, private pesticide applicators attending the workshop can receive up to 2.5 hours of continuing education credit hours.

For further information regarding the workshop, call (559) 252-2191.

## Delta Task Force shares findings

By Teresa Plascencia

FCFB Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Last Friday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, released its proposals to address the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, which included general support for reservoirs and a new conveyance facility to deliver water.

Although the task force did stop short of indicating where to build storage facilities and what type of plumbing project would best move water through or around the Delta, task force members did recognize that water storage capacity and Delta conveyance improvements are linked and important to California's water future. Major emphasis also was placed on conservation.

The following are just a few of the interrelated elements the Task Force envisions for the Delta and California:

- \* Call for conveyance improvements, additional water storage and other actions to achieve a more sustainable Delta;
- \* Suggesting that new housing close to levees be "discouraged;"
- \* Called for creation of a new agency that would allocate water supplies and collect fees from agencies tapping the Delta;
- \* Urged the state to begin buying land in floodways to provide a buffer zone as well as marshy habitat;

\* Suggested the state build reservoirs to restore water supplies according to the growing demand and a new canal to carry water through California;

\* Suggested constructing storage facilities and the type of plumbing required to divert some water around the delta;

\* Suggest the region be renamed the "California Delta;" and

\* Suggested the state work to "improve" supplies, calling existing capacity "inadequate."

The task force is expected to launch a second phase next year that could produce more defined positions on reservoirs, delivery systems and other critical issues. The task force report is available at [www.deltavision.ca.gov](http://www.deltavision.ca.gov)

The Delta supplies two-thirds of the state's drinking-water, flows through a 1,100-mile maze of waterways. It is a vast estuary for wildlife, including numerous rare and endangered species.

## Meeting held for dairy producers to discuss CDFA Whey Factor Decision

A meeting will be held by Western United Dairywomen to discuss CDFA's recent whey factor decision on Thursday, Dec. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.

This decision, which is to take effect with December production, changes the whey factor in the 4b formula to a 25-cent fixed amount, increases the cheese make allowance in the Class 4b formula, and it increases the nonfat dried milk make allowance and butter f.o.b. adjuster in the Class 4a formula. WUD says that this decision will have a major impact on dairy producers throughout Fresno County. Fresno County dairy producers are encouraged to participate.

For details, please call Tessa Curti at (559) 679-2976 or via email at [t.curti@yahoo.com](mailto:t.curti@yahoo.com).

## Specialty Crops Conference for Small Farm Resource Network members set for Dec. 12

The U.C. Small Farm Program will host the 2007 Specialty Crops Conference on Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the U.C. Davis Activities and Recreation Center on the U.C. Davis campus.

Presentations will be conducted on specialty fruits and vegetable production, market for California-grown botanicals, grower returns in alternative marketing channels, consumer preferences, food safety

and postharvest handling, determining what to grow, and other subjects. Direct questions to the Small Farm Center at (530) 752-8136 or [sfcenter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sfcenter@ucdavis.edu).

### Feed Inspection Services Advisory Board has vacancies

The CA Department of Food and Agriculture's Inspection Services Division has three vacancies on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board. This advisory board makes recommendations to the CDFA Secretary on all matters pertaining to the California Feed Inspection Program.

Two vacancies on the advisory board are for commercial feed industry representatives and applicants should hold a current California Commercial Feed License. The remaining vacancy is for a public member and a commercial license is not required. The term of office for a board member is three years.

The Feed and Livestock Drug Inspection Program is responsible for the enforcement of state law and regulations pertinent to the manufacturing, distribution and labeling of commercial livestock feed in California. Interested persons should contact Asif Maan at (916) 445-0444.

### Words to live by

May you always have Love to Share, Health to Spare and Friends that Care.

### This day in history

On Friday, let's pause to remember those brave soldiers and citizens who lost their lives 66 years ago at Pearl Harbor. December 7, 1941 was "a date which will live in infamy" --- The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, providing the impetus for the U.S. to formally enter WWII.

### Next Week's Calendar

**Dec. 10** Water 101 Seminar, 10 a.m., FCFB office (attendance is full.)

**Dec. 11** Big Fresno Fair Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds

**Dec. 12** EOC Rural Collaborative, 9 a.m., EOC office; Fresno Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee, 11 a.m., Chamber office

**Dec. 14** Coffee Talk, 7:30 a.m., Easton; ARB meeting, 9 a.m., CPDES Hall, Easton

### This Week's Calendar

**Dec. 3** CFBF Annual Meeting through Dec. 5

**Dec. 5** Ag Land Conservation Committee; Drought Management Workshop

**Dec. 7** Chamber Ag, Water, and Environment Committee



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Fresno County  
**Farm Bureau**

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