



Update: Tie-down regulations

Farmers and ranchers must apply for exemption and submit monthly reports

During the past few weeks, it seems there have been more questions than answers about the new regulations governing how farmers tie-down farm goods heading to market.

Here are some answers to questions producers have been asking about how to comply with the new regulations:

Q: SHOULD I APPLY FOR THIS EXEMPTION?

A: If you have a Motor Carrier Permit and haul agricultural products in bins, boxes and tubs, and have historically used corner irons and cables to secure your loads, and your truck is not retrofitted to handle the lateral straps, you should apply for this exemption.

Q: I DO NOT HAVE A MOTOR CARRIER PERMIT. DO I NEED ONE?

A: Current Motor Carrier Permits are required for individuals that operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle which consists of a three-axle motor truck with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds; any combination of motor truck and trailer exceeding 40 feet in length; any motor truck transporting hazardous materials; a motor truck of two or more axles with a GVWR of more than 10,000 lbs; and any other motor vehicle used to transport property for compensation, with some exceptions.

For further details, please visit the DMV website at: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/vehindustry/mcp/mcpinfo.htm>

Q: THIS EXEMPTION IS ALLOWED FOR HAULING GOODS TO THE FIRST POINT OF PROCESSING OR PACKING. WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE FIRST POINT OF PROCESSING?

A: The first point of processing or packing is just that. This does not include any incidental handling of a product such as cleaning, spraying (for bugs, etc.), inspecting and/or separating, temporarily storing (cold or otherwise), removing portions of a product not intended for the consumer (roots, ends, leaves), or any handling of a product in a manner which does not substantially change the product from its original condition.

Q: IF I NEED TO APPLY FOR THIS EXEMPTION, AND DON'T, WHAT HAPPENS?

A: If you are a motor carrier without the proper lateral straps required by law, you are subject to citations and fines up to approximately \$140. Additionally, the cargo you are hauling will be left on the side of the road until the requirements are met.

Q: WHEN DOES THIS EXEMPTION EXPIRE?

A: December 1, 2007.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS FOR THE 2008 HARVEST?

A: During the exemption period, private industry will be working to conduct safety studies surrounding the various methods of load securement. In some cases, the requirements for securing loads may change after December 1, 2007. Please contact your local trade association, or California Highway Patrol, for future updates.

The new regs

As reported in previous Friday Follow-Ups, the California Highway Patrol began implementing new federal regulations governing how loads of harvested agricultural products are secured for transport.

Just recently, the CHP agreed to an exemption from the new tie-down regulations for the 2007 harvest season, but farmers must apply for the exemption, and submit monthly reports detailing items such as number of loads tied down under the exemption, miles traveled, driver hours, and the like. For additional details about the exemption and new regulations, see the July issue of Agriculture Today, due out next week. In the meantime, copies of the exemption request form and monthly report form are attached to this email. Direct questions on them to FCFB Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen at ryanj@fcfb.org, or (559) 237-0263.

Annual Media Appreciation Night is July 26

You are invited to join Farm Bureau members and media partners at the ever-popular Fresno County Farm Bureau Media Appreciation Night, which will be held on Thursday, July 26 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds, Clovis Ave. and Rodeo Lane, Clovis.

FCFB's Media Appreciation Night is an opportunity to acknowledge the working relationship

between Farm Bureau and the local and regional media for its help in reporting about agricultural issues. Local reporters, editors and news team members from print and electronic media are invited to attend the event. Likewise, FCFB will announce the winners in the annual Journalism Awards. The awards recognize excellence in reporting on agricultural issues from print, radio and television journalists from throughout Fresno County. The presentation of the awards will be at 6:45 p.m.

One of the attractions of Media Night is the trailer full of fresh produce donated by Farm Bureau members for the media guests to take home. Tickets for non-media guests are \$10 per person. To make a donation of produce or to make a reservation for the event, call the Farm Bureau office at (559) 237-0263 or email Liz Hudson at lizh@fcfb.org.

Water Update

Delta Vision workshop set for July 27 in Fresno

This summer clearly indicated just how broken the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta truly is, and emphasized the critical need to fix it. For western Fresno County, much is at stake in ensuring adequate surface water supplies from the Delta continue. Farmers, water users, rural communities and others will have a chance to provide input on fixing the Delta at a Delta Vision Workshop on July 27 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fresno Convention Center, Exhibit Halls II and III, 848 M St., downtown. The workshop is cosponsored by the Water Education Foundation and California Resources Agency.

Land subsidence, deteriorating levees, agricultural sustainability, increasing urbanization, water supply reliability, ecosystem health and water quality are all major challenges facing the Delta. There are multiple Delta Vision processes underway and a decision on the future of the Delta will be made in the next two years.

Unlike past planning efforts that focused primarily on the Delta's water resource issues and ecosystem, these current efforts have expanded to include land use planning, recreation, flood management, and energy, rail and transportation infrastructure. These workshops will be held around the state and feature panel discussions on topics of interest, and include audience break-out sessions designed to reflect the ways dialog can continue on these topics. Recommendations from these sessions

will be forwarded to the state's Delta vision planning processes.

Attendance at the workshop is free and a complimentary box lunch will be served. You must register for the workshop to receive your lunch and reserve your seat. For details, visit: <http://www.water-ed.org> or phone: (916) 444-6240.

Storage & conveyance are needed

CA Department of Water Resources Director Lester Snow on Tuesday told members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee that significant new investments are needed because the Delta is "completely broken."

Snow advocated for a water bond package in 2008 to fund needed investments in water storage and Delta conveyance improvements. The Governor's strategic growth plan cites two critical areas that remain unaddressed that are vital to ensuring California has reliable water supplies: storage and conveyance. California must expand its water management and delivery system, including surface storage, groundwater storage and conveyance facilities. For more on the Administration's water infrastructure package, visit: <http://gov.ca.gov>.

Union Bank Small Business Awards seeking nominations

Entries sought for Agribusiness category

Nominations are now being accepted for the fifth annual Salute to Small Business awards program, which honors small business owners in Fresno County for the important role they play in the local and state economies. The deadline to submit nominations is July 20.

The awards luncheon will be held on Sept. 27 in Fresno and will feature *Fresno Magazine's* owner and publisher Melanie Warner as the keynote speaker.

Organized by Union Bank of California in partnership with educational, government and industry partners – including Fresno County Farm Bureau -- Salute to Small Business will honor small businesses in the following categories: Agribusiness; Civic Leadership/Community Involvement; Entrepreneur of the Year; Minority-owned Business; Nonprofit (501c3); and Woman-owned Business.

Companies or individuals may nominate themselves or another company in multiple categories. To be eligible, companies must be at least three years old with headquarters in Fresno County.

They must also be independent and privately owned and have annual sales no greater than \$5 million. Salute to Small Business nomination forms are available at the FCFB office, Union Bank branches, or on-line at: www.unionbank.com/salute2biz.

In addition to FCFB, other partners include the Central Valley Business Incubator; The Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno; Deloitte & Touche LLP; Fresno County Farm Bureau; K-Jewel; The Business Journal; and the U.S. Small Business Administration, Fresno District.

Central Valley winery & vineyard energy efficiency workshop set for July 20

The Central Valley Winery and Vineyard Energy Efficiency Workshop will be held on Friday, July 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Madera Community College. A free lunch will be provided to workshop attendees.

Co-sponsored by the California Sustainable Winegrowing alliance and PG&E, along with partnering organizations including the Wine Institute, California Association of Winegrape Growers, and Central California Winegrowers, the workshop is designed for winery facility managers, operations managers, vineyard managers and growers confronting the challenges and costs of energy consumption management.

The workshop will cover: energy evaluation and planning strategies; best practices for energy management in vineyards and wineries; information on renewable energy opportunities; updates on PG&E's free winery energy audits, equipment rebates, technical support services and new resources; and development of an action plan for improving practices and scores in the energy efficiency chapter of the Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook.

The energy workshops are free of charge. To register, visit www.wineinstitute.org/energy workshop, and complete a registration form, or call Lisa Francioni at (415) 356-7545.

Local students receive CFBF scholarships

Four Fresno County students received California Farm Bureau Federation scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year.

Wyatt McKean, of Riverdale, won the Frederick J. Heringer Honorary Award, a scholarship of \$2,500. He will enter Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in the fall as a crop science major and plans to farm on his family's diversified farm.

Local students who received a California Farm Bureau Scholarship Foundation awards of \$2,000 each are: Mark Diener, of Five Points; Megan Jacobsen, of Fresno; and Kristopher Welker, of Fresno.

All total, CFBF Scholarship Foundation granted scholarships to 55 students for the 2007-08. The foundation awarded scholarships totaling nearly \$166,000 to students who submitted applications describing their academic achievements, leadership skills and commitment to study agricultural topics.

It's watermelon time

Selma area grower Parry Klassen sent us a note this week, saying his watermelons are ready to harvest and can be bought at his fruit stand at McCall and Manning avenues, north of Selma. The stand is open until 6 p.m. Word on the street is these are some of the sweetest watermelons around!

If you are selling your farm goods directly, drop us a note about your location and available products. Don't forget to visit your local Farmers' Market this summer for a great selection of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Next Week's Calendar

July 17 FCFB Executive Committee meeting, 12 a.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.

This Week's Calendar

July 9 Fresno County proposed dairy ordinance meeting

July 11 Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee; Operation Clean Air Board meeting

July 12 FCFB Public Relations Committee

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

1274 W. Hedges Ave.; Fresno, CA 93728; (559) 237-0263

Elected Officials Contact List:

Governor Schwarzenegger
 1st Floor State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Fax # (916) 445-4633

Secretary A.G. Kawamura
 Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
 1220 N St. #409
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Fax # (916) 654-0403

Lester Snow
 Department of Water Resources
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236
 Fax # (916) 653-5028

Secretary Mike Chrisman
 1416 9th St #1311
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Fax # (916) 653-8102

Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne
 1849 C Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20240
 Fax # (202) 219-2100

Commissioner Robert W. Johnson
 Bureau of Reclamation
 1849 C Street NW
 Washington D.C. 20240-0001
 Fax # (202) 513-0309

Kirk C. Rodgers, Regional Director
 Mid Pacific Regional Office
 Federal Office Building
 2800 Cottage Way
 Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
 Fax # (916) 978-5599

Ron Milligan, Operations Manager
 Central Valley Operations Office
 3310 El Comino Ave., Ste. 300
 Sacramento, CA 95821
 Fax # (916) 979-2494

Senator Diane Feinstein
 2500 Tulare St., Ste. 4290

Fresno, CA 93721
 Fax # (559) 485-9689

Senator Barbara Boxer
 2500 Tulare Street, Ste. 5290
 Fresno, CA 93721
 Fax # (559) 497-5111

Congressman Jim Costa
 855 M St. #940
 Fresno, CA 93721
 Fax # (559) 495-1027

Congressman George Radanovich
 2040 E Herndon Ave #201
 Fresno, CA 93720
 Fax # (559) 449-2499

Congressman Devin Nunes
 113 N Church St #208
 Visalia, CA 93291
 Fax # (559) 733-3865

Congressman Dennis Cardoza
 2222 M St #305
 Merced, CA 95340
 Fax # (209) 726-1065

Senator Dean Florez
 1800 30th St. #350
 Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Fax # (661) 395-2622

Senator Dave Cogdill
 4974 E. Clinton #100
 Fresno, CA 93727
 Fax # (559) 253-7127

Assemblymember Juan Arambula
 2550 Mariposa Mall #5301
 Fresno, CA 93721
 Fax # (559) 445-6006

Assemblymember Nicole Parra
 601 24th St. #A
 Bakersfield, CA 93301
 Fax # (661) 334-3796

Assemblymember Mike Villines
6245 N Fresno St. #106
Fresno, CA 93710
Fax # (559) 446-2028

Supervisor Phil Larson
2281 Tulare, Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721-2198
Fax # (559) 488-6830

Supervisor Susan Anderson
2281 Tulare St., Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721-2198
Fax # (559) 488-6830

Supervisor Henry Perea
2281 Tulare St., Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721
Fax # (559) 455-4704

Supervisor Judy Case
2281 Tulare St., Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721
Fax # (559) 488-6830

Chairman Bob Waterston
2281 Tulare St., Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721
Fax # (559) 488-6830