



July 6, 2007

Fresno County Draft Dairy/Feedlot Facility Ordinance public meeting to be held Monday

A second public meeting to discuss Fresno County's proposed ordinance to address expansion of existing dairies/feedlots and the building of new dairies/feedlots within the County will be held this Monday, July 9 at 6 p.m., at the Cornerstone Church Conference Center, 1525 Fulton Street, Downtown Fresno.

Public written comments on the proposal are being sought and must be submitted by July 23. Comments should be sent to: Brian Ross, Fresno County: Department of Public Works and Planning Development Services Division, Phone: (559) 262-4321; Fax: (559) 262-4893 or via email: bross@co.fresno.ca.us .

Fresno County is currently a "by right" county, which means dairies in particular can build or expand existing facilities at any time as long their land is zoned "agricultural" and is approved by the Regional Water Board, the Air District and the county for building structures/facilities.

A copy of the proposed second draft ordinance is available at FCFB by calling (559) 237-0263 or online at: <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/4510/index.htm> .

California Highway Patrol develops exemption to new tie-down regulations

Farmers and ranchers must apply for exemption and submit monthly reports

The California Highway Patrol agreed to an exemption from the new tie-down regulations for the 2007 harvest season for those commodities hauled in bins, boxes and tubs. This exemption has been provided to allow for an evaluation on the methods of securement utilized by the agricultural industry. Farmers and ranchers must apply for the exemption, though, and submit monthly reports detailing items such as number of loads tied down under the exemption, miles traveled, driver hours, etc.

The exemption was developed to contend with recently passed federal and state legislation that created regulations banning the use of corner irons, cleats and longitudinal binders and cables to secure agricultural loads. The only approved method allowed

under the current regulations to secure loads is the use of lateral straps every 10 feet, which many in the agricultural industry believe to be ineffective and dangerous when hauling bins, tubs and boxes.

Attached to today's Friday Follow-Up are two documents developed by Farm Bureau fully explaining the exemption and providing the initial agricultural haulers exemption request form. Read FCFB's July edition of *Agriculture Today* for additional information on this issue including a copy of the required monthly report form. Contact the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263 with additional questions.

Metal theft bill fails in committee

The Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee failed to pass AB 844, Assemblymember Tom Berryhill's bill regarding stolen metals and recycling.

This was CFBF's sponsored bill to reduce the incidence of metal theft by changing payment methods and improving record keeping requirements for copper, aluminum, stainless steel, brass, and bronze. The final vote was 3-3, with Senators Aanestad, Denham and Florez supporting the measure. However, Senator Florez only voted for it after making sure that his vote in support of the bill would not be enough to pass the bill out of committee.

In its Friday legislative review, CFBF said it was disappointed that committee members did not see the value in supporting Farm Bureau's attempt to address the issue of metal theft, particularly when so many businesses are negatively impacted by the issue. CFBF will now work with cities and counties to pass local ordinances that will reduce the market available for stolen metal.

Earlier this summer, Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved a tough new county ordinance governing the recycling of metals. The new County-wide ordinance, which governs payment for scrap metal, went into effect on June 21. Other countywide metal regulations require persons transporting metals to have a bill of sale or written permissions from the owner authorizing movement of the metal.

Potential new wine grape varieties subject of Vit Tech group meeting

The San Joaquin Valley Viticulture Technical Group will meet next Wednesday to discuss the results of new wine grape varietal trials, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Viticulture and Enology Research Center at California State University, Fresno.

The July 11 meeting is co-sponsored by the Central California Winegrowers, U.C. Cooperative Extension and the Viticulture and Enology Research Center. Paul Verdegel, viticulture farm advisor for San Joaquin County Cooperative Extension, will discuss varietal trials in Lodi and Matthew Fidelibus will discuss varietal trials at the Kearney Ag Center..

The meeting costs \$10 per person (members & non-members). Lunch will be served. To RSVP or for more information, call Jon Holmquist at (559) 661-5539.

Senator Feinstein weighs-in on immigration reform

"Now that the immigration bill has gone down, I believe the next step has to be AgJOBS. And this legislation should be moved before any other immigration-related legislation." That's according to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who issued a statement late last week following the collapse of the comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Sen. Feinstein recognizes there are other measures that deserve action. She cites support for the DREAM Act that provides for young immigrants to get an education and serve in the military, and for the H1-B visas to provide foreign high-tech employees.

"But agriculture faces a major crisis. The only way farmers and growers can harvest their crops today is with undocumented workers," said Sen. Feinstein. "And this year the supply of labor is down. Farmers and growers may once again lose their crops. This situation must be addressed."

The Senator said she will work with Senator Larry Craig (R- Idaho) to move the agricultural temporary worker measure, AgJOBS, which has been strongly supported by Farm Bureau and other farm groups.

Annual Ag Awards nominations underway

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Agriculturalist of the Year Award and the Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business of the Year Award.

The Fresno Chamber's Agriculturalist of the Year award honors a community-minded citizen who

has demonstrated a commitment to Fresno agriculture, through both personal efforts and leadership abilities. The Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award honors a for-profit service or product related agribusiness or farming entity headquartered in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

This year's luncheon will be held in conjunction with the Center for Agricultural Business at California State University Fresno, as part of the 26th Annual Agribusiness

Management Conference on Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Fresno Convention Center, Valdez Hall.

Nominations for this year's awards are now being accepted until the August 15 deadline. For more information, please contact Deborah Bristol at (559) 495-4825 or email:

dbristol@fresnochamber.com. For details about the Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business of the Year Award, call (559) 432-2346 or e-mail:

mail@bpfcpa.com.

Want to participate in Future Energy Solutions' BioDiesel Co-op survey?

FCEB Business Support Member Future Energy Solutions (FES) is conducting a feasibility study to determine if farmers and ranchers would be willing to join a cooperative that would reduce their fuel cost by five-to-10 cents per gallon.

If the co-op is formed, farmers and ranchers could join the co-op via a one-time small member fee, according to FES' Richard Lawson. The survey is available on-line at: www.fesllc.net. Direct questions to Richard Lawson at (559) 213-7682, or via email: rlawson@fesllc.net.

Annual Media Appreciation Night is July 26

The ever-popular Fresno County Farm Bureau Media Appreciation Night 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.

FCEB'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.

Last year, more than 200 people attended and were on-hand to hear the announcement of the FCEB Annual Journalism Award. The award recognizes 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.

FCFB's Public Relations Committee, co-chaired by Mark Thompson and Theresa Sebasto, has planned a fun evening filled with several activities and various organizations will have informational booths.

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. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals. Tickets for non-media guests are \$10 per person.

For details on sponsorships, 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.

Feed or fuel???

Corn acreage in California surged to an all time high as farmers reacted to strong demand and high prices for the crop.

A government report last week said the state's farmers planted 670,000 acres of corn, up 29 percent from last year. The report lists other large swings in plantings. Wheat and barley acreage have also risen sharply, but California plantings of upland-type cotton have dropped to their lowest on record.

Make that several cans a week

All signs point to a record California almond crop. A revised government estimate released late last week says the crop appears even larger than it did when the first forecast was issued in early May.

The new survey pegs the almond crop at more than 1.3 billion pounds. The report credits the large crop to cooperative weather, adequate bee presence for pollination and improved growing techniques by almond farmers. Harvest will begin in August.

Smile for the Week

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

* Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

* Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

* Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

* If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

* If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

* It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply be kind to others.

* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

* You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

* We could learn a lot from crayons... Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

* A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Next Week's Calendar

July 9 Fresno County proposed dairy ordinance meeting, 6 p.m., Cornerstone Conference Center, downtown Fresno

July 11 Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee, noon, Fresno Chamber office, downtown; Operation Clean Air Board meeting, 4 p.m., Fresno City Hall

July 12 FCFB Public Relations Committee, noon, Clovis Rodeo Grounds

This Week's Calendar

July 3 Air District Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting

July 4 Independence Day Holiday. Office closed.

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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