



May 11, 2007

Heat Stress Seminar will be held on May 24 and 31

Fresno County Farm Bureau and State Compensation Insurance Fund will host a Heat Illness Prevention Seminar on Thursday, May 24 at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave. and again on Thursday, May 31 at the University of California Westside Research and Extension Station, located at Lassen and Oakland avenues near Five Points. The free program begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m.

The seminars will focus on ways to prevent heat-induced illnesses for field and farm employees, and will discuss current regulations governing heat stress prevention that was approved in 2005. All segments will be conducted in both English and Spanish.

This is an excellent opportunity to prepare supervisors and employees for safe summer time working conditions. Informational handouts and certificates of participation will be provided to document safety and health training.

Reservations can be made by calling the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263 or via email at tami@fcb.org.

Diesel engine – air quality workshops set for June

Agricultural engine owners must lower emissions under new rule

Workshops will be held in June to help agricultural engine owners comply with a new rule designed to lower emission levels from natural gas and diesel engines. The new rule will kick into gear in the next few months as the first of several deadlines arrive starting January 1, 2008.

The Fresno County workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 26 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Kerman Community Center, 15100 West Kearney Blvd., in Kerman. Check the May issue of *Agriculture Today* for a complete list of the seminars.

Nearly all stationary and portable engines that are over 50 horsepower in size – known as internal

combustion engines – located in the San Joaquin Valley will have to be replaced or retrofitted to meet the rule requirements. The rule falls under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and is part of a statewide effort to lower specific emissions – oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide – that have been linked to the formation of lower ozone.

Owner/operators are encouraged to attend the informational workshops to learn how it will affect their operation and what measures are needed to ensure compliance. District staff, engine dealers, pump dealers, emission control vendors and agricultural representatives will be available as a resource and will assist interested participants in reviewing their compliance options. Participants are encouraged to bring general information about their engines to the workshop and can have their questions answered individually.

Engine owners can apply for grant funding, which provides financial assistance to an engine owner that replaces equipment with a “cleaner-burning” engine. However, deadlines are short and funds are limited when it comes to complying with the new rule.

Meetings are hosted by a coalition of industry and SJVUAPCD representatives that have been working together during the past year to parlay rule concerns and coordinate outreach to engine owners. The workshops are coordinated by Agriculture Improving Resources (A.I.R), a coalition of agricultural and governmental agencies, including FCFB, formed to help educate farmers and ranchers about air quality issues.

Supervisors pass components of a countywide metal theft ordinance

Work continues on other provisions

With input from affected stakeholders, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved on Tuesday a countywide ordinance to toughen laws affecting scrap metal buyers and recyclers, as a

means to help reduce the market for stolen metal items, such as irrigation valves and pipes.

Supervisors approved the first set of new regulations governing the business transactions between buyers and sellers of scrap metal, which will become effective after June 7. The approved ordinance will require a junk dealer to submit all junk dealers' invoices to the Sheriff's Department at least once per week, along with the following information:

1. the place and date of each sale or purchase;
2. the full name, valid driver's license number and state of issue or California-issued identification card number, and vehicle license number (if not available the vehicle identification number) of any motor vehicle and trailer used in transporting materials;
3. the name and address of each person to whom materials are sold to or disposed of, and the license number of any motor vehicle used in transporting the materials from the place of business;
4. a detailed description of the items or materials purchased or sold, including the item type, quantity, and identification number, if visible;
5. a statement indicating either that the seller of the materials is the owner of it, or the name of the person he or she obtained it from, as shown on a signed transfer document;
6. full name and signature of person authorizing transaction;
7. and a clearly legible thumbprint of the seller of the material.

Supervisors are still working on the second and third proposed ordinances, which originally required metal recyclers to hold in possession for 10 days all nonferrous metal in the same size, shape and condition it was received, and the recyclers can only make payment for scrap metal (with the exclusion of beverage containers) by a check, which will be provided by the seller to a physical address after 10 days of the transaction. Both provisions are still under review and modifications are being made. They are scheduled to come back to the Supervisors for action within a few weeks.

Reported metal theft losses in Fresno County during 2006 were over \$1.2 million. It is estimated only 1 in 10 agricultural thefts are reported, meaning there is potentially over \$10 million in metal theft losses in Fresno County.

CFBF advocacy group heads to Washington to push for AgJOBS

The Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007 (AgJOBS), which is working its way through both the House and Senate, will be the subject of a big push next week as California Farm Bureau Federation leaders head to Washington D.C. to advocate for the much-needed guest worker program. FCFB President Russel Efirid will be part of the contingent.

The bills, HR 371 and S340, are the equivalent to the agricultural provisions of S.2611, the broader comprehensive immigration bill that passed the U.S. Senate last May.

Senate hearings are scheduled for the end of May. Many observers contend if any legislation is going to pass, it must be wrapped up before the end of summer or otherwise it will become bogged down in presidential politics. The House is still divided on the issue. Questions on AgJOBS should be directed to Jack King at (916) 561-5610 or e-mail: jking@CFBF.com.

More than a can a week

The initial forecast for the 2007 California almond production is 1.31 billion pounds. This is 17 percent above last year's revised production of 1.12 billion pounds. Estimated bearing acreage for 2007 is 615,000 acres.

The USDA reports the California 2007 almond set looks very strong. The USDA cites adequate chilling hours during the winter, good weather during bloom and sufficient bee activity in orchards during pollination as some reasons for the larger crop. Throughout the Central Valley, the set of the popular Nonpareil variety is uniformly heavy.

Calcium is still king

When it comes to dairy products, calcium is "still the hot new trend," says Bonnie Tandy Leblang, a syndicated food columnist dubbed the "calcium queen." And there's good reason for Leblang's conviction.

In 1984, she penned an article urging Americans to eat more dairy. Apparently, the message fell on deaf ears. Today, osteoporosis affects 45 million Americans — up from 15 million when she wrote the article.

"There's no bones about it," Leblang says. "Calcium is the nutrient of the millennium." To see her new Web site, go to: www.biteofthebest.com. Source: *Dairy Herd Management Magazine*

Fruit Trail Kick-Off is May 17

The award winning Fresno County Fruit Trail is set to kick-off another summer (May – September) full of delicious fruit, hometown festivals and old fashioned hospitality for visitors and locals alike.

On Thursday, May 17 at 3:45 p.m. the opening ceremony for the Fruit Trail will be held in downtown Swedish Village, Kingsburg. Fruit Trail members will exhibit colorful displays of their diverse product offerings, and Kingsburg will provide entertainment highlighting the Swedish community. The ceremony precedes the Kingsburg Farmer's Market held on Draper Street.

The Fresno County Fruit Trail is a cooperative public private partnership encompassing eight cities and over 40 member stops. The Fresno County Fruit Trail is beginning its fourth season, increasing visibility, tourism inquiries and visitors to cities and farms. Details: www.gofresnocounty.com, or (559) 262-4271.

Save July 26 for FCFB's Media Appreciation Night

The 90-plus degree weather reminds us that July is just around the corner – and that means it's getting close to FCFB's Annual Media Appreciation Night. This year's event will be held on Thursday, July 26 at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds – yes, indoors!

Mark your calendars to join FCFB beginning at 5:30 p.m. as the organization recognizes the good work by Fresno County media outlets.

Reporters and editors, start gathering entries for the annual Journalism Awards, which will recognize the best ag stories from general print, farm trade print, television and radio media. (Yes, radio and television will each have its own category this year!)

Mark the date now, with more details to come next month.

This date in history...

May 10 is the Golden Spike Driving Anniversary, 1869. The Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways met at Promontory Point, Utah. On that day, a golden spike was driven by Leland

Stanford to celebrate the linkage of Omaha to Sacramento via rail transportation.

Smile for the week...

Here's something to make you smile in honor of Mother's Day on Sunday. You know you've turned into a Mom when...

... You automatically double-knot everything you tie.
... You find yourself humming the Barney song as you do the dishes.

... You actually start to like the smell of strained carrots mixed with applesauce.

... You weep through the scene in Dumbo when his mom is taken away, not to mention what Bambi does to you.

... You spend a half hour searching for your sunglasses only to have your teenager say, "Mom, why don't you wear the ones you pushed up on your head?"

... You are out for a nice romantic meal with your husband, enjoying some real adult conversation, when suddenly you realize that you've reached over and started to cut up his steak!

Dads: your turn comes next month!

Next Week's Calendar

May 13 Happy Mother's Day

May 14 FCFB FACT Class Session 7 to tour Port of Stockton, 6 a.m., FCFB office

May 15 FCFB Executive Committee meeting, 11 a.m., FCFB office

May 16 Operation Clean Air Board of Directors, 4 p.m., City Hall

May 17 FCFB Public Relations Committee, noon, FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno; Fresno County Fresh Fruit Trail Opening Ceremonies, 3:45 p.m., Downtown Kingsburg.

This week's Calendar

May 7 Farmland Conservation Model Program; Land Buffer Task Force

May 9 Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee

May 11 Chamber Ag, Water and Environment meeting; CWA Scholarship interviews

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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