



November 20, 2007

Special Thanksgiving edition

Revision to employment eligibility verification Form I-9 announced

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced recently that a revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9) now is available for use.

All employers are required to complete a Form I-9 for each employee hired in the U.S. The revision seeks to comply with the document reduction requirements of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which reduced the number of documents employers may accept from newly hired employees during the employment eligibility verification process.

Key to the revision is the removal of five documents for proof of both identity and employment eligibility. They include: Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Form N-560 or N-570); Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570); Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-151); the unexpired Reentry Permit (Form I-327); and the unexpired Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571). Additionally, the most recent version of the Employment Authorization Document (Form I-766) was added to List A of the List of Acceptable Documents on the revised form.

The revised list now includes: a U.S. passport (unexpired or expired); a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551); an unexpired foreign passport with a temporary I-551 stamp; an unexpired Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766, I-688, I-688A, or I-688B); and an unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) for nonimmigrant aliens authorized to work for a specific employer.

Employers are encouraged to start using the revised Form I-9 immediately. The form will become effective after it is published in the Federal Register. Both the revised form and the "Handbook for Employers, Instructions for Completing the Form I-9" are available online at <http://www.uscis.gov>.

To order forms, call USCIS toll-free at 1-800-870-3676. For forms and information on immigration laws, regulations and procedures, call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. For

additional information, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263.

New Fresno County dairy ordinance challenged

The Medical Advocates for Healthy Air and the California Rural Legal Assistance have filed a legal challenge against Fresno County to stop it from issuing permits for building or expanding dairies until an environmental assessment is done.

The lawsuit was filed in Superior Court in Fresno last week and challenges the first-ever permitting ordinance for dairies in the county, which was adopted on a 3-2 vote last month. The plaintiffs claim the county abdicated its responsibility to safeguard the public health by not requiring an environmental impact report. They say the county is leaving regulation of the dairies mostly in the hands of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The December issue of *Agriculture Today* will have more coverage of the latest developments.

Upcoming meetings for grape producers set for next week

Two Fresno-based meetings are scheduled for grape producers, focusing on raisins on Nov. 28 and on wine grapes on Nov. 29.

Raisins: Nov. 28

"Raisins: The 2007 Season & State of the Industry" will be presented by San Joaquin Valley Viticulture Technical Group, Central California Winegrowers, U.C. Cooperative Extension and Fresno County Farm Bureau on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 10 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.

Subjects include current research, close spacing trial of Selma Pete, 2007 raisin crop experiences and predictions, raisin production and harvesting methods including overhead and traditional trellis for dried-on-the-vine production and continuous tray production.

The cost is \$10 per person. Lunch is included. The annual membership dues of \$20 are due and payable at this meeting. To RSVP or for more information, contact: Jon Holmquist at (559) 661-5539.

Wine grapes: Nov. 29

The Central California Winegrowers, California Association of Winegrape Growers and Allied Grape Growers are hosting the 2007 San Joaquin Valley Wine and Grape Symposium on Thursday, Nov. 29, beginning at 8 a.m. at Pardini's, Van Ness and Shaw avenues in Fresno. The annual dinner and silent auction will be held the night before at 6 p.m. at Pardini's.

Thursday's activities begin with a continental breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by a presentation by Jon Gillespie, president of the Wine Market Council; Tim Hanni, and panel discussions recapping this year's harvest and the direction of the San Joaquin Valley wine grape industry. The event concludes with luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$60 per person for the dinner only; \$85 for symposium only; or \$135 for both events. The cost for CCW members is \$55 for dinner only; \$75 for symposium only; or \$125 for both events. For details, call (559) 618-1656, or visit www.ccwinegrowers.org.

Conservation Tillage Workgroup meeting set for Nov. 28

The Conservation Tillage Workgroup will hold meetings in late-November to discuss future activities and strategic planning initiatives.

One meeting will be held in Five Points on Wednesday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the U.C. West Side Research and Extension Center on Lassen Ave., near Five Points. Another meeting will be held on Friday, Nov. 30 at U.C. Davis.

For details, contact Diana Nix at DIANA@uckac.edu.

Conference to highlight fresh approaches to fertilizing techniques

The CA Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Research and Education Program will team up with the Western Plant Health Association to present "Fresh Approaches to Fertilizing Techniques," a conference to be held Nov. 27-28, at the Heritage Complex of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Presenters will provide general and technical information; current research data; and practical applications for each of five key agricultural topics: Micronutrients, foliar fertilizer application, water management and fertigation, plant nutrient and soil assessment tools for manure management. Certified Crop Adviser and Pest Control Adviser continuing education units are expected to be available.

Registration fees are \$75 per day or \$130 for both days; students' fees are \$10 per day.

Conference registration and details are available through the website <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fflders/frep.html>, or by contacting the CDFA FREP at (916) 445-0444 or via email: frep@cdfa.ca.gov.

Climate Change Symposium to be held at Fresno State

An upcoming symposium will be held on Dec. 13 in Fresno to help farmers learn about Assembly Bill 32, a new California law aimed at capping greenhouse-gas emissions from stationary sources, possibly including some farms and food-processing facilities.

The symposium, titled "Row-Crop Farming and Climate Change: What the Future Holds" will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Satellite Student Union, California State University, 2485 San Ramon, Fresno, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The event is co-sponsored by the California Agricultural Technology Institute, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, California Farm Bureau Federation, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Sustainable Conservation. The symposium will help educate row-crop farmers about AB 32, and discuss the opportunities and barriers to new efforts to improve air quality and cap greenhouse-gas emissions. Discussions will include AB 32 implementation and impacts, as well as selling carbon credits and new technologies in this innovative field.

Lunch will be provided at the meeting. Please RSVP to Ariana Fernandez, California Farm Bureau Federation, at (916)446-4647 or via email: afernandez@cfbf.com.

Happy Turkey Day By Cassie Dellaganna

FCFB Intern

It's that time of year again -- a wonderful day full of family, friends and best of all, food! Here are some fun facts about those 45 million turkeys that will be consumed this Thanksgiving!

- Fresno County's number 4 crop is poultry, which includes more than 3.8 million turkeys raised in the County. This includes types of birds raised conventionally, organically and heritage breed types. Turkeys were valued at \$47.8 million in 2006, according to the County Crop and Livestock Report.

- At one time, the turkey and the bald eagle were each considered as the national symbol of America. Benjamin Franklin was one of those who argued passionately on behalf of the turkey. Franklin felt the turkey, although "vain and silly," was a better choice than the bald eagle, which he felt was "a coward."
- Turkeys are the only breed of poultry native to the Western Hemisphere.
- Turkeys have great hearing, but no external ears. They can also see in color, and have excellent visual acuity and a wide field of vision (about 270 degrees), which makes sneaking up on them difficult. However, turkeys have a poor sense of smell (what's cooking?), but an excellent sense of taste.
- Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys, however, can fly for short distances at speeds up to 55 miles per hour. They can also reach speeds of 25 miles per hour on the ground.

To see how much you know (or don't know) about turkeys, take this on-line Turkey Quiz from "Aristotle's Thanksgiving on the Web." Check it out at: <http://home.aristotle.net/Thanksgiving/trivia.asp>. See if you can do better than our Farm Bureau staff—average score was 10 correct!

Happy Thanksgiving

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on Oct. 3, 1863. Here is the closing paragraph of his proclamation address, declaring this special day, which by the way was done in the midst of the Civil War, hence the reference to "the lamentable civil strife":

"...It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil

strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the imposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union."

Smile for the Week

In keeping with the season... here's one about the football-playing turkey!

The pro football team had just finished their daily practice session when a large turkey came strutting onto the field. While the players gazed in amazement, the turkey walked up to the head coach and demanded a tryout.

Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, "You're terrific!!! Sign up for the season, and I'll see to it that you get a huge bonus."

"Forget the bonus," the turkey said, "All I want to know is, does the season go past Thanksgiving Day?"

The 49ers sure could have used him last Sunday! Here's another...

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

Next Week's Calendar

- Nov. 26** FCFB FACT Class V on land use, 8 a.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.
- Nov. 27** FCFB Executive Committee Retreat, 10 a.m.
- Nov. 29** Common Threads Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Fresno State
- Nov. 30** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendars Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw

This Week's Calendar

- Nov. 19** Meeting with Fresno Historical Society
- Nov. 20** Metro Rural Loop meeting
- Nov. 21** FCFB Staff Retreat/Planning Session
- Nov. 22-23** Happy Thanksgiving! FCFB office will be closed.

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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