



November 30, 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.

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.

The California Air Resources Board has proposed regulation to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter and other pollutants from "In-use Heavy-Duty Diesel-Fueled Vehicles." The latest proposed rule was released Oct. 15 and applies to all trucks and fleets operated within the state. Trucks exempt from the proposed rule include:

- Pick-ups and other vehicles for non-commercial use, w/ GVWR < 14,000 pounds;
- Off-road vehicles; and
- "Low use" vehicles (must operate less than 100 hours and 1000 miles)

The proposed rule requires truck emissions to be reduced to meet the following:

* Phase 1 – Trucks must be a 2007 model or newer truck, or meet the emissions level of a 2007 truck;

* Phase 2 -Trucks must be a 2010 model or newer truck, or meet the emissions level of a 2010 truck. Truck emissions must be reduced according to the following schedule:

Phase 1	
Engine Model Year	Compliance Deadline as of December 31
Pre-1998	2010
1998 – 2002	2011
2003 – 2004	2012
2005 and newer	2013
Phase 2	
Pre-2004	2017
2004 - 2006	2018
2007	2019
2008	2020
2009	2021

Farmers are asked to attend the event to explain how the proposed regulation could affect their operations, such as the costs associated with replacing trucks with a brand new vehicle, as well as the number of miles traveled per year per affected trucks. The event is sponsored by the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, California Citrus Mutual, California Grape & Tree Fruit League, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Nisei Farmers League, and Western Plant Health Association.

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

State Water Project announces a preliminary 25% supply

Reflecting continued dry conditions and operational constraints in Delta pumping, the State Water Project (SWP) announced this week a preliminary 2008 water allocation of 25 percent for its

contractors. Affected San Joaquin Valley SWP contractors are County of Kings, Dudley Ridge Water District, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Kern County Water Agency and Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District.

This is the lowest beginning allocation the project has made since 2003, and officials cautioned that continued dry weather could lead to further

reductions. Deliveries also will be affected by court rulings requiring water to be set aside for protected fish. In making the preliminary allocation, CA Department of Water Resources considered a conservative outlook for precipitation, operational constraints, including additional 2008 Delta export restrictions per the federal district court's remedy order to protect Delta Smelt, and 2008 Contractor demands, including carryover water from 2007.

Hydrologic conditions this year resulted in a "Dry" water year in the Sacramento Region and a "Critically Dry" water year in the San Joaquin Region. Subsequently, project storage conditions going into the 2008 water year are less than average.

Pray for rain!

"No-Match" Rule placed on-hold

Last Friday, the Bush Administration announced it would suspend its legal defense of the new "No-Match" Social Security number rule, which was issued in August. The Administration will revise the rule to meet concerns raised by a federal judge in California and re-issue the modified rule in late-March in the hope that the revised language would be approved by the court. Concern was expressed about the rule's impact on small businesses should be conducted before the rule is finalized. The Department of Homeland Security will complete survey in March.

The government filed a four-page motion with the court on Friday asking Judge Breyer to suspend the case so DHS could rewrite the rule and conduct the small-business impact survey, which it expects to do by March 24. In October, Judge Breyer stopped the Social Security Administration from sending about 141,000 "No-Match" letters to employers. The letter would have contained instructions from DHS about the rule.

CFBF Annual Meeting set for Dec. 2-5

"For the Love of the Land," is the theme of the 89th California Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, which will be held next week at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada.

CFBF President Doug Mosebar describes the Annual Meeting as the time of year when Farm Bureau members come together to celebrate accomplishments, develop policies that advance and protect our farming way of life and to share ideas with friends and peers.

California State University Chancellor Charles Reed will discuss the university's partnership with farmers and ranchers, during a keynote address Monday morning. In the afternoon, a panel of experts will discuss how water supplies will be influenced by upcoming decisions on the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Acting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner is scheduled to address Farm Bureau delegates on Tuesday.

In addition, delegates will debate policies to guide the organization's work during the coming year. At the conclusion of the meeting, delegates will elect statewide officers for two-year terms.

For information about attending the annual meeting, visit the CFBF website at www.cfbf.com.

Reminder: Drought workshop will be held Dec. 5 & 6

Two workshops designed to prepare farmers for next year's expected drought will be held next Wednesday, Dec. 5 in Fresno and on Thursday, Dec. 6 in Visalia. The Agricultural Water Management Council is hosting the workshops; Dec. 5 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., and on Dec. 6 from 9:30- 11:30 a.m. at the Tulare County Farm Bureau office, 737 North Ben Maddox Way, in Visalia. Lunch will be provided following both workshops.

The workshops will help growers plan for the anticipated drought, resulting from water-short weather forecasts and reduced pumping flows from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as ordered by a federal judge to protect an endangered fish.

The workshops are free. One hour of DPR Continuing Education credits will be available. RSVP is requested and can be made by contacting the Agricultural Water Management Council at (916) 391-5035.

FCFB's "Water 101" seminar is full

Response the Fresno County Farm Bureau's "Water 101" Seminar on Dec. 10 has been overwhelming and because of limited seating, no additional reservations can be accepted at this time.

Because of the interest in this seminar, a similar one will be scheduled for sometime next February.

Tree Fruit meeting set for Dec. 4 in Parlier

The Winter Tree Fruit Meeting sponsored by the U.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4 beginning at 8 a.m. at the Kearney Agricultural Center, 9240 S. Riverbend Ave. near Parlier.

Subjects on the agenda include fruit inking update, monitoring of Oriental Fruit Month in mating disruption orchards and use of supplemental insecticides, zinc nutrition, pruning and thinning techniques, new agricultural chemicals in tree fruit production, and other subjects.

The cost is \$20, which includes lunch. One hour of PCA continuing education credits has been requested. For details or to register, contact Diana Nix at (559) 646-6526.

Coalition Submits Over 1 Million Signatures

The Californians for Property Rights submitted over 1 million signatures to qualify the California Property Owners & Farmland Protection Act to the June 2008 ballot, the initiative supported by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

While eminent domain may still be used for legitimate public uses, this measure will stop government from taking homes, family farms, small businesses and places of worship and giving the land to other private interests.

"We need this measure to protect against endless sprawl and assure farmland stays in private ownership, so it can continue to provide the food and farm products that Californians need," said CFBF Second Vice-President Kenny Watkins.

Winegrowers present first Lifetime Achievement Award

At this week's Annual San Joaquin Wine & Grape Symposium, the Central California Winegrowers Association presented its first "Lifetime Achievement Award" to pioneering grower and vintner Angelo Papagni in recognition of a lifetime of positive service in promoting and improving the San Joaquin Valley grape and wine industry.

Papagni, founder of Papagni Vineyards in Madera, was recognized at the Symposium luncheon for a myriad of accomplishments in bringing world acclaim to wines specifically grown and produced in the San Joaquin Valley.

Smile for the Week

While the origins of the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may be a mystery, one thing is certain: It's getting more costly to buy your true love all the items mentioned.

And from the Twelve Days of Christmas Files, AP reports "it would cost \$78,100 to buy the 364 items, from a single partridge in a pear tree to the 12 drummers drumming," repeatedly on each day as the song suggests, according to the annual PNC Christmas Price Index compiled by PNC Wealth Management. The cost is up four percent from \$75,122 last year.

Buying each item in the song just once would cost \$19,507, up 3.1 percent from last year's \$18,921. And shopping online would be costlier, with the total for the 364 items costing \$128,886, up 2.5 percent from last year's \$125,767. You would spend \$31,249 online for each item just once this year.

Helping push the cost up this year is the minimum wage hike, which bumped the cost of eight maids a-milking from about \$41 to nearly \$47.

Higher food costs pushed the six geese a-laying from \$300 to \$360. And reflecting higher gold prices, those five gold rings will cost \$395, up 21.5 percent from last year's \$325.

Next Week's Calendar

Dec. 3 CFBF Annual Meeting through Dec. 5

Dec. 5 Ag Land Conservation Committee, 8 a.m., FCFB office

Dec. 6 Central Valley Water Awareness Committee, 1:30 p.m., Fresno Flood Control District

Remember: There is NO FCFB Board of Directors meeting in December!

This Week's Calendar

Nov. 26 FCFB FACT Class V on land use.

Nov. 27 FCFB Executive Committee Retreat

Nov. 28 Sheriff's Office Audit meeting

Nov. 29 Common Threads Committee meeting

Nov. 30 Fresno Ag Roundtable

Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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