



September 21, 2007

CFBF's Farm Team urges veto action on certain bills

California Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Team members have responded in force during the end of the legislative session with more than 1,500 letters and correspondence sent to elected officials. There still is work to do. While the State Legislature has officially adjourned, the Governor has until Oct. 14 to take action on these bills.

Of the bills still pending, please contact the Governor's office to urge a **veto** on the following bills:

SB 650 and SB 180 -- Protect farm worker voting rights; On SB 180 alone, more than 500 Farm Team letters have been sent. In a last-minute move, SB 650's language became nearly identical to SB 180, with the addition of a five-year sunset clause. Both bills would take away an employee's right to a secret ballot vote in a union election.

SB 719 -- Stop expansion of San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Board; This bill would expand the Air District's board membership by four members, two of which are appointed by the Governor and not accountable to district residents or elected by constituents. SB 719 does nothing to help clean the air; it only increases government bureaucracy.

SB 63 -- Protect the availability of production tools; SB 63 would require the labeling of meat and milk from cloned animals or their progeny, even though there is no evidence these products differ from traditional products.

SB 1001 -- Ensure ag is represented on Water Boards; SB 1001 would allow the State Water Resources Board to revoke authority from the regional boards, and would eliminate the designated agricultural and other industry representatives from the membership of the nine regional water quality control boards.

For details or to join CFBF's Farm Team, visit www.cfbf.com or www.fcfb.org.

Fresno County Planning Commission moves forward with Dairy/ Feedlot ordinance

On Thursday, Fresno County Planning Commissioners approved the proposed land use ordinance that governs expansion of dairy and feedlot facilities. By a vote of 7-to-2, the proposed ordinance now goes to the Board of Supervisors where it is scheduled to be heard on Oct. 23.

The proposed ordinance includes provisions to review and regulate new dairy cattle and feedlot facilities and the expansion of existing dairy/feedlot facilities through a land use permit process. FCFB and the dairy industry has been working with county staff and policy makers to develop an ordinance that focuses on land use decisions and does not duplicate extensive existing air and water quality regulations currently regulated by state regulatory agencies. If approved, the ordinance would put the county in charge of CEQA process and gives the local agency the authority to circulate and receive public input on any required environmental impact reports.

Fresno County Farm Bureau dairy producer board members and staff have spent a considerable amount of time working with county staff to craft an ordinance that can be reasonable for dairy producers, allowing for the opportunity to grow while meeting land use and environmental regulations.

Fresno County ag awards announced

Three "pinnacles of the agricultural industry" were announced as recipients of Fresno County's annual agriculturalist and agricultural business of the year awards at a news conference on Wednesday.

Al Smith, of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce, announced the Agriculturalists of the Year recipients for 2007 as Nat DiBuduo, president of the Fresno-based Allied Grape Growers, and Sarkis Sarabian, a diversified farmer and agricultural consultant in the Lone Star area.

Baker, Peterson & Franklin CPA, LLP announced the Riverdale-based Borba Farms as the recipient of its 2007 Ag Business Award. At the announcement, Mark and Ross Borba were

accompanied by their mother Justina T. Borba and sister Dwayne Berrett.

The actual presentation of the awards will be held on Nov. 7 at California State University, Fresno's Agribusiness Management Conference at the Convention Center Valdez Exhibit Hall.

In announcing the recipients of the awards, Smith said the three "pinnacles" represent the depth of deserving people involved with the county's agricultural industry.

DiBuduo has been involved in more than 30 agricultural and community organizations and has been a vital part of the grape industry for the past 35 years.

Sarabian and his sons farm more than 400 acres in southeastern Fresno County, and he has served as an international agricultural consultant in several countries.

Borba Farms' early beginnings in the Riverdale area date back to 1919 when A. J. Borba emigrated from the Azores. Today, the third generation is continuing the family farming tradition with more than 8,600 acres of diversified crops in production in western Fresno County. Mark and Ross Borba have been active on several boards of agricultural organizations, including National Cotton Council, California Agricultural Leadership Program and Westlands Water District.

For information about the awards luncheon, contact the Chamber at (559) 495-4800.

Governor floats \$9 billion water proposal

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced this week a \$9 billion comprehensive water infrastructure proposal to be introduced in the legislative special session that he called in response to California's water crisis.

The plan invests \$600 million from Propositions 50, 84 and 1E to immediately relieve pressure on the Delta from environmental challenges and to respond to the recent federal court ruling on the ESA-listed Delta Smelt. It also includes \$5.6 billion in water storage, identifying three locations for surface storage at Sites (Sacramento Valley), Temperance Flat Reservoir (San Joaquin River- Fresno County) and Los Vaqueros Expansion Project (East Bay Area), as well as groundwater storage.

The plan also includes \$2 billion in Delta restoration (in addition to the above-mentioned \$600 million), \$1 billion in grants for conservation and

regional water projects (including the San Joaquin River watershed) and \$500 million for specific water restoration projects. Valley lawmakers Assemblyman Mike Villines and Senator Dave Cogdill authored the two bills that carry the proposals.

California Farm Bureau Federation President Doug Mosebar said the state is long overdue in developing reservoirs to provide for its people and its environment. Mosebar said water shortages already affect many farmers. He said new reservoirs will provide water for urban and environmental needs, and relieve pressure to fallow farmland during future droughts.

Also this week, Oakland Senator Perata introduced a water infrastructure plan. While the Governor's and Senator Perata's plans are similar, the Governor's plan includes billions in additional funding for surface storage.

The legislation will have to be approved before Sept. 28 if it is to qualify as a bond measure for the February 2008 primary election.

Dry conditions and "man-made" water reallocation policies -- namely the Endangered Species Act -- clearly illustrate the urgent need to invest in the state's water infrastructure. Moreover, the state's population is growing rapidly, but the statewide water system has not been significantly improved in 30 years.

Along those lines, a major statewide outreach campaign has begun to help educate Californians about the critical need to address the current water crisis. The program, funded by voluntary contributions from public water agencies throughout the state, is being conducted by the Association of California Water Agencies. Radio and television ads have appeared throughout the state, focusing on the significant impacts on quality of life, environment, agricultural production and the general economy from having an inadequate water supply. It is imperative the public understands the seriousness of the situation. The awareness campaign is scheduled to run through the end of 2007.

FCFB's Annual Meeting of the Members set for Oct. 4; Election of Board slated

Members of the Fresno County Farm Bureau will vote on the 2007-08 Board of Directors at the organization's Annual Meeting of the Members on Thursday, Oct. 4, beginning with a reception at 5:30

p.m. at the FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno. All FCFB members are invited to attend.

The Annual Meeting of the Members will include the voting of FCFB Board of Directors for 2006-07. The Board of Directors will be voting on the proposed budget at the Directors meeting, which immediately follows the Meeting of the Members on Oct. 4. Direct questions to FCFB Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen at (559) 237-0263.

Applications being accepted for Leadership Farm Bureau

The deadline for California Farm Bureau Federation's Leadership Farm Bureau program is fast approaching – applications are due Oct. 1.

The program is ideal for members of a county Farm Bureau board of directors and for active Farm Bureau members who wish to develop leadership skills and become familiar with issues facing California agriculture. The program covers governmental affairs, personal development, an overview of California agriculture, and field trips throughout the state and Mexico.

Applicants must be a current member of a county Farm Bureau. The program fee is \$250.

Applications and details are available at:

www.cfbf.com.

Fresno State wine grape harvest research continues

Viticulture and enology researchers at California State University, Fresno and industry partners are completing their second wine grape harvest as part of a five-year research project that combines satellite, computer and infrared technologies.

Called "differential harvesting," the pioneering research increases the ability to capture quality that exists within a vineyard, said Dr. Robert Wample, director of Fresno State's Viticulture and Enology Research Center and chair of the Department of Viticulture and Enology.

"The potential for increasing the quality and value of wine for consumers also improves the profit margin for wine grape growers," Wample said. "High-tech differential harvesting can also reduce labor costs. The ability to do this with a machine harvester is valuable, and therefore has economic value."

Currently, the team is harvesting more than 70 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon wine grapes at Merjan Vineyards near Madera, using a Korvan wine grape harvester. The harvester is equipped with a global positioning system (GPS) and the ability to compare its "real-time" position to other areas of the vineyard with more colorful fruit, which could potentially yield higher quality wine. Those regions have been identified in the past 10 days and converted into a "shape file" that is loaded into a computer on the harvester.

The system uses near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) equipment in conjunction with GPS to prepare a "quality map" of a vineyard prior to harvest. A major difference in this year's work was the increased acreage that is being studied. In addition to fruit color, comparisons will include berry size, clusters per vine and yield.

Last-minute reminders:

CattleWomen fundraiser is Saturday

The Fresno-Kings County Cattlewomen Association will host the 11th annual scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Annadale Gardens, 16265 E. Annadale, Sanger.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with a social hour, followed by a deep-pit beef dinner at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 for adults; children are \$8; children under four are free.

For tickets, contact Susan Johnson, (559) 332-9660, or Terrie Valdero, (559) 438-7600; or Suzanne Ward, (559) 876-3544.

Cotton Harvest Safety Program is next Tuesday

Fresno County Farm Bureau and State Compensation Insurance Fund will host their annual Cotton Harvest Safety Program on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at the Westside Field Station, located at Lassen and Oakland avenues near Five Points. The free program begins with registration at 7:30 a.m. and concludes with lunch at noon. Reservations can be made by calling the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263 or via email at info@fcfb.org.

Recent unsettled weather was forecasted in 2007 Farmer's Almanac

There's a reason the *Old Farmers' Almanac* has been around for almost 190 years. The booklet's September 2007 Weather Forecast calls for "unsettled

weather for California coast" for the 20th-23rd; "dry, but quite breezy" for the 24th -27th; and "unsettled weather returns" on 28th-30th.

Fall begins on Sunday

The Autumnal Equinox occurs on Sept. 23—officially at 5:51 a.m.—which is defined as the point at which the sun appears to cross the celestial equator from north to south. The celestial equator is the circle in the celestial sphere halfway between the celestial poles. The word equinox means "equal night"; night and day are the same length of time. The equinoxes are times when the sun's apparent motion undergoes the most rapid change.

On Wednesday, Sept. 26 don't forget to look at the "Harvest Moon" -- the full moon nearest the autumnal equinox and is bright enough to allow finishing all of the harvest chores (like night-time harvesting of wine grapes???) It's also called the full Corn Moon or the full Barley Moon. So says the *Old Farmers' Almanac*.

A smile a day...

Every once in a while, it's nice to be reminded of life's simple lessons. Here are some good things to think about...

- Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.
- Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have much.
- Don't judge people by their relatives.
- Talk slowly but think quickly.
- Say "God bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
- When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
- Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.
- Smile when picking up the phone! The caller will hear it in your voice.

This Week's Calendar

- Sept. 18** FCFB Executive Committee meeting; FCFB Ag Education Committee meeting
- Sept. 19** Fresno Chamber of Commerce Ag of the Year awards announcement
- Sept. 20** Fresno County Planning Commission meeting on dairy ordinance; FARMS Program Ice Cream Social

Sept. 21 Ag Center Site planning meeting

Next Week's Calendar

- Sept. 24** Downtown Rotary presentation on immigration, noon, Cornerstone Conference Center, downtown
- Sept. 25** Cotton Harvest Safety Workshop, 7:30 a.m., U.C. Westside Research Center, Five Points; Fabulous food Machine Presentation Lawless School (Fresno Unified), 10:30 a.m.; Chamber's Eggs & Issues breakfast meeting, 7:30 a.m., Piccadilly Inn; San Joaquin Political Academy, 11 a.m.; Fresno Fair Board of Directors, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds
- Sept. 26** Fabulous Food Machine presentation Manchester GATE (Fresno Unified), 1:30 p.m.; Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee, noon, FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.
- Sept. 27** Union Bank Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Grand Occasions Hall, Fresno
- Sept. 28** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendar's Cedar & Shaw avenues; Farmland Conservation meeting, 9 a.m., Fresno COG

Have you visited Fresno Farm Bureau's web site lately? New items are added and updated each week. Check it out at: www.fcfb.org.



Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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