



No-Match SS seminar set for Oct. 5 at FCFB

A seminar on the new procedures to comply with the no-match Social Security number rule will be held next Friday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno.

The seminar is designed for agricultural employers and will discuss the most updated details of the new Department of Homeland Security procedures for employers to follow upon receipt of a "no-match" letter from Social Security or DHS. This seminar will review the new procedures employers should implement to help avoid fines, and even criminal prosecution, for knowingly employing undocumented workers. It will offer suggestions and tips for complying with the "safe harbor" afforded by the new procedures. Ronald H. Barsamian and Patrick S. Moody, of the law firm Barsamian and Moody, will present the information.

The seminar is sponsored by the Agricultural Personnel Management Association, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, Farm Employers Labor Service, Madera County Farm Bureau, Western Growers Association, Nisei Farmers League and Fresno County Farm Bureau.

To register or for additional details, contact Sylvia Medina at: (831) 238-0770 or email: apma20@pacbell.net.

FCFB hires new Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Teresa Plascencia, of Clovis, is the new Governmental Affairs Coordinator for Fresno County Farm Bureau, effective Oct. 1.

Plascencia comes to Farm Bureau with more than 10 years as a local legislative staff member in both state and federal governments. Most recently, she was the principal consultant and district director for Assemblywoman Nicole Parra in the Hanford-based field office. Plascencia also served as deputy district director and field representative for Rep. Calvin Dooley and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, respectively.

"We are very fortunate to have Teresa join our team. Her practical experience in the legislative arena, working for both state and federal elected officials, will be a tremendous asset to our organization," said FCFB Executive Director Ryan Jacobsen. "Her depth of knowledge will help us fine-tune our advocacy efforts and issue management programs to become even more effective for the farmers and ranchers in Fresno County," Jacobsen added.

Plascencia is a graduate of California State University, Fresno with a masters' in public administration and dual bachelor's of arts degrees in political science and Chicano Latino studies. She was recognized by the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society and is a Suma Cum Laude graduate.

The Fresno native has been involved in several Fresno and Valley organizations and programs, including serving as a legislative designee for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and co-founder and board member for the Central California Latina Network. Plascencia also is a member of the Encourage Tomorrow Advisory Committee and KVPT Channel 18's Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, among several other organizations. She has been recognized by the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute and Asian Refugee Community.

"This is an exciting opportunity to join a solid team that's focused on educating our leaders and our community about the importance of agriculture. I look forward to utilizing my experience from government toward protecting our most vital resources, agriculture and water," Plascencia said

Plascencia can be reached at (559) 237-0263 or email: teresap@fcfb.org.

Rain damage assessment underway

For the next 10 days or so, raisin-grape farmers will be monitoring their crops for signs of rain-related damage.

Last weekend's rainstorm was significant in some parts of the Valley that certain crops, like raisins, could be affected. Rain that falls on drying grapes on the ground can seriously affect the drying process and lead to moisture-related quality

problems. In many cases, the raisins can be re-conditioned through a dehydrator, producing a marketable product.

FCFB's Raisin Commodity Chairperson Rick Stark said it's too early to tell the extent of possible damage of crop loss from the rain, but he estimates 10-20 percent of the crop could be affected and will likely need re-conditioning. Those raisins that are being dried via the dried-on-the-vine process should be unaffected by the rain. "We have started the year with a very good quality grape," said Stark. Rain aside, the industry is hopeful that a good 2007 crop will be produced for consumers.

Other crops that could have been affected by the rains were almonds, processing tomatoes, cut alfalfa, and table grapes.

CFBF's Farm Team calls for action on bills

Farm Bureau's Farm Team is calling for help in urging Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to veto some major bills – SB 63, SB 1001 and SB 719.

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. The bill also creates an identification system for cloned livestock and their progeny. It's important for livestock producers to have the ability to improve their livestock herds with the use of cutting edge technology. Please urge the Governor to veto SB 63.

A veto is also urged on SB 1001 to help ensure that agriculture is represented on Regional Water Quality Control Boards. SB 1001 would allow the State Water Resources Board to revoke authority from the regional boards. Additionally, SB 1001 eliminates the designated agricultural and other industry representatives from the membership of the nine regional water quality control boards.

Removal of the agriculture representative means there will be no input from those with farm experience or understanding of impacts when new regulations are proposed. Please make sure the voices of farmers and ranchers are heard by urging the Governor to veto SB 1001.

Likewise, veto action is urged on SB 719, which would expand the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control 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. Please urge a veto on SB 719.

Chamber committee looks at Delta issues next Friday

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce's Ag, Water and Environment Committee will look at long-term solutions to fix a broken Sacramento-San Joaquin river Delta at its monthly meeting on Friday, Oct. 5 at noon at the Chamber office, downtown.

"CALFED up with the Peripheral Canal" will include presentations by Jason Peltier, of Westlands Water District, and a representative from Congressman Devin Nunes, who will discuss the quest for a long-term "fix" for the San Francisco Bay / Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For more than two years, agency staff, stakeholders and the general public have analyzed the volumes of studies and facts. When will the debate become a decision?

For details, contact the Chamber office at (559) 495-4818.

Workshops to help dairy producers conform to new water quality regulations

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) will hold workshops to assist California dairy producers in conforming to new water quality regulations enacted by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board. The new regulations are extremely comprehensive, and will create many questions throughout the application process.

CDQAP has scheduled two workshops to be held in Fresno County on Wednesday, October 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both workshops will take place at the Veterans Hall in Riverdale at 3085 Mount Whitney Ave.

Topics will include the history and the reason for new regulations, explanation of compliance deadlines and timelines, explanation of near-term requirements that include the web-based reports to be filled out electronically by Dec. 31, and other helpful written summaries and tools.

Dairy producers do not need to wait until the workshops to receive help regarding the new regulations. However, producers who can not make it to the Fresno County workshops are welcome to attend workshops in neighboring counties on

alternative dates. For alternative dates or other details about the new regulations, please call CDQAP at (866) 662-3727.

Cotton acreage is down; corn is way up

California Upland cotton production is forecast at 570,000 bales, 27 percent below last year, according to recent USDA projections. Harvested Upland acreage is expected to total 194,000 acres, 31 percent below the previous year. Pima cotton production is forecast to be 740,000 bales, about eight percent above last year's crop. This, despite acreage being down six percent from last year with 257,000 acres planted in 2007. The California cotton crop is the lowest in 60 years – a total of just 450,000 acres.

Nationwide, Upland cotton production is forecast at 17.0 million bales, down 18 percent from 2006. The harvested acreage at 10.3 million acres is down 17 percent from the previous year. Likewise, American Pima cotton production nationally is forecast at a record high 793,000 bales, up 4 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,317 pounds per acre, up 181 pounds from 2006.

To no surprise, corn production is near record highs, based on the popularity of alternative fuels. California's 2007 corn for grain production is expected to total 931,000 tons, 83 percent above last year. Acreage for harvest, at 190,000 acres, was up 73 percent from last year.

Nationally, corn for grain production is forecast at 373 million tons, 26 percent above the 2007 crop. A total 85.4 million acres is expected to be harvested.

FCFB's Annual Meeting of the Members set for next Thursday

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.

Big Fresno Fair gets underway next week

It's October—and that means the Big Fresno Fair. Next Wednesday, Oct. 3, is the opening ceremonies for the Big Fresno Fair, kicking-off at 10 a.m. in the Table Mountain Rancheria Park. The fair runs from Wednesday through Sunday, Oct. 14.

The theme of this year's fair is "Big Times are Back" with new added attractions and many of the familiar, fun activities and good food that draws people each year. While at the fair, check out the community exhibits in the Agriculture Building that showcase almost all of the 350 different crops grown in Fresno County. Also, representatives from the Fresno- Kings Counties Cattle Women, Cotton Wives and FCFB will be making presentations about agriculture to visiting students and teachers during the Fair Education Program on week day mornings in the Junior Exhibits Building.

In addition, the County's livestock production will be showcased at the south end of the fairgrounds, with Phase I of the Junior Livestock Auction scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 6 with the dairy replacement heifer, dairy goats and fur and feathers sale, followed by Phase II of the auction featuring beef cattle, swine, sheep and goats on Saturday, Oct. 13.

A quick reminder, 4-H and FFA members whose families are FCFB members should get their letters requesting "top-off bids" into the FCFB office as soon as possible. Please mail them to FCFB, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno, CA 93728 before Oct. 5. See you at the fair!

Speaking of Fairs—don't miss the Caruthers District Fair this weekend

The largest free gate fair in the state, the Caruthers District Fair, is underway continuing through Saturday. It's not too late to catch the great food booths prepared by community organizations.

The theme is "Caruthers Fair, An American Classic." The fairgrounds are located at 13595 S. Raider St, Caruthers. The parade will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Congratulations to newly crowned Fair Queen Johannah Sorenson, daughter of Mark and Kimberly Sorensen. Mark is a director of FCFB.

This is a special fair that captures the wonderful sense of community. Don't miss it!

Best Management Practices -- Water Quality Workshops set for Nov. 5

Two free workshops will be offered in Parlier and Riverdale on Monday, Nov. 5, to help growers with best management practices for irrigated lands.

The Kings River Sub-Watershed Coalition will present the workshops. The first will be from 9 a.m.-to-noon at the U.C. Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier.

The second will be the afternoon of Nov. 5 from 1-to-4 p.m. at the Riverdale Community Center in Riverdale.

Updates will be given on the conditional agricultural water discharge waiver program, and the latest information on best management practices technology for stone fruit farm operations will be provided. Free best management practices publications will be distributed. It is possible that PCA licensees may be able to receive credit hours. For details, contact KRCD at (559) 237-5567.

A smile a day...

From the "Who has time to figure all this stuff out" department comes the following...

- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska
- The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%
- The average cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.
- Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.
- Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil. You're now ready for Jeopardy!

Next Week's Calendar

Oct. 2 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizen's Advisory Committee, 10 a.m., Air District office; Meeting with Labor Commissioner Angela Bradstreet, noon.

- Oct. 3** Fresno County Ag Land Conservation Committee, 8 a.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.; Big Fresno Fair opening day ceremonies 10 a.m., Fairgrounds.
- Oct. 4** Fair Education presentations at fair, 8 a.m., Junior Exhibits; FCFB Annual Meeting of the Members and Board of Directors, 5:30 p.m., FCFB office.
- Oct. 5** Fair Education presentations at fair, 8 a.m., Junior Exhibits; Social Security No-match meeting, 10 a.m., FCFB office; Chamber Ag, Water and the Environment Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office.

This Week's Calendar

- Sept. 24** Downtown Rotary presentation on immigration
- Sept. 25** Cotton Harvest Safety Workshop, Fabulous Food Machine presentation Lawless School (Fresno Unified), Chamber's Eggs & Issues breakfast meeting, San Joaquin Political Academy, Fresno Fair Board of Directors
- Sept. 26** Fabulous Food Machine presentation Manchester GATE (Fresno Unified), Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee
- Sept. 27** Union Bank Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon, Allied Insurance presentation in Sacramento
- Sept. 28** Fresno Ag Roundtable, Farmland Conservation meeting

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. If you have trouble getting on the site, call us at (559) 237-0263.



Fresno County
Farm Bureau

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