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In This Issue:

- Ag One Foundation/Fresno State College of Ag receives donation for research, facilities
- Heat stress prevention seminar set for May 22 in Fresno; June 29 in Five Points
- Federal water allocation increases: 10 percent to west side; additional five percent to Friant
- FCFB, Westlands react to 10 percent allocation
- HazMat Transportation Training workshop set for April 30
- Cattle producers provide true meaning of Earth Day
- Earth Day Facts:
- Clovis Rodeo begins this weekend
- Smile for the Week
- Quote of the Week

Ag One Foundation/Fresno State College of Ag receives donation for research, facilities

California State University, Fresno's Ag One Foundation and College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAST) announced today a record-setting cash donation to the university to be used for agricultural research and facilities on campus.

The \$29.4 million cash gift is on behalf of the Jordan family: Hanabul "Bud" Jordan; his wife Dee; and his brother Lowell. The Jordan family is from the East Bay, where Bud owned and operated a construction business headquartered in Hayward and where Lowell lived on the family ranch in Dublin, tending to the family's cattle. Bud Jordan died April 29, 2002, at the age of 83 and Lowell Jordan passed away in July 2005 at the age of 81. Dee Jordan still lives in Hayward. It is the largest cash gift ever received by the university or in the California State University system.

The gift is the result of the sale of the Jordans' Dublin ranch and is to be used by the CAST for facilities and research. Fresno State President John D. Welty will consult with the campus Academic Senate Executive Committee and then ask the California State University Board of Trustees to name the college the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at the trustees' meeting May 12-13, 2009.

The Jordan family has been long-time supporters of CAST and Ag One, through a connection made with Bob Glim, professor emeritus of agricultural economics and a past adviser to the Ag One board. The Jordans established the Ag One – Lowell A. Jordan and Jordan Family Endowment, which supports six to seven deserving students each year with scholarships of \$1,000.

University President Dr. John Welty said the latest Jordan gift will play a major role in further strengthening the agricultural programs at the university. "It's a rare and wonderful opportunity to make a profound impact on the college. We know we have outstanding, world-class agriculture programs. This gift will definitely establish Fresno State as the university of choice for top agriculture students," said Welty.

"It has been an honor to perpetuate the Jordan name through their support of scholarships over the years," said Ag One Executive Director and CAST Development Director Alcidia Freitas-Gomes, who also serves

on the FCFB Board of Directors. "The extraordinary generosity of this gift will transform the educational experience for our students and faculty and for industry we serve through research."

CAST Dean Dr. Charles Boyer added, "We are blessed and honored to receive this generous gift from the Jordan family. This is a landmark moment for the college -- one that will change our college forever and have a positive impact on generations of students."

In the coming months, Boyer and Gomes will work with faculty and university administration to determine precisely how the funds will be used in the college. A naming ceremony for the college will be held May 14.

Heat stress prevention seminar set for May 22 in Fresno; June 29 in Five Points

State Compensation Insurance Fund will be hosting free heat illness prevention seminars for employers and supervisors throughout the state, including two scheduled in Fresno County on May 22 and June 29.

The May 22 session will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the State Fund Fresno Regional Office, 10 River Park Plaza East, in Fresno. A Spanish language session will be held that same day from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the same location.

On June 29, both English and Spanish sessions will be held beginning at 9 a.m. at the U.C. West Side Research and Extension Center, 17353 W. Oakland Ave. near Five Points.

To register for the seminars, visit on-line at: www.scif.com and go to "seminars."

Cal/OSHA will be out in-force this spring/summer checking for compliance with the heat illness prevention regulations. Employers and their supervisors must be diligent in staying in compliance with the regulations. For detailed information about the regulations, visit Fresno County Farm Bureau's Web site at www.fcfb.org, or call the office at (559) 237-0263.

Federal water allocation increases: 10 percent to west side; additional five percent to Friant

Citing added precipitation in March, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced on Tuesday an update in its water allocations for Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors. CVP contractors on the west side of Fresno County now will receive 10 percent of their contracted water supply, and water users in the Friant Service Unit will see their allocation go up an additional five percentage to 90 percent Class 1 water and 0 percent Class 2 water based on the 90-percent exceedence (dry) forecast.

This water update is based on the April 1 runoff forecast from the CA Department of Water Resources. Although the improved precipitation and snow pack have led to a small increase in supplies, difficult conditions remain in the region. In fact, 2007-2009 is expected to rank in the top 10 driest three-year periods in the last century, reports the Association of California Water Agencies. These conditions resulted from a third consecutive dry water year, restrictions on CVP operations to protect threatened and endangered fish, and requirements to meet water right permit terms and conditions, said the Bureau in its news release announcing the update.

The Bureau said it will update this forecast "as circumstances warrant." Information will be posted on the Region's website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp>.

CVP Allocation 2009

Probability of Exceedence Forecasts	Sacramento Valley Index* (Percent of Average/Water Year Classification)	North of Delta Allocation				South of Delta Allocation			
		Ag	M&I	R	WR	Ag	M&I	R	WR
Dry Forecast (90%)	61% / Critical	15%	65%**	100%***	100%	10%	60%**	100%***	100%
Median Forecast (50%)	69% / Dry	15%	65%**	100%***	100%	15%	65%**	100%***	100%

Ag = Agriculture

M&I = Municipal & Industrial (supply based on historical deliveries)

R = Level II Refuge Supplies

WR = Water Rights

*The Sacramento Valley Index is a calculated estimate of the unimpaired runoff from the Sacramento River and its major tributaries and is used to determine the water year type.

**The allocation percentage for M&I is approximate and may be adjusted to meet public health and safety needs.

***Level II Refuge supplies represent only about 76% of overall refuge needs.

FCFB, Westlands react to 10 percent allocation

Both Fresno County Farm Bureau and Westlands Water District issued statements on Tuesday responding to the Bureau of Reclamation's announcement of the change in allocation.

FCFB President Dan Errotabere, a Riverdale-area diversified farmer, said the announcement draws mixed reactions from farmers and west side residents. "Although there's some benefit from having at least a 10 percent surface water allocation this year, frustration levels remain high and we are far from being out of the woods," he said.

A 10 percent allocation amounts to about 2.5 inches of water per acre -- a typical crop requires about 24-36 inches. This allocation will not make a significant difference in the planting of additional crops this year, nor will it generate increased employment opportunities for farm workers, but it will help by lessening some demand on the groundwater aquifer, provide some water for the needed post-harvest irrigation in almonds, and provide a limited amount for carryover into next year, Errotabere said.

"The meager allocation shows just how misguided the current water policy is in California and how our water system has all but been destroyed," Errotabere said. "To allocate only 10 percent water for the production of food and value-added products, jobs and economic activity, while the government provides wildlife refuges with a 100 percent supply and sends hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of fresh water into the ocean, is short-sighted and thoughtless," he added.

Tom Birmingham, general manager of Westlands Water District, also expressed exasperation with the paltry allocation and the constraints placed on the CVP. "The drought continues. But we have faced droughts before and managed them much better. The problem is that the rules have changed," Birmingham said in a statement released on Tuesday.

"The largest part of California's developed water supply doesn't go to serve the farms or cities any more. Nearly half of our freshwater supplies have been redirected instead to benefit fish and habitat and a host of other environmental purposes that were not even imagined when the water system was built," Birmingham said.

Since 1992, federal environmental regulations, including the Endangered Species Act, have redirected more than 3.2 million acre-feet of federal and state project water annually away from agricultural and urban users to the environment. In just the first three months of this year alone, nearly 300,000 acre-feet of water has been lost to the sea.

HazMat Transportation Training workshop set for April 30

The California Safety Training Corporation will be providing state-required hazardous material transportation training at a workshop on Thursday, April 30, at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno.

This training is for agricultural workers who transport hazardous materials in the course of their duties. A special permit (DL-267) is issued through the CA Department of Motor Vehicles, and is required to transport hazardous materials in excess of 118.9 gallons or 1,000 pounds over public roadways. Class time for this four-year certificate is three hours.

Classes are available in both English and Spanish. The English class begins at 9 a.m. and the Spanish class at 1 p.m. Costs are \$25 for employees of FCFB members, and \$40 for employees of non-FCFB members. To RSVP, call FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or via email at: info@fcb.org.

Cattle producers provide true meaning of Earth Day

On Wednesday, April 22 Earth Day was observed by many people, be it through increased recycling efforts, riding a bicycle to work or by using less energy in their homes. California beef cattle producers, through the California Beef Council, used the day to remind people that for them every day is Earth Day.

As the nation's 39th Earth Day was being observed on Wednesday, the Beef Council was reminding the public that the nation's farmers and ranchers are among some of the first environmentalists. "People who derive their living from the land know that Earth Day is not a political or social statement, but a way of life," said the Council in a prepared statement.

Californians rely on farming and ranching families to manage and maintain more than 22 million acres of privately-owned rangeland in California. These families strive to produce food and fiber for the U.S. and the world, while also serving as environmental stewards.

A healthy aspect of sustainable beef production involves grazing cattle on U.S. rangelands, about 85 percent of which are unsuitable for crops. Grasslands and beef production are providing a win-win situation for both people and the environment. Properly managed cattle grazing keeps the grasslands healthy and maintains the biodiversity of the plant community. Grasslands offer many other important environmental benefits such as prevention of soil erosion by wind and rain. In addition, grasslands help replenish the water table by slowing run-off and allowing rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground. Furthermore, agriculture land provides important habitat to 75 percent of the nation's wildlife, including species at risk.

Throughout the decades, farmers and ranchers have worked hand-in-hand with Mother Nature to produce a bounty of food and fiber crops used by consumers across the nation and World. Farming techniques have been fine-tuned and cultural and conservation practices today are designed to be more efficient, to be economically practical yet sustainable, and to leave a smaller "footprint" on the environment.

For more information about beef producers and their role as stewards of the land visit www.ExploreBeef.org. For more information about the California Beef Council visit www.calbeef.org.

Earth Day Facts:

- 65% -- Amount of the nation's wildlife whose habitat is situated on private property, including America's farms and ranches. Source: Agriculture Council of America
- 5 -- Number of species that have been "recovered" due to the Endangered Species Act, out of a total of 1,355 species listed since 1973. Source: Stirling, [Green Gone Wild - Elevating Nature Above Human Rights](#), Chapter 10.
- 46%-- The environment is the largest user of California's developed water supply at 46%; farmers use 43% to grow food, fiber and other products; and households and businesses use the remaining 11%. Source: California Farm Water Coalition
- 34.5 million -- Number of acres American farmers voluntarily enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as of March 2008, to protect the environment and provide habitat for wildlife. Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

For more facts, visit the Pacific Legal Foundation Web site at: <http://community.pacificlegal.org>

Clovis Rodeo begins this weekend

World class rodeo athletes will compete for prize money in Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Bareback Riding, Team Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Calf Roping and Steer Wrestling beginning on Thursday at the Clovis Rodeo, sponsored by the Clovis Rodeo Association.

Professional Bull Riding comes to town on Thursday night with the USST PBR Bull Riding Challenger Tour competition. Rodeo competition gets underway on Friday evening, followed by Lonestar performing at the Friday Night Concert. The 95th Annual Clovis Rodeo Parade is on Saturday, April 25 as well as rodeo competition on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. A dance is held on Saturday night. Ticket information is available by calling (559) 299-5203 or visiting www.clovisrodeo.com.

Smile for the Week

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

Quote of the Week

"Never argue with an idiot; they'll drag you down to their level and beat you with experience." ~ Anonymous

Next Week's Calendar

- April 27** California Farm Water Coalition Board of Directors meeting, 10 a.m., Sacramento
- April 28** San Joaquin Political Academy Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Fresno Association of Realtors; Fresno Fair Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds
- April 30** Haz Mat Transportation Training Meeting, 9 a.m., FCFB office; YF&R Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FCFB office;

This Week's Calendar

- April 23** Viking School Fabulous Food Machine presentation; Pershing High School Farm Day
 - April 24** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendar's Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw
 - April 23-26** Clovis Rodeo Weekend; for schedules, tickets and details: <http://www.clovisrodeo.com>.
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