



## Fresno County Farm Bureau

1274 W. Hedges Ave.

Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 237-0263

Fax: (559) 237-3396

[www.fcfb.org](http://www.fcfb.org)

[info@fcfb.org](mailto:info@fcfb.org)

May 1, 2009

### In This Issue:

- Swine Flu does not come from hogs; questions generated about ag connection
- Southeast Asian farmer heat illness prevention seminar set for next Wednesday
- Water Update
- Water March/Rally "thank you" set for May 9 in Firebaugh
- Fresno County Cooperative Extension offers drought management tips
- Local restaurants vie for top beef restaurant
- May Day event to be held Saturday in Easton
- Quote of the Week

---

### Swine Flu does not come from hogs; questions generated about ag connection

The previously little-known Swine Flu has become a household name this week as more cases are discovered throughout the state and nation. Reporters and consumers are asking questions about the Swine Influenza A (H1N1), which really is a new strain of flu that consists of a mixture of genetic material from swine, avian and human influenza viruses.

Several health and agricultural-related federal, state and local agencies are providing information and facts to the public about the contagious disease. Here are some facts:

- There is no evidence at this time that swine in the U.S. are infected with this virus strain.
- Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food so you cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe. Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills all viruses, according to the USDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- A network of Federal veterinarians, state animal health officials and private practitioners are regularly involved with monitoring U.S. swine for signs of significant disease. As a proactive measure, USDA is reaching out to all state animal health officials to affirm they have no signs of this virus type in their state.
- Meat and poultry inspectors regularly inspect California licensed swine processing facilities and will continue to monitor for any signs of respiratory disease. To date, there have been no concerns reported.
- Commercial pork producers are encouraged to intensify the bio-security practices they've long had in place. They should not loan equipment or vehicles to or borrow them from other farms. Swine from outside sources, such as live bird markets should not be brought back to the farm.
- Only essential workers and vehicles should enter the farm. Swine workers should disinfect their shoes, clothes and hands. They should thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles entering and leaving the farm and avoid visiting other poultry farms without proper cleaning and disinfection.

"It is important to understand that there are no reports of swine flu in pigs in California, or the U.S., at this time," said CA State Veterinarian Dr. Richard Breitmeyer. "Our monitoring program is aimed at detecting the illness early in pigs. It also is important to recognize that swine flu is not a threat to the food supply."

CDFA's top priority is to test any pigs that are linked to a human swine flu case or are showing signs of a respiratory disease. CDFA veterinarians are working closely with public health officials and to-date no human links have been established. Similarly, there have been no swine samples submitted for testing due to respiratory disease.

In comparison to many states, California is a relatively small pork producer with fewer than 100,000 animals, ranking 28th in the country. Fresno County's feeder pigs and slaughter stock was 52,900 head in 2007 worth an estimated \$8.93 million.

Sources for information: centers for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); USDA News: [news@usda.gov](mailto:news@usda.gov); Zenith insurance: [www.thezenith.com/files/swine\\_flu.pdf](http://www.thezenith.com/files/swine_flu.pdf); National Pork Board: [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org);

---

### **Southeast Asian farmer heat illness prevention seminar set for next Wednesday**

By Teresa Plascencia

FCFB Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Fresno County Farm Bureau, in conjunction with the U.C. Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and Cal/OSHA Consultation Service, will host a free "Southeast Asian Heat Illness Prevention Training" on Wednesday, May 6, at the U.C. Cooperative Extension, 1720 South Maple Ave., Fresno. A Hmong/English language session will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and a Lao/English language session will be from 1 to 3 p.m.

The purpose of the seminar is to reduce the problems of heat stress injuries in California by training participants about the dangers of heat-related injuries and how heat injuries can be prevented. The goal is to ensure participants understand the regulations and heat illness prevention methods. The seminar will focus on the four elements of heat illness programs: providing and encouraging the drinking of cool water, ready access to shade, full and complete training, and written procedures identifying the essentials.

Seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling Richard Molinar, of the UCCE, at (559) 456-7555 or via email at: [rhmolinar@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rhmolinar@ucdavis.edu). For additional information, contact, FCFB's Teresa Plascencia at (559) 237-0263 or via email at: [teresap@fcfb.org](mailto:teresap@fcfb.org).

---

### **Water Update**

The final snow survey of the season is being done today (Thursday) by the CA Department of Water Resources. The survey is the last of five measurements that help water planners estimate the amount of spring snowmelt runoff into reservoirs. Current electronic measurements show snowpack at 68 percent of average for this time of year, statewide. Last year at this time, snowpack was at 75 percent of average.

According to the Association of California Water Agencies, a number of local and regional water agencies throughout the state have responded to dwindling supplies by increasing water use restrictions, imposing fines for excessive use or restructuring rate systems to encourage conservation. At least 28 agencies are calling for mandatory cutbacks or prohibitions on outdoor water use, while 57 are urging voluntary conservation.

That challenge is undisputed closer to home, where farmers and rural communities along the San Joaquin Valley's west side are trying to survive with a meager surface water allocation. Last week, the San Luis

Delta Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District jointly filed a motion, seeking a preliminary injunction to prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from shutting down the pumps and further restricting the water in the system.

The legal action is needed to protect the 10 percent Central Valley Project water supply that could be lost if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service imposes a new set of restrictions beginning on May 18 on the Bureau of Reclamation's operation of the CVP pumps in the Delta. These restrictions threaten to prevent the pumping necessary to provide even the inadequate 10 percent allocation.

---

### **Water March/Rally "thank you" set for May 9 in Firebaugh**

The California Latino Water Coalition is planning a "thank you" event for the thousands of people who marched and rallied for a surface water supply for the Valley's west side in mid-April. An evening event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 at the Firebaugh High School Football Field.

Although details of the event are being finalized, a planning meeting held yesterday at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office set in motion a "fun" event for the thousands who participated in the Latino Water Coalition's March and Rallies. Actor/Comedian and Coalition Chairman Paul Rodriguez discussed plans which include performances by him and other invited comedians and entertainers, as a way to "not worry about the problems for a little while." The event will also feature food booths and other entertainment. Also being discussed is the possibility of coordinating a food distribution, which "would be of value for the community," said Rodriguez.

At the meeting, Coalition members and supporters discussed arranging a trip to Washington D.C. to carry the message about the need for water to protect jobs and food production. Rallies at the State Capitol were also discussed.

---

### **Fresno County Cooperative Extension offers drought management tips**

Fresno County U.C. Cooperative Extension farm advisors have developed new Web site materials for growers and homeowners to access drought management information, expertise and research-based information related to the drought.

This site, <http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu>, contains commodity-specific drought information for cotton and vegetable management, grapes and permanent crop drought management tips, dairy drought tips and weed drought information. The new site has useful tips for large and small farms as well as homeowner and nursery industry information.

"We are sharing the collective research and education efforts of our local program resources and the considerable knowledge we have available at the University of California," said Dan Munk, water, soils and cotton farm advisor. Munk organized the U.C. Cooperative Extension drought efforts for Fresno County. Advisors have conducted water management research or have worked closely on these issues with other university or industry collaborators.

Fresno County agriculture and local communities have been especially hard hit by this year's drought with some water districts receiving as little as 10 percent of their normal water deliveries. Farmers and water managers have been coping with reduced water supplies by exploring new irrigation technologies, deficit irrigation of crops and fallowing some of the most productive land in the nation.

To contact a local farm advisor, call (559) 456-7285. Munk can be reached at (559) 456-7561.

---

### Local restaurants vie for top beef restaurant

Every year, the California Beef Council (CBC) sponsors the California Beef Backer Award to recognize restaurants that go the extra mile to make beef the centerpiece of their menus. This year, seven local restaurants are in the running.

The popular restaurants are: Cool Hand Luke's Steakhouse and Saloon, nine California locations including Clovis; Double LL Steak House & Saloon, Visalia; Firestone Grill/Dog House Grill, San Luis Obispo and Fresno; The Elbow Room, Fresno; The Vineyard Restaurant and Bar, Madera; Yosemite Ranch, Fresno; and Yukon Jack Restaurant and Bar, Clovis and Fresno.

Cattle producers are asked to nominate their favorite restaurants to participate in the contest. A committee of beef industry leaders will review restaurant entries and base their selection on the restaurants' beef menu applications, beef promotion programs, and beef sales. The winner and runner-up for the 2009 California Beef Backer Award will be announced in October and will receive cash prizes to use towards future beef purchases. The winning restaurant will also be featured in a public relations campaign coordinated by the CBC.

For more information about the contest or to obtain a list of past winners of the California Beef Backer Award, visit [www.calbeef.org](http://www.calbeef.org).

---

### May Day event to be held Saturday in Easton

The annual Easton May Day celebration will take place this Saturday, May 2, from 5-8 p.m. at Washington Union's John Ventura Stadium.

The long running community tradition, sponsored by the Easton Lions Club, includes the crowning of the May Day Queen and her court, Maypole and folk dancing, food, games, grease pole climbing and much more.

Questions regarding the event can be directed to May Day Chair Larry Hartwig at (559) 233-6625.

---

### Quote of the Week

"There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence and energy of her citizens cannot cure." Source: [www.coolnsmart.com](http://www.coolnsmart.com)

*And, in honor of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday...*

"There's nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse." Ronald Reagan

---

### Next Week's Calendar

- May 5** San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Air District office
- May 6** Southeast Asian Heat Illness Prevention Training, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Fresno County UCCE office
- May 7** FCFB Board of Directors' meeting, 6 p.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave.;  
CMAC Board meeting, 3:30 p.m., Fresno

**May 8** Fresno Chamber Ag, Water and Environment Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office,  
Downtown;  
PRSA Image Awards luncheon

#### **This Week's Calendar**

**April 27** California Farm Water Coalition Board of Directors' meeting

**April 28** San Joaquin Political Academy Committee meeting;  
Fresno Fair Board of Directors' meeting

**April 29** Water March/ Rally planning meeting

**April 30** Haz Mat Transportation Training Meeting;  
YF&R Meeting

---

Editor: Liz Hudson, APR • Public Relations Coordinator • cell: (559) 779-1569 • email: [lizh@fcfb.org](mailto:lizh@fcfb.org)