



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Drought survey deadline has been extended to Friday

Fresno County has extended the deadline for the Drought Impact Survey to Friday, May 8. The County has been asked to document the impact of the drought so that the California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA) will know the level of resources needed.

The County is asking growers to help quantify the number of jobs lost due to the drought verses the general economic downturn. The Fresno County Agriculture Department will be updating the County's Disaster Declaration based on this information received from growers and ranchers, and will share the information with the CAL EMA in order to determine the level of assistance needed .

The survey is available online at [Drought Impact Survey: Agriculture and Businesses](#). Direct questions to Jeanette Ishii, economic development coordinator, County of Fresno, at (559) 262-4168 or via email at: jishii@co.fresno.ca.us.

Proposed Williamson Act revision to be discussed on Tuesday by Supervisors

Next Tuesday, May 12, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors will revisit the proposal to increase the Williamson Act minimum parcel size for non-prime parcels in Fresno County.

This item was considered by the Board last November and was continued to allow for the compilation of additional tax assessment data. The recommended action has not changed. County staff is proposing to increase the minimum parcel size for non-prime parcels to 320 acres on the west side and 160 acres on the east side while initiating non-renewals of all contracted parcels that do not meet the minimum contract parcel size.

For additional information or details, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or info@fcfb.org.

Water March “Thank You” Celebration set for Saturday

Participants of the recent California March for Water are invited to attend a special “Thank You and Let’s Keep Fighting Celebration” on Saturday, May 9 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Firebaugh High School Football Stadium, 1976 Morris Kyle Dr. in Firebaugh. A barbecue will be held from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a show featuring Actor/Comedian and California Latino Water Coalition Chairman Paul Rodriguez and other entertainers, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is free.

The event is planned as a “thank you” for the thousands of people who marched and rallied for a surface water supply for the Valley’s west side in mid-April. For details, contact Angela Vega at (559) 488-3541 or Mario Santoyo at (559) 799-0701.

Dairy Princess to be announced on Saturday in Riverdale

Four young women will compete for the District 8 Dairy Princess Contest during ceremonies held on Saturday, May 9 at the Riverdale Portuguese Hall in Riverdale.

This year’s contestants are: Kelsey Blagg of Grass Valley, Renee Idsinga of Kerman, and Nichole Bos and Michelle Meneses, both of Fresno. Kelsey Blagg, 22, is the daughter of Mike and Leslie Blagg, of Grass Valley. She currently is attending California State University, Fresno. Renee Idsinga, 19, is the daughter of Bill and Sharon Idsinga of Kerman, and attends Willow International College. Nichole Bos, 20, is the daughter of Jim and Jennifer Bos of Fresno, currently attending Willow International College. Michelle Meneses, 17, is the daughter of Joe and Marie Meneses of Fresno, and attends San Joaquin Memorial High School.

The Dairy Princess will serve as ambassador for the dairy industry at schools, service groups and in the media, representing the dairy industry in Fresno and Madera counties. The princess and alternate will participate in a week of training, provided by the California Milk Advisory Board, which includes industry tours, presentation training, and etiquette training. The contest is sponsored by the District 8 Dairy Princess Committee and the California Milk Advisory Board.

Come visit FCFB at Fresno Grizzlies’ Ag Night on May 15

Fresno County Farm Bureau will be participating in the Second Annual Fresno Grizzlies’ Ag Night at Chukchansi Park in Fresno, on Friday, May 15, with first pitch at 7:05 p.m. Pre-game festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. Come visit FCFB President Dan Errotabere and the FCFB booth, which will be located behind section 122.

As part of the agricultural festivities, the Grizzlies will be hosting a petting zoo, farmer’s market and tractor exhibit. The night will be dedicated to honoring the Valley’s role as the world’s most productive agricultural region. The event is being presented by Bayer CropScience.

The night will end with a large fireworks display, which is part of every Grizzlies Friday night home game. The first 2,500 fans also will receive a commemorative Rally Card used for cheering on the home team. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (559) 320-TIXS, or log onto www.fresnogrizzlies.com.

“California Gold” television show to feature Hmong farmers

Huell Howser’s popular “California Gold” television show will feature a segment on Hmong farmers in the Fresno area tonight (May 7) at 9 p.m. and on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. on KVPT- Channel 18.

Richard Molinar, of the U.C. Cooperative Extension, reports the popular television host was in the Fresno area in late-2008 to tape a 30-minute segment about the type of crops and farms of Hmong farmers. The show is being aired this month in various locations on PBS stations throughout California.

Viticulture Tech Group to meet May 20 at FCFB

The San Joaquin Valley Viticulture Technical Group will meet on Wednesday, May 20 at 10 a.m. at Fresno County Farm Bureau Office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno to discuss fungus control and grapevine nutrition.

Dr. Kendra Baumgartner, research plant pathologist, Crops Pathology and Genetics Research Unit, USDA-ARS in Davis, will discuss the Mycorrhizal fungi and grapevine nutrition. Dr. Baumgartner is the lead scientist in the Sustainable Vineyard Production Systems. Her research is focused on addressing grape industry needs through a combination of basic and applied projects and has included mycorrhizal fungi and weed control.

The cost is \$10 for members and non-members alike. The cost includes lunch. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling Jon Holmquist at (559) 661-5539.

YF&Rs plan Fresno and Merced counties Ag Tour on June 6

Young Farmers & Ranchers chapters from the Central Coast, Merced and Fresno counties are hosting an all-day tour of western Fresno and Merced county agricultural operations on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The tour will be leaving from Harris Ranch Restaurant, near Coalinga.

Tour stops include the Harris Ranch, Tanimura & Antle melon operation, Tomatek processing facility, and Constellation Winery. Only 15 tickets are available to each participating county chapter.

The cost is \$50 per person, which includes the tour, transportation, wine tasting and lunch. Checks should be made payable to Fresno County Farm Bureau, and mailed to FCFB, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno, CA 93728.

For more information, contact Jonathon DeGroot (559) 352-6340.

Fresno Audubon Society looking to partner with farmers on gopher management

There's no question that gophers drive farmers crazy and reproduce like crazy, but Fresno Audubon Society is launching an effort to construct homes for owls and kestrels that can provide some much needed relief.

Fresno Audubon is looking to partner with farmers to place nest boxes for Barn Owls and Kestrels and artificial burrows for Burrowing Owls on farmland. All of these bird species are cost-effective, environmentally sound means of rodent control, said Brandon Hill, of the Audubon Society. "In fact, a nesting pair of Barn Owls can eat roughly 1000 rodents yearly," he said.

Fresno Audubon will construct the boxes and/or burrows for free. All they ask of the farmer is assistance in installation and, if willing, some easy monitoring and annual maintenance of the boxes.

In addition to farm partners, the organization is looking for individuals who are interested in donating time, materials or money to the project. For more information, contact Brandon Hill at (559) 978-2369, or email at: bhill968@gmail.com.

Happy Mother's Day

Here's an excerpt from a recent email that's worthy of passing along, especially in light of Sunday as being Mother's Day:

"...Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till some 'other' time.

"Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby... somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, 'normal' is history.

"Somebody said you can't love the second child as much as you love the first... somebody doesn't have two or more children.

"Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery....somebody never watched her 'baby' get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten.... or on a plane headed for military 'boot camp.'

"Somebody said a Mother can stop worrying after her child gets married... somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

"Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home... somebody never had grandchildren.

"Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her... somebody isn't a mother.

"Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words, they become actions. Watch your actions, they become habits. Watch your habits, they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes... your destiny."

Editor's note: We'll have something special for all the Dads next month!

Next Week's Calendar

May 11 FCFB FAACT Class on trade, 8 a.m., FCFB office

May 13 Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office Downtown;
EOC Farmers Market Grand Opening, noon, Downtown

May 15 Ag Night at the Grizzlies

This Week's Calendar

May 5 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting

May 6 Southeast Asian Heat Illness Prevention Training

May 7 FCFB Board of Directors' meeting; CMAC Board meeting

May 8 Fresno Chamber Ag, Water and Environment Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office, Downtown; PRSA Image Awards luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Bentley's Bistro