



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Sexual harassment prevention training to be held at FCFB on Thursday

The Fresno County Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Nisei Farmers League is offering a free sexual harassment prevention training on Thursday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno.

Sexual harassment training must be provided to all supervisors in companies with 50 or more employees for minimally two hours every two years. According to CalChamber, employees include full-time, part-time and temporary workers or contractors for each working day in any 20 consecutive weeks in the current calendar year or preceding calendar year. The 50 individuals do not need to work at the same location or within the state of California.

The session will be in English. There is no charge for NFL and FCFB members and employees to attend. Please RSVP to FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or NFL at (559) 251-8468 by 9 a.m. on May 21.

Workshop to help farmers apply for cost-share funds from air quality emission reduction program will be held May 27 in Fresno

A workshop to update farmers and ranchers about a new cost-share program to help reduce air quality emissions from off-road mobile or stationary agricultural sources will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 2 p.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno. A similar workshop will be held the same day at 9 a.m. at Thomason Tractor, 985 12th St., Firebaugh.

The workshops are part of a series of sessions scheduled during the next three weeks to help farmers and ranchers learn and apply for the new cost-share program. A complete list of workshops is available on-line at www.fcfb.org.

The program is administered by the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of a new air quality provision of the 2008 Federal Farm Bill, provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the program, agricultural producers can apply for cost-share funds to

replace, repower, or retrofit existing combustion engines, helping to reduce ozone and particulate matter emissions. The deadline to apply is June 26.

Priority will be given to replacing older, higher-polluting engines with newer, reduced-emission technology engines that meet or exceed current emission standards. Stationary, portable and heavy-duty off-road mobile systems are eligible. Other eligible practices to reduce fugitive dust (particulate matter) include conservation tillage, harvest activities, precision pest control and manure injection. Up to \$22 million is available for this program. In addition, certain regional Air Pollution Control Districts may provide co-funding opportunities.

At the workshops, representatives from the USDA's NRCS and Farm Service Agencies, regional Air Districts, agricultural associations and farm equipment dealers will answer questions and to help producers determine if they are eligible for the program. The workshops are hosted by the USDA's NRCS and Farm Service Agency, regional Air Pollution Control Districts, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, and Agriculture Improving Resources (A.I.R), a coalition of agricultural and governmental agencies, including FCFB, formed to help educate farmers and ranchers about air quality issues. For complete details, visit: www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2009

Property rights watchdog group files lawsuit over Delta Smelt pumping restrictions

The Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) is holding a news conference this Thursday, May 21 in downtown Fresno to announce a constitutional lawsuit against water-pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The lawsuit says the cutbacks and the federal agencies' fish-over-people regulatory scheme violate federal law and the U.S. Constitution.

The news conference will be held at 10 a.m. in Fresno County Plaza Courtyard, 999 M St. (Courthouse Park), off of M Street, in downtown Fresno. At the news conference, PLF attorneys Damien Schiff and Brandon Middleton and west side farmers and landowners affected by the Endangered Species Act-imposed pumping restrictions will discuss the legal actions the foundation is taking to protect property rights and to seek a balanced approach to environmental regulations

PLF is a public-interest legal organization that litigates for property rights, limited government, free enterprise and a balanced approach to environmental regulation, in courts across the country. Direct questions to Harold Johnson, of Pacific Legal Foundation, (916) 419-7111; email: hej@pacificlegal.org. Information about the foundation is available at: www.pacificlegal.org.

Governor's Budget Proposal

By Teresa Plascencia

FCFB Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released his "May Revise" budget on May 14. It attempts to address the state's projected \$15- \$22 billion budget deficit; estimates depend on Tuesday's special election results.

Not included in the Governor's 2009 Budget Act is the \$34.7 million Williamson Act program. The proposal seeks to eliminate state subventions to local governments for agricultural land under the Act. Currently, the State backfills a portion of the revenue lost by local governments when they enter into voluntary agreements with landowners for lower property tax assessments when those land owners agree to use the land only for agricultural or open space purposes.

FCFB will continue to monitor the budget proposal. A full detail of the Governor's May Revise can be viewed on the California Department of Finance web site, at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/>

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

Sign-ups are still being taken for the Young Farmers & Ranchers' all-day tour of local agriculture on Saturday, June 6. The YF&R chapters from the Central Coast, Merced and Fresno counties are hosting the tour of western Fresno and Merced county agricultural operations, which will begin at 10 a.m. 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 tour is open to YF&R members, prospective members and any interested FCFB member.

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.

AgSafe's Agricultural Labor Summit to be held June 17

An Agricultural Labor and Employment Summit will be held on Wednesday, June 17, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Harris Ranch Garden Ballroom, Interstate-5 and Highway 198, near Coalinga.

Sponsored by AgSafe, the summit will cover such issues as Workers' Compensation changes, managing surprise inspections, updated Cal/OSHA enforcement activities, and heat illness new compliance regulations. A breakfast buffet will be served at 7:30 a.m.

The advance registration fee is \$55 per person for AgSafe members and \$65 per person for non-members if registered before June 12. Late walk-in registration is \$65 per person for AgSafe members, and \$75 per person for non-members. Registration for this workshop is on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, contact AgSafe at (559) 447-0350 or visit the Web site at: www.agsafe.org.

Did you know?

Monday is Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings of Memorial Day, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. The day was set aside as a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I, when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May.

Quotes for the Week

In honor of Memorial Day and of those brave men and women who have served our Nation...

"I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom."

—General George S. Patton

"Don't one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes"

—Israel Putnam, at the Battle of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill, June 1775.

(The quote also has been wrongfully attributed to the commanding officer Colonel William Prescott.)

"It is my earnest hope - indeed the hope of all mankind - that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world found upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice."

—General Douglas MacArthur

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight – it's the size of the fight in the dog."

—General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Next Week's Calendar

May 25 Memorial Day holiday; office closed.

May 26 San Joaquin Political Academy, 11 a.m., Fresno Association of Realtors;
Fresno Fair Board of Directors, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds

May 27 A.I.R / NRCS Workshop, 2 p.m., FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno

May 28 Leadership Kerman presentation, 7:30 a.m.

May 29 Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendars Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw avenues

This Week's Calendar

May 18 ACT Committee meeting

May 20 Fresno County Fruit Trail kick-off

May 21 CMAC Board of Directors
