



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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CFBF's Mosebar calls for attention on rural communities at Road to Recovery conference

California Farm Bureau Federation President Doug Mosebar told the California Recovery Task Force on Wednesday that state and local policymakers must consider the needs of rural communities as they determine how to allocate federal economic-stimulus money. Mosebar was in Fresno, addressing the task force during a Road to Recovery conference. He urged policymakers to use stimulus money to "get water flowing again" to regions hit by water shortages due to drought and environmental policies that have reduced water deliveries.

"There will be no recovery in our rural communities if we don't fix our water system," Mosebar said. He recommends the state direct money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to stimulate construction of the proposed Two Gates project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and a proposed "intertie" canal to link state and federal water projects, both intended to add flexibility to the water system "at a time when it's desperately needed."

Mosebar said Recovery Act money should be directed to shore up the sagging dairy economy. Dairy farmers have been saddled with an oversupply of milk because of the struggling national economy and a drop in exports. He called for stimulus funds to be used by local food banks to purchase fresh and dry milk products and cheese, and insist that government food purchases for school lunch programs do the same.

Stimulus funds also should be directed toward reviving career technical education programs, Mosebar said. Those programs train people interested in farming and ranching and include a variety of vocations.

Obama Administration stops "No-Match" Rule

By Johannah Sorensen

FCFB Intern

On Wednesday, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano overturned the "No-Match Rule." Napolitano realizes that immigration reform is needed and is working towards a bipartisan effort in making this change.

In August 2007, the DHS issued the No-Match Rule under the Bush Administration. Under this rule, the Social Security Administration (SSA) could distribute letters to employers making them aware of an employee whose Social Security number did not match up with SSA records, and therefore didn't have authorization to be working. The receipt of this SSA letter could be used as evidence that the employer had knowledge of the mismatched information. Failure to act upon this knowledge could result in an I-9 violation and possible fines.

Although this was an effort in tightening down on immigration law, the No-Match Rule wrongly made the assumption that if an employee had been listed in the SSA letter, he would then been ineligible to work. According to Western Growers, the problem with this is that the SSA database does not have real time information on a person's immigration status or on their authorization to be employed.

Florez' Milk Pooling Bill Defeated in Assembly Ag Committee

By John Migliazzo

FCFB Membership Coordinator

SB 362, which passed through the California Senate in June, was defeated by a vote of 4-3 in the Assembly Agricultural Committee on July 1.

The bill would have amended the Gonsalves Milk Pooling Act of 1967 by providing a full exemption from reporting on or accounting for milk produced and processed by California producer-handlers. Producer-handlers are milk producers who produce and bottle their own milk. There currently are five producer-handlers and two raw milk producers in California who would have fallen within this exemption.

The Act pulls all of the revenue from the sale of milk into one large pool, and distributes revenues evenly among all dairy producers. For example, regardless of whether milk goes to make fluid milk, cheese or butter, every dairy producer would be given the same amount for his or her milk. As the law stands, almost all California milk is pooled, with the exception of some milk produced by producer-handlers.

According to the CA Department of Food and Agriculture, SB 362 would have more than doubled the amount of milk that currently is exempted from the pool. By providing an exemption for these producer-handlers, they are placed at a competitive advantage over milk producers who are forced to report to the pool, opponents to the bill said. Opponents estimated that if producer-handler exemptions are to expand under SB 362, it would cost the average dairy producer \$8,600 per year. As producer-handlers grow and increase production, some dairy industry representatives believe this figure can rise to as much as \$24,100 per year.

Supporters of the bill stated it would have allowed California dairies to compete with out-of-state producers whose milk is imported into California and thus exempt from the pool.

The bill was opposed by California Farm Bureau Federation, Western United Dairyman, Dairy Institute of California, The Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Milk Producers Council and California Dairy Campaign.

Water Update: Drought and water losses mount

San Joaquin Valley agricultural commissioners in five counties are estimating a loss of \$1.4 billion from unplanted acres, yield reductions and rangeland damage due to drought and water shortages this year.

According to an article in CFBF's *Ag Alert*, Fresno County has been hit the hardest, with a projected loss of \$730 million and 262,000 acres left idle. Kern County is next, with \$567 million in losses and 181,561 idle

acres. Kings, Madera and Tulare are among the other agricultural counties experiencing losses totaling about \$70 million due to drought and water shortages.

The losses could increase as farmers report final production figures. Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Thomas Nyberg cautioned that "averages are lousy indicators in the real world, but do tend to give ballpark figures of problems."

Fresno and Madera counties have been declared as drought disaster regions, and several other counties have filed similar petitions.

In a February report, University of California, Davis Economist Richard Howitt projected that this year's water shortages would cause direct and indirect income losses to the Central Valley ranging from \$1.6-to-\$2.2 billion. The report projected job losses in a range between 60,000 and 80,000. Howitt said it remains too early to compute final figures, but that the losses appear to be on a pace to match his projections.

Chamber meeting tomorrow will discuss Two-Gates Project

The Fresno Chamber's Agriculture, Water and Environment Committee will hear about the much-discussed Two Gates Water Project at its meeting tomorrow, Friday, July 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, Conference Room, 2331 Fresno St., Downtown.

Speakers Tom Glover, of the Westlands Water District, and Vince Roos, representing Rep. Jim Costa, will discuss the proposed Two Gates project, which calls for construction and installation of two gates near the Delta pumps that would help keep the Delta Smelt away from the pumps, and would allow pumps to maintain pumping volumes. The project is permit-ready and costs \$25 million. Once approved, it could be installed as quickly as 90 days. This spring, state and federal pumps could not pump at full capacity because of Delta Smelt protections. As a result, more than 619,000 acre-feet was not pumped and stored at San Luis Reservoir, subsequently drained to the ocean.

Lunch will be provided at the meeting. To reserve a seat, call Dixie at (559) 495-4821 or email: dwilson@fresnochamber.com.

Discounted Igloo coolers available through FELS

By Johannah Sorensen
FCFB Intern

Farm Bureau, the Farm Employers Labor Service, Nisei Farmers League and other agricultural organizations have joined together to create "Heat Illness Education Cooler" Igloos.

Farm Bureau members and FELS subscribers are able to purchase 10-gallon coolers for \$59.99 and 5-gallon coolers for \$39.99, which is \$10 off the original amount. Also, orders of 10 or more coolers will receive an additional five percent discount.

Each cooler has the following important heat illness information printed on the front in both English and Spanish:

- Drink cool water frequently;
- Rest in shade;
- Wear proper clothing;
- Watch for heat illness symptoms; and

- Know your emergency procedures.

The coolers, as well many other heat illness prevention resources, can be purchased through the FELS website: www.fels.org. For additional information, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or FELS at 1-800-753-9073.

Did you know?

As your summer vegetable garden begins to produce, now is a good time to try new recipes using the abundance of zucchini, tomatoes and other tasty vegetables from your garden. There are many good food-related Web sites that offer free recipes, as well as sharing proven recipes with friends. If you'd like to share a recipe that uses some of your summer fruits and vegetables, please email it to Friday Follow-Up and we will be happy to share it with readers. Send them to: Liz Hudson, lizh@fcb.org.

Here's one to get you started from the Target Web Site: www.target.com; haven't tried it yet, but it sure sounds good!

Elegant Zucchini and Tomatoes

2 slices bacon
8 small zucchini, cut into 1/2 inch slices
1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
1 pinch salt
2 medium tomatoes, cut into wedges
1/8 tsp. dried basil
ground black pepper to taste
1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese

Place bacon in a large skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Crumble, and return to pan. Add zucchini, onion, and salt to the bacon; cook, stirring frequently, until zucchini is tender-crisp. Add tomato wedges, basil, and ground black pepper; heat, stirring gently, until tomatoes are warm. Using a slotted spoon, transfer vegetable mixture to a serving bowl. Top with crumbled blue cheese.

Next Week's Calendar

June 15 San Joaquin Valley Viticulture Tech Group, 9 a.m., FCFB office;
Fresno Chamber Board of Directors, 3:15 p.m., Chamber office
June 16 CMAC Board of Directors, 3:30 p.m., Dickey Park Facility

This Week's Calendar

July 8 Fresno Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee
July 10 Chamber Agriculture and Land Use Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office
