



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Employer I-9 tips are available

With some of the recent changes in I-9 employment requirements, employers have been asking questions about compliance. According to the Nisei Farmers League, it is strongly recommended to keep I-9 documents in a completely separate file away from other employment documents.

The League also recommends:

- The law does not require you to make or keep copies of the documents used to verify employment eligibility (such as Social Security cards, green cards, etc). It is recommended to not make such photocopies.
- I-9s need to be retained for a minimum of three years or one year after termination of employment, whichever is later. Examples: If an employee was hired on Jan. 3, 2004 and was terminated on Feb. 6, 2005, an employer would hold the I-9 until Jan. 3, 2007; and/or if an employee was hired on Sept. 12, 1991 and was terminated on July 8, 2009, an employer would hold on to the original I-9 until July 8, 2010.
- If you have a long-time employee and his or her original I-9 has been misplaced, you need to complete a new I-9 and make a notation stating the original document has been misplaced.

For additional suggestions or questions, contact the Nisei Farmers League at (559) 251-8468 or FCFB at (559) 237-0263.

Easton Coffee Talk set for July 29

FCFB will be hosting an Easton Coffee Talk meeting with Supervisor Phil Larson on Wednesday, July 29. Also in attendance will be a representative from the Fresno County Assessor's office to discuss property values and the assessment process. The meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Easton C.P.D.E.S. Hall, 172 W Jefferson Ave, Fresno.

The informal Coffee Talk meetings provide Farm Bureau members and others a chance to get up-to-speed on current local issues and ask questions of the morning's speakers. There is no cost to attend for FCFB members or potential members. Breakfast burritos, coffee and other refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by July 27 to FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or via email: info@fcfb.org.

Public scoping meetings about Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B project of San Joaquin River Restoration Program set for July 28 & 29

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and CA Department of Water Resources have scheduled two scoping meetings to gather public input on issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report/ Statement on the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project under the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

The meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 28, from 6-8 p.m. at the Piccadilly Inn Shaw, 2305 W. Shaw Ave. in Fresno; and on Wednesday, July 29, from 6-8 p.m., at the Firebaugh City Council Chambers, 1659 13th St., in Firebaugh.

Written comments can be submitted at the meetings or by the deadline of Aug. 14 to: Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-170, Sacramento, CA 95825; fax: 916-978-5469; or e-mail: MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net. Comments also may be submitted to Kevin Faulkenberry, CA Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin District, 3374 E. Shields Ave., Fresno, CA 93726, or to e-mail faulkenb@water.ca.gov. For details about the River Restoration Project, visit www.restoresjr.net.

Food Bank is looking for help with food distribution

The Community Food Bank is looking to partner with local trucking companies and individuals who can assist with transporting food to distribution sites. With the Governor's recent announcement of additional resources to assist Food Banks, the local CFB is gearing up to be able to accommodate the increased distribution program.

Kristen Carlson of the Food Bank said the trucks should be able to carry 45,000 pounds of food, and will be used to deliver food to distribution sites in Firebaugh, Huron, Kerman, Mendota, Riverdale, San Joaquin and Selma. The trucks do not have to be refrigerated as the food will be mostly dry and canned goods. "We estimate we'll be doing about 200 loads per month, so we can really use the addition help in distribution," said Carlson. "We hope people can help as many times as they can," she said.

Anyone interested in helping the Food bank can call Carlson at (559) 237-3663, ext. 103.

Dairy seminar set for July 23 in Madera

A tri-county seminar about new water and air quality requirements for dairy producers will be held on Thursday, July 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Madera County Farm Bureau, 1102 S. Pine St., Madera. Lunch is included.

Speakers will provide information to dairy producers about facility evaluations and resources available to help producers. Additional information will cover water pump maintenance, energy conservation and feed management.

For additional information or to register for the free seminar, contact Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Conservationist Dr. Garry Ford at (559) 674-2108, ext. 115, or email: garry.ford@ca.usda.gov. **FCFB's Media and Partners Appreciation Night is July 30**

The ever-popular Fresno County Farm Bureau Media and Partners Appreciation Night will be held on Thursday, July 30 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at P-R Farms, 2917 E. Shepherd Ave. in Clovis. Farm Bureau members are urged to attend.

This year's theme will focus on the Community Food Bank. With the current water crisis facing the Valley and Fresno County in particular, FCFB is partnering with the Food Bank to help bring awareness of the valuable service they provide for the community in helping to feed the hungry. Participants to the event are asked to bring a can of food to the event and be entered into a special drawing; the more donated cans, the more entries and a better chance to win!

One of the attractions of the evening is the trailer full of fresh produce donated by Farm Bureau members for the media and business support guests to take home. This year, additional produce donations will be provided to the Food Bank. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals. Tickets for non-media/business support guests are \$10 per person.

For details on sponsorships, to make a donation of produce, or to make a reservation for the event, call the Farm Bureau office at (559) 237-0263 or email Liz Hudson at lizh@fcfb.org.

Water Update

Water transfer amendments approved

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved two amendments to streamline water transfers and to appropriate funds to build projects to help restore west side water supplies.

Representatives Dennis Cardoza and Jim Costa provided the amendments to the House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, calling for a streamlined process for water transfers under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act within the San Joaquin Valley, and appropriating \$10 million for projects to improve operational flexibility in the CVP. The amendments are viewed as a critical step forward in continued efforts to ease the Valley's water crisis and are met with favor by the water community.

Although the action will not increase the west side's water supply this year, there is the potential to increase the available water for the west side water users by about 100,000 acre-feet, according to Westlands. This additional water would come from areas that currently have excess supply and are willing to sell it to areas in need.

Disaster assistance available for small businesses

Small, non-farm businesses in Fresno and Madera counties and the neighboring counties of Inyo, Kings, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, Tulare and Tuolumne are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The loans can help offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the drought that occurred in Fresno and Madera counties.

Many businesses in farming communities have suffered economic impacts because they depend on farmers and ranchers who have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the water shortages. Small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of

any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. Information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. The deadline to apply for these loans is Feb. 26, 2010.

Did you know?

Summer time is barbecue time -- and that typically means a juicy steak, tri-tip or burgers!

Don't ever feel guilty about eating tasty barbecued beef! The protein in beef helps maintain a healthy metabolism, and studies suggest the protein in beef may help prevent many chronic diseases such as type-2 diabetes and osteoporosis. Nutrient-rich lean beef provides high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B-vitamins. Moreover, a three-ounce serving of lean beef contributes less than 10 percent of calories to a 2,000-calorie diet.

It's especially important that young children and older folks get sufficient protein. Children need the high-quality protein, iron and zinc in beef in order to develop their minds, as well as their bodies. Older adults can benefit from the protein in beef to help prevent loss of muscle mass and strength as they age.

Beef, milk, yogurt, pork, eggs, cheese, fish and poultry are complete high-quality proteins that are highly digestible and contain all the essential amino acids your body needs. The quality of a protein is also related to its digestibility, and animal proteins are highly digestible with meat and cheese at a 95 percent digestibility rating. For recipes, nutrition information and cooking tips, visit: www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com.

Next Week's Calendar

July 23

Dairy seminar, 9:30 a.m., Madera Farm Bureau;
Fresno Chamber Economic Reporting Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Torninos

This Week's Calendar

July 15

Fresno Chamber Board of Directors
