



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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Network show to focus on west side water crisis this evening

FOX-News' Sean Hannity will be on the west side on today (Thursday) for a live airing of his weekly news-commentary show, focusing on the west side water crisis.

Hannity has discussed the issue on his show previously, but this is his first visit to the affected region and will devote the majority of the 60-minute television show to the economic and social impacts from the natural and regulatory drought.

The show will be broadcast at 6 p.m. from an unplanted tomato field located about eight miles west of NAS Lemoore on Highway 198. Thousands of people are expected to be at the show, and are asked to arrive early—by 5 p.m. The field is located on the south side of Highway 198, to the west of the Fresno/Kings County line. The main entrance is marked with a speed limit sign and a white wrought iron gate, clearly marked with signs and banners.

The show will feature CA Latino Water Coalition Chair Paul Rodriguez, local farmers, elected representatives, and representatives from the Pacific Legal Foundation and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association.

Regulatory Update

By Teresa Plascencia

FCFB Governmental Affairs Coordinator

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) will hold a hearing on the use of methyl iodide on Friday, Sept. 25 at 8 a.m. in Sacramento.

The purpose of the hearing is two-fold; first to determine if there are any potential risks and secondly, to decide whether or not to approve this fumigant for use in California.

In 2007, methyl iodide received U.S. EPA approval for use and is currently registered in 47 states. Methyl bromide, a once preferred fumigant, is slowly being eliminated due to federal government mandates. Methyl iodide is a suitable replacement. Fumigants are vital tools for the production, maintenance, and protection for crops; they kill off pests, diseases, and weeds.

For information on how to participate, contact FCFB's Teresa Plascencia at (559) 237-0263 or via email at teresap@fcfb.org.

Tie-Down exemption regulations has been extended to April 30

By Teresa Plascencia

FCFB Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Tie-Down exemption reminder- the regulations for carrying bins, bales and tubs of farm commodities has been extended to April 30, 2010. The exemption is only for cargo hauled from the field to the first point of processing or packing.

Anyone hauling farm products will have to apply for an exemption (if not already done so) and will need to file monthly reports, which must be faxed to the CHP Commercial Vehicle Section, attention Officer Ron Leimer at (916) 446-4579 or via email to rleimer@chp.ca.gov by the 15th of each month. Persons, who have already applied and received the exemption, will automatically receive the new extension until April 2010, as long as they continue to maintain the monthly CHP reports.

The exemption is only for cargo hauled from the field to the first point of processing or packing, including items hauled in bins, boxes and tubs. It does not include the transportation of hay, although farmers hauling hay for their own use are still exempt from the new rules.

Without the exemption, haulers of agriculture goods would have been required by the new laws to tie down all cargo with straps running side-by-side, a federal standard that the state adopted with the passage of Assembly Bill 3011. Forms and frequently asked questions may be found online at FCFB's Web site www.fcfb.org. For further information, contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 237-0263.

Food Bank still needs volunteers for food distributions

At recent food distributions, the Community Food Bank has had to turn people away in the food lines because they did not have enough volunteers to distribute the food. They have been able to get enough people to work most of the mornings, only to close the doors early in the afternoon.

The Food Bank estimates at least 450 volunteers are needed each week to distribute food. The distributions are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month in Huron; first and third Tuesdays in San Joaquin; second and fourth Fridays in Firebaugh; second and fourth Tuesdays in Mendota; and second and fourth Thursdays in Selma.

Volunteers can sign-up on-line at: vols4disaster@handsoncentralcal.org. For details, contact HandsOn Central California at: (559) 237-3101; or the Food Bank at (559) 237-3663.

Grant program offers paid internships for youth

The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board is working with a Valley-wide Green Jobs Corp grant application program to offer paid internships to local youth interested in environmentally-related jobs.

There are still positions available and the deadline to apply is Sept. 21. Funding covers attendance at a five-day Outdoor School next to Yosemite Park (October 5-9); training in green job specific skills; paid internships and/or work experience (for average of 6 weeks) and a mentor over the course of the 20-month program. Participants must put in 100 hours of community service. Fresno County is recruiting for 29 at-risk WIA-eligible low-income young adults, ages 18 through 24. Interested youth can call (559) 499-3764 for additional details.

Fair Ed Promotion for volunteers

The popular Big Fresno Fair Education Program is back again this year, with an estimated 20,000 school children, chaperones, teachers and guests expected to visit the Fair during the five-day program.

The dates of the Fair Education Program are Oct. 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16. During the past 17 years, more than 250,000 students and teachers have been educated about the agriculturally rich valley through fair education. The Fair Education Program allows kindergarten through eighth grade students to visit the fair free-of-charge in an educational setting. For information about volunteering, call Ruby Hefley at (559) 266-1067.

Also, representatives from Fresno County Farm Bureau will be on-hand in the Junior Exhibits Building to conduct mini-presentations about agriculture for the students during the Fair Education Program dates. Volunteers are needed to assist with the FCFB effort, as well as the overall Fair Education Program. For details, contact Liz Hudson at FCFB at (559) 237-0263. The Big Fresno Fair opens Oct. 7 and runs through Oct. 18. For information about the fair, visit the Web site at: www.fresnofair.com.

CattleWomen honors own

As a follow-up to last week's Friday Follow-Up, the Fresno-Kings County CattleWomen's Association also announced its CattleWomen of the Year at the annual fundraiser dinner on Sept. 12. The 2009 CattleWomen of the Year honorees include Marian Weldon, Mary Tolle, Betty Robinson, Joye Forbes, Jo Wang, Sally Sharer, Judy Estill, Marilyn Dale, Jean Bell, Lee Lassotovich, Jean Grant, Nada Gerard, Lee Ann Ketcher, Nettie Drake, Sally Behing, Michele McDonald, Robin Rogers-Dale, Patty Holman, Martha Holmes, Shirley Jennings, Peggy Rocha, Laura Johnson-Montross, Brooke Prewitt, Susan Johnson, Betsy Cockrell, Sue Ann Johnson-Tuttle and Terrie Valdero.

"We cannot think of a better way to acknowledge the rich history of cattle ranching in our region than to recognize the many great cattlegirls who have made a difference," said Terrie Valdero, president of the Fresno-Kings County CattleWomen.

Smile for the Week

After successfully passing the bar exam, a young man opened his own law office. One day he was sitting idle at his desk when his secretary announced that a Mr. Jones had arrived to see him.

"Show him right in!" the lawyer replied.

As Mr. Jones was being ushered in the lawyer had an idea. He quickly picked up the phone and shouted into it "...and you tell them that we won't accept less than fifty thousand dollars, and don't even call me until you agree to that amount!"

Slamming the phone down, he stood up and greeted Mr. Jones, "Good morning, Mr. Jones, what can I do for you?"

"I'm from the telephone company," Mr. Jones replied. "I'm here to connect that phone."

Source: Humor Jokes blog

Quote for the Week

"The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living, and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

President Theodore Roosevelt

Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

- Sept. 18** Fresno Chamber Agriculture & Environment Committee, 12:30 p.m., Chamber office, downtown; Details: (559) 495-4821
- Sept. 22** Fresno Fair Board of Directors, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds
- Sept. 23** Fresno County BluePrint Committee, 9:30 a.m., Fresno COG office
- Sept. 24** FCFB's Fabulous Food Machine Presentation at Viking School (Fresno Unified), 8 a.m.
- Sept. 25** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendar's Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw avenues
- Sept. 29** FCFB/State Comp Cotton Harvest Safety Training, 7:30 a.m., U.C. Westside Research Center, Five Points; Details: (559) 237-0263.
- Oct. 1** FCFB Meeting of Members/Board of Directors meeting, 6 p.m., FCFB office; RSVP: (559) 237-0263

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