



Fresno County Farm Bureau

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FCFB loses leader, friend

On Tuesday, long-time Fresno County Farm Bureau member and past-president Donald D. "Don" Laub died from injuries suffered in an accident on Sept. 30.

Graveside services for Mr. Laub will be held on Monday, Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. at Belmont Memorial Park, 201 N Teilman Ave., Fresno. A memorial luncheon will be held immediately following at the C.P.D.E.S Hall, 172 W. Jefferson Ave., in Easton. Visitation will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 from noon to 5 p.m. at Stephens & Bean Funeral Home, 202 N. Teilman Ave., Fresno.

Mr. Laub was a life-long farmer in the Biola and Easton areas, known for producing top-quality table grapes, raisins and wine grapes. He was a leader in the agricultural and Easton communities, and received several awards for his commitment and dedication to Fresno County and California agriculture.

Among his many voluntary and community services, Farm Bureau was one organization Mr. Laub embraced and supported. On the county level, Mr. Laub held several leadership positions, including a term as president in 1986-88. He also served on the California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, and served on several advisory committees for both the state and national Farm Bureau organizations. For his commitment to Farm Bureau, Mr. Laub received the CFBF and FCFB distinguished service awards.

The Fresno County agricultural community lost a veritable crusader for the issues with Mr. Laub's passing. His passion for preserving the family farm, agricultural education for young people, and as an advocate for farm employees during 1980s immigration issues have left a lasting impression on those people who had the opportunity to work along side him. We lost a true friend and champion!

FCFB extends its heartfelt sympathies to the members of Mr. Laub's family, including his wife Clara; daughters, Debbie Jacobsen and son-in-law Ray, Diane Laub Tavares, and Donna Laub; and son David Laub, all of Fresno; and grandchildren Ryan Jacobsen and his wife Ashley, and Megan Jacobsen, all of Fresno; Brandon Jacobsen, of Las Vegas; Jason Allred and his wife Beth, of Duluth, MN; Jared Allred, of Fresno; and Dustin Laub, of Fresno, and three great-grandchildren.

Air Quality Workshops set for Oct. 29 in Kerman; Nov. 3 in Reedley

An air quality workshop will be held next Thursday, Oct. 29 at 1:30 p.m. at the Kerman Community Center, 15101 W. Kearney Blvd. to update farmers and ranchers on the internal combustion (IC) engine Rule 4702, the Conservation Management Practices (CMP) Plans program and the permitting program for internal combustion engines. Also, air district representatives will be on-hand to answer question about agricultural burning regulations.

A similar workshop will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 1:30 p.m., at the Reedley Community Center, Redwood Room, 100 N. East Ave, Reedley.

At the workshops, representatives from the San Joaquin Valley Air District, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and agricultural organizations will provide information about the engine rule and permitting requirements, as well as updated CMP plans. Rule 4702 requires non-emergency, non-certified (Tier 0) diesel engines greater than 50 horsepower to no longer be used in the San Joaquin Valley as of Jan. 1, 2010. The Rule states that both stationary and transportable Tier 0 engines shall be replaced with Tier 3 engines. The replacement requirement applies to non-emergency engines, such as those powering irrigation pumps, but does not apply to tractors.

The workshop also will discuss the requirements for CMP plans. All agricultural producers with 100 contiguous acres or more are required to implement and file CMP plans. A CMP is an activity or practice that will help reduce dust or particulate matter from getting into the air from the activities conducted on farmland.

The free workshops are sponsored by Agricultural Improving Resources coalition. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or email: info@fcfb.org. Participants are asked to bring to the workshops the number of IC engines, the horsepower and year models of each engine and number of hours operated per year for each engine; the number of miles of unpaved roads and the dust control treatments used on those unpaved roads and equipment yards; the number of acres grown per crop; and a general site map of operation including all parcels.

Additional workshops are scheduled for Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Madera, Tulare and Bakersfield. For dates, times and locations of the other workshops, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263.

Environmental review public meeting on Two-Gates water project to be held Oct. 26 in Fresno

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will hold a public meeting to provide information and gather comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the proposed Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project in the Delta. The meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Piccadilly Inn, 2305 West Shaw Ave. in Fresno. Other sessions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Discovery Bay and Stockton, respectively.

According to a USBR news release, the proposed project is a five-year experiment to validate a new Delta Smelt behavioral model and study the effects of modifying flows in the Delta to protect the Endangered Species Act-listed Smelt and other fish species from possible entrainment in state and federal water project pumps. Temporary gates would be placed across Old River and Connection Slough in the central Delta and operated from December to March to keep sediment-heavy turbid water away from the federal and state export pumps, thus keeping adult Delta Smelt away from the pumps, and in March and June to prevent young Delta Smelt from being entrained. The gates would be staffed 24/7 when in operation and accommodations for boaters would be provided.

The proposed project could benefit south-of-Delta water users by allowing more of their contract water supplies to be pumped during the critical spring snow melt period to help fill San Luis Reservoir. Because of stringent constraints on state and federal water project pumping during this critical time in the recent years, water customers throughout most of California have seen their contract water supplies greatly reduced, especially agricultural customers on Fresno County's west side. All total, an estimated 3.4 million acre-feet of state and federal project water on average that historically was used for human needs – agricultural, municipal and industrial purposes—now is being used for environmental protections annually. The proposed Two-Gates Project would help alleviate some of the pumping constraints that prevent this contract water supply from being delivered for food production, businesses and household water use in the central and southern regions of the state.

Water users, farm employees, businesses and others who are impacted by the water losses are urged to attend and express their support for the Two-Gates Project. Written comments also are being accepted until Nov. 17 and should be sent to Mario Manzo, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-730, Sacramento, CA 95825; e-mailed to mmanzo@usbr.gov; or faxed to (916) 978-5094.

The Draft EA/FONSI is available at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=4472. Additional information on the Demonstration Project is available at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/2gates/>.

FCFB Young Farmers & Ranchers to meet Oct. 27

The Fresno County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers will hold a dinner-meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m. at the FCFB office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave. Fresno.

Roy Martin, vice president and manager of the Agricultural Field Office for Bank of the West in Fresno, will discuss current and future markets of major Valley commodities. Martin is a member and a past president of the Ag Lenders Society of California and is co-chairman of the Agricultural Lending Institute. He also is a member of the Ag Advisory Committee for Reedley College.

The FCFB YF&R is a professional organization, promoting agriculture in the Valley and represents the future of the agriculture industry. The organization is open to young persons between 18-35 years of age who are involved in agriculture.

To make a reservation, contact Kristen Avery at: avery.kristen@gmail.com, or call (979) 220-7438.

Reedley Coffee Talk meeting is set for Wednesday, Nov. 4

Fresno County Farm Bureau will be hosting a Coffee Talk meeting with Supervisor Judy Case on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 a.m. at Main Street Café, 1052 G Street, in Reedley. Also attending will be Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims.

The informal Coffee Talk meetings provide Farm Bureau members and others a chance to get up-to-speed on current local issues. Refreshments will be provided.

There is no cost to attend. To RSVP or for additional details, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or email: info@fcb.org.

Pesticide Applicators Continuing Education classes offered next week

Free Private Applicator Pesticide Continuing Education classes, organized by Gar Tootelian Inc., will be held next week, beginning on Wednesday in Kerman. The schedule is:

- Wednesday, Oct. 28, Kerman Community Teen Center, 15101 W Kearney Ave.
- Thursday, Oct. 29, Reedley Community Center, 100 N East Ave.
- Friday, Nov. 20, Easton Portuguese Hall, 172 W Jefferson Ave.

The classes begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. and will conclude by noon. Four hours of continuing education hours will be offered.

Speakers include Louie Guerra, of Fresno County Department of Agriculture: "Laws and Regulations update/refreshers and Problems in Use Reporting;" Luis Angulo, of Agrian: "Electronic Reporting of Regulatory Forms;" and David Horner, of Gar Tootelian Inc. PCA: "Drought Centered Changes in Water Quality and Their Impact on Chemigation Practices In the San Joaquin Valley." Growers are asked to bring their private applicator card.

Space is limited. To make a reservation, call Vicki, of Gar Tootelian Inc., at (800) 696-6108 or (559) 638-6311.

Fresno Fair wraps-up 12-day run; Food Drive is huge success

The Big Fresno Fair ended its annual showcase of Fresno County on a high note. Despite one day of rain, overall preliminary attendance numbers were up over 2008, and horse racing numbers showed dramatic increases over last year.

The 2009 unaudited attendance totaled 514,030 an increase of 2.68 percent from 2008 when conducting a 12-day comparison. The 10-day horse racing meet drew large crowds, which showed in the Fair's on-track handle, which was up by 17 percent. Out-of-State wagering was up 116 percent, Northern California and Out-of-State was up 169 percent and All-Sources-Live was up 48 percent. The increases can be attributed to the Fair's full race cards, as well as the Fair's race meet was entirely unoverlapped and did not have competing racing from other northern California tracks for the first time in its 126-year history.

A Drought Relief Food Drive held during on one of the last days of the fair collected 56,700 pounds, or 28.3 tons, of food, representing the largest single-day collection in local history. The Salvation Army and Community Food Bank are the recipients of the food, which will benefit those most affected by drought conditions in Fresno County. On Thursday, Oct. 15, fairgoers who brought three or more canned food items per person between 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. received free admission into the Fair. That generosity continues through the end of the Fair with all concessionaires pledging to donate their remaining food inventory when the Fair ended on Sunday.

In addition, more than 2,000 animals were exhibited with 558 livestock shown for auction on Oct. 10 and 17. Also, more than 33,397 Fresno County parents, teachers and students toured the Fair this year as part of the Fair's 17 year-old Education Program. In addition, 155 homemade quilts that were entered for display, and 500 kids tried their luck at Mutton Bustin'. Not to ignore the popularity of "fair food," more than 17,500 pounds of corn dogs were sold and eaten during this year's Fair.

California to receive large share of USDA Block Grants

The CA Department of Food and Agriculture will receive \$16,315,325.65 in federal grants to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, which are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops. Throughout the U.S., 55 grants totaling approximately \$49 million were awarded. USDA selected projects that support local and rural agriculture interests, increase the competitiveness of small producers, and promote or create direct marketing opportunities for specialty crop producers.

The USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program helps to increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; improves efficiency and reduce costs of distribution systems; assists all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain in developing Good Agricultural, Good Handling and Good Manufacturing practices, including cost share arrangements for funding audits of small farmer, packer and processor systems; invests in specialty crop research; enhances food safety; develops new and improved specialty crop varieties; eradicates pest and plant health issues; and fosters organic and sustainable production practices.

Smile for the Week

Three old ladies sit in a diner, discussing their health. One lady says, "You know, I'm getting really forgetful. This morning, I was standing at the top of the stairs, and I couldn't remember whether I had just come up or was about to go down."

The second lady says, "You think that's bad? The other day, I was sitting on the edge of my bed, and I couldn't remember whether I was going to sleep or had just woken up!"

The third lady smiles smugly. "Well, my memory is just as good as it's always been, knock on wood," she says as she raps on the table. Then with a startled look on her face, she asks, "Who's there?"

Source: www.ajokeaday.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

- Oct. 27** Announcement of Fresno Chamber's 2009 Agriculturist of the Year and Baker, Peterson & Franklin's Ag Business of the Year, 10 a.m., Fresno Chamber office, downtown;
Fresno Fair Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Fairgrounds;
FCFB YF&R meeting, 6 p.m., FCFB office
 - Oct. 28** State of the County luncheon, noon, Fresno Fairgrounds;
Gar Tootelian Inc. Continuing Education Classes, 7:30 a.m., Kerman Community Teen Center, 15101 W Kearney Ave., Kerman, details: (800) 696-6108 or (559) 638-6311
 - Oct. 29** Gar Tootelian Inc. Continuing Education Classes, 7:30 a.m., Reedley Community Center, 100 N East Ave., Reedley, details: (800) 696-6108 or (559) 638-6311;
FCFB Executive Committee, noon, FCFB office;
Air Quality Workshop, 1:30 p.m., Kerman Community Center, 15101 W. Kearney Blvd., Details: (559) 237-0263
 - Oct. 30** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Marie Calendar's Restaurant, Cedar and Shaw avenues
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