



## Fresno County Farm Bureau

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November 20 & 27, 2009

### In This Issue:

- Happy Thanksgiving!
- Local wine industry pioneers honored at Grape Industry Forum
- Labor seminars scheduled for Dec. 2 and 3 at Fresno County Farm Bureau
- Chamber Water Committee to look at water bond at Nov. 23 meeting
- Public comment period on 2-Gates is extended to Nov. 30
- USDA Value-added Grant Program deadline is Nov. 30
- Farming Clean Energy Conference 2009 is Dec. 1 in Tulare
- Olive crop insurance meeting set for Dec. 1 at FCFB
- FCFB offers Pesticide Applicators Continuing Education class
- Fresno Ag Roundtable to meet Dec. 4
- Workshops on labor rules/regulations scheduled for December, January
- "Give Thanks" campaign is underway
- Thanksgiving dinner to be less expensive
- A Smile for the Week

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Happy Thanksgiving! NOTE: This is a combined issue of *Friday Follow-Up* for the weeks of Nov. 16 and 23. The next issue will return on Dec. 4.

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### Local wine industry pioneers honored at Grape Industry Forum

On Friday, Nov. 20, the San Joaquin Valley Winegrowers Association will honor industry pioneers Bob McInturf, Mike Nury and Vince Petrucci for service to the wine grape industry at the 7th Annual San Joaquin Valley Wine & Grape Industry Forum.

McInturf began farming in 1946 and only recently retired. He was one of the original incorporators of Allied Grape Growers, a grower-owned grape marketing cooperative, and served as president for 31 years. He also served on the Agricultural Foundation at Fresno State, California Association of Winegrape Growers, Agricultural Council of California and National Council of Farm Cooperatives.

Nury started as a research chemist at Vie-Del Company in 1953, eventually purchasing the company in 1990. Nury's research vastly improved the method for concentrating grape flavors. The Nury Family continues to build on the company success, producing grape concentrate, table and specialty wine, and brandy.

Petrucci and the Fresno County wine industry are synonymous, through Petrucci's numerous industry contributions as faculty at Fresno State. He played an instrumental role in developing the viticulture and enology program and the Viticulture and Enology Research Center, which opened in 1985. Petrucci has shared his knowledge by publishing papers and articles in journals, along with books on the subject of wine and grape growing.

The event will be held tomorrow at Pardini's in Fresno. For more information visit: [http://www.idrinkwine.net/wine\\_industry\\_forum.htm](http://www.idrinkwine.net/wine_industry_forum.htm) or call (559) 354-1409.

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### **Labor seminars scheduled for Dec. 2 and 3 at Fresno County Farm Bureau**

Two labor-related seminars sponsored by the Agricultural Personnel Management Association will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 2 and Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Fresno County Farm Bureau Conference Room, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., in Fresno.

The Dec. 2 seminar, "Responding to an Administrative Complaint, and Presenting Your Case to an Administrative Agency," will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. FCFB is a co-sponsor of the seminar, which features Patrick S. Moody, of Barsamian & Moody, who will provide practical information about management of labor complaints, including compiling proper information, and presenting proper written responses. It will also offer advice on how to actually present a case to an administrative agency, including forming a case theme, preparing witnesses and arguing the case.

The Dec. 3 seminar, "Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace!" will begin at 2:15 p.m. and will feature Stacy R. Lucas, in the English-version presentation and Guadalupe Sandoval, in the Spanish presentation. (English and Spanish sessions will run concurrently.)

State law requires that employers with 50 or more employees to provide two hours of sexual harassment prevention training and education to all supervisory employees once every two years by a competent trainer. Participating in this training will comply with the state law and the recently revised Training Regulations, which became effective in February 2007.

The cost of each seminar is \$45 for APMA members; \$65 for non-members. Company discounts are available for three or more attendees from the same company. To RSVP or for more information, contact Julia Belliard, of APMA, at (831) 422-8023 or email: [apma20@pacbell.net](mailto:apma20@pacbell.net).

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### **Chamber Water Committee to look at water bond at Nov. 23 meeting**

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce's Water and Environment Committee will hold a special meeting on Monday, Nov. 23 at noon at the chamber office to discuss the recently approved water legislation and bond package that will appear on the November 2010 ballot.

Barbara Brenner, a partner in the law firm of Stoel Rives, will provide an overview of the historic five bill legislative package that includes an \$11.1 billion bond measure requiring voter approval. The bond includes funding for surface storage and groundwater banking projects.

Lunch will be served. To make a reservation, call the Chamber at (559) 495-4821 or email at: [dwilson@fresnochamber.com](mailto:dwilson@fresnochamber.com).

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### **Public comment period on 2-Gates is extended to Nov. 30**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has extended the public comment period for the proposed 2-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project to Nov. 30. The previous deadline was Nov. 17.

The Bureau is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed five-year pilot 2-Gates Fish Project, which will construct temporary gates in the central Delta to help keep the Endangered Species Act-listed Delta Smelt away from federal and state project export pumps.

The extension was granted at the request of the Contra Costa County boating community. It is hoped the extension won't result in a project delay, which could mean higher construction costs or push completion of the project past the anticipated 2010 date. The proposed project could benefit south-of-Delta water users by alleviating some of the pumping constraints that prevent their contract water supply from being pumped to help fill San Luis Reservoir.

The Draft document may be viewed at

[http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=4472](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=4472). Written comments should be mailed to Mario Manzo, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-730, Sacramento, CA 95825, or e-mailed to [mmanzo@usbr.gov](mailto:mmanzo@usbr.gov). Direct questions to (916) 978-5060.

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### **USDA Value-added Grant Program deadline is Nov. 30**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications from farmers, associations and cooperatives to apply for \$18 million in grants to help them add value to the commodities they produce.

The deadline to apply for the USDA Rural Development Value-Added Producer Grants is Nov. 30. Grants of up to \$100,000 and working capital grants of up to \$300,000 are available to producers to help market and introduce new value-added products. Applicants must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant requested. Ten percent of available grants are reserved for projects involving local and regional supply networks that link independent producers with businesses, and cooperatives that market value-added products.

For more information on how to apply, visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm), or direct questions to Karen Firestein at [karen.firestein@ca.usda.gov](mailto:karen.firestein@ca.usda.gov) or (530) 792-5829.

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### **Farming Clean Energy Conference 2009 is Dec. 1 in Tulare**

A one-day forum discussing opportunities and challenges for supporting clean energy solutions for San Joaquin Valley growers and processors will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. at the AG TAC in Tulare.

The Farming Clean Energy Conference 2009 is sponsored by the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization and Strategic Energy Innovations. The conference will focus on farm-based clean energy project planning and financing, project permitting and compliance to evolving state/federal standards, updates on technologies and regional applications, and co-benefits of clean energy projects on farms and the region. The annual event is designed to open access to and information on clean energy resources in the Ag Industry.

The cost is \$75 per person, Conference details and registration is available on-line at: [www.sjvcleanenergy.org/fcec09](http://www.sjvcleanenergy.org/fcec09). For additional information contact: Courtney Kalashian, San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization, (877) 748-0841 or email at: [ckalashian@pesc.com](mailto:ckalashian@pesc.com).

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### **Olive crop insurance meeting set for Dec. 1 at FCFB**

A meeting to discuss the development of a crop insurance program for olive production will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Fresno County Farm Bureau office, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., Fresno.

The Olive Growers Council of CA and AgriLogic Consulting are seeking input from producers, lenders, grower organizations, insurance agents and adjusters, state and federal farm agencies, and others to gather input on how an olive crop insurance program should be designed to best meet the risk

management needs of both table and olive oil producers. For additional information or to RSVP, contact the Olive Growers Council at (559) 734-1710.

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### **FCFB offers Pesticide Applicators Continuing Education class**

FCFB and the Fresno County Department of Agriculture will hold a Continuing Education Applicator Class on Friday, Dec. 4, FCFB, 1274 W. Hedges Ave., from 8 a.m. to noon.

The program is free for FCFB members. The cost for non-members is \$10 per hour of education needed. (Membership applications will be available at the meeting.) Each class will provide three hours of continuing education hours toward the Private Applicator license. To register, contact FCFB at (559) 237-0263 or via email at [info@fcfb.org](mailto:info@fcfb.org).

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### **Fresno Ag Roundtable to meet Dec. 4**

The final meeting of the year for the Fresno Ag Roundtable will be held on Friday, Dec. 4 from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Viticulture and Enology Department at California State University, Fresno.

A buffet style breakfast will be served. RSVP's are requested and can be made by calling Alma Morales at (559) 437-2600 or email: [amorales@paramountcitrus.com](mailto:amorales@paramountcitrus.com).

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### **Workshops on labor rules/regulations scheduled for December, January**

Educational and training workshops to help agricultural employers avoid labor violations will be held in Visalia and Fresno during December and January.

The workshops are sponsored by the Economic and Employment Enforcement Coalition, which includes Cal/OSHA, CA Employment Development Department, CA Division of Labor Standards Enforcement and U.S. Department of Labor agencies that carry out targeted enforcement sweeps. The Employment Coalition is partnering with local agricultural organizations to conduct the workshops to help farm employers understand the regulations and to avoid penalties for not knowing the myriad rules and regulations.

The workshops will take place on:

- Thursday, Dec. 3; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Tulare County Farm Bureau  
737 N Ben Maddox Way  
Visalia, CA 93292  
RSVP: (559) 732-8301
  - Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Fresno County Farm Bureau  
1274 W. Hedges  
Fresno, CA 93728  
RSVP: (559) 237-0263
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### **“Give Thanks” campaign is underway**

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday that is more than the unofficial start of the Christmas Holiday Season, it's a time to pause, reflect and give thanks for the many blessings of the year. As challenging as 2009 has been, there is still much to be thankful for!

The California Beef Council has initiated a campaign this week that focuses on recognizing the many men and women who grow and raise our food. Called, “Give Thanks,” the campaign provides many tools for conveying messages about the importance of producing a local, wholesome food supply, as well as to correct misinformation about animal agricultural practices and misperceptions about farmers and ranchers. Check out the Web site at: [www.ExploreBeef.org](http://www.ExploreBeef.org) for good information about the program and to leave “blog” messages thanking our farmers and ranchers.

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## Thanksgiving dinner to be less expensive

Due to lower prices for dairy products, Thanksgiving dinner will cost Americans about four percent less this year compared to last year, according to the American Farm Bureau's 24th annual price survey of traditional items found on the Thanksgiving dinner table.

The survey says the food for a dinner for 10 people can be purchased for an average of about \$43, down four percent from a year ago. Farm Bureau shoppers select the best prices from throughout the country, including California, to provide data for the market survey.

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## A Smile for the Week

### Thanksgiving

May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey plump,  
May your potatoes and gravy  
Have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize,  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off your thighs!  
*~Author Unknown*

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

**Nov. 23** Chamber Water and Environment Committee meeting, noon, Chamber office;

**Nov. 26 & 27 Happy Thanksgiving! FCFB office is closed for the holiday.**

**Dec. 1** San Joaquin Valley Air District Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Air District office;  
San Joaquin Political Academy meeting, 11 a.m., Fresno Association of Realtors

**Dec. 2** Ag Land Conservation Committee meeting, 8 a.m., FCFB office;  
Common Threads Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Fresno State

**Dec. 4** Fresno Ag Roundtable, 7 a.m., Fresno State VERC Department;  
Private Applicator Pesticide Education Class, 8 a.m., FCFB office.

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