



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2008

FCFB announces Ag Commissioner Prieto as Distinguished Service Award recipient

Presentation to be made at Annual Banquet on May 8

Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner Jerry Prieto, Jr. will receive the Fresno County Farm Bureau's 2008 Distinguished Service Award at the organization's Annual Banquet on May 8.

Prieto, who will retire in June, was selected for his hands-on role as the county's protector of agriculture and for his proactive approach to implementing regulations involving food and fiber production.

"Our Board of Directors thought Jerry is very deserving and we wanted to say thank you for all he's done for the industry," FCFB President Russel Efird said in making the announcement at the April Board of Directors meeting. "We respect the way he represents us."

Prieto, who also serves as the County Sealer of Weights and Measures, will be presented with the award at the FCFB 91st Annual Banquet on Thursday, May 8 at the Big Fresno Fair's Table Mountain Rancheria Park. The banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Award at 7 p.m. The theme of the event will be, "A Blue Ribbon Family A-Fair."

Prieto is no stranger to agriculture, having grown up on a family farm in Corcoran. He obtained a degree in agriculture from California State University, Fresno, and first began working for the Fresno County Department of Agriculture

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in 1974. He was appointed the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1999, but not before he served as a senior personnel analyst with the Fresno County Personnel Department and Fresno County Resources Manager.

As Agricultural Commissioner, Prieto oversees the department that is responsible for promoting and regulating agricultural production in Fresno County, protecting the county's environment, public health, safety and welfare. He served as the first chair of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association's Food Safety and Agriculture Security Committee, as well as leading that Association as president for two years. He also is a former member of Governor Davis' State Committee on Terrorism, and Western Weights and Measures Association Board of Directors.

The Clovis resident is a member of Fresno County Farm Bureau and the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Conservation Steering Committee. He is the chair of the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and the Fresno County Land Conservation Committee. He currently serves as the chair of California Agricultural Secretary Kawamura's AB 771 Honeybee/Seedless Mandarin Co-Existence Working Group.

The cost of the event is \$40 per person if purchased before April 30, \$45 per person after that date; for youth (12 & under), the cost is \$15 per person. A group of 10 tickets is \$375 if purchased before April 30. To order tickets call the FCFB office at (559) 237-0263.

Fresno County is the nation's number one agricultural county, producing more than 350 commercial crops annually, totaling more than \$4.8 billion in gross production value in 2006. Fresno County Farm Bureau membership exceeds 4,800 members, part of a network of over 5-million Farm Bureau members nationwide.

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