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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FCFB elects new officers for 2008-09**

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has elected and installed its 2008-09 officers. The new FCFB officers include President Dan Errotabere, of Riverdale; First Vice President Brian Pacheco, of Kerman; Second Vice President Ken Tatami, of Reedley, and Secretary-Treasurer Mark Sorensen, of Caruthers. Russel Efird, of Caruthers, serves as the immediate past president. The terms expire Oct. 31, 2009.

#### **The Officers**

##### President Dan Errotabere

Third-generation farmer Dan Errotabere farms with his mother and two brothers in the Riverdale and Five Points-Huron areas. Errotabere Ranches is a diversified farm that produces almonds, pomegranates, pistachios, Pima cotton, garbanzo beans, cantaloupe and honeydew melons, and processing garlic, onions and tomatoes.

Since 1994, Errotabere has served on the FCFB Board of Directors as water chairman, director-at-large and most recently as first vice president. He also is involved on the California Farm Bureau Federation Water Committee.

In addition to his Farm Bureau activities, Errotabere is very involved in agricultural water issues and organizations. He is a long-time member of the board of directors of Westlands Water District, having served as chairman, and is on the board of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Family Farm Alliance, California State University Fresno Agricultural Foundation, Fresno State's Ag One Foundation and the California Cotton Growers Association.

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Errotabere is a graduate of Riverdale High School and holds a bachelor of science degree in agribusiness from California State University, Fresno. He is a graduate of California Agricultural Leadership, Class XXI, a two-year leadership/fellowship program.

Errotabere and his wife, Susan, live in Fresno. They have two children in high school, Ryan and Marisa.

#### First Vice President Brian Pacheco

Brian Pacheco is a fourth-generation dairy producer in partnership with his parents, Jerry and Arlene Pacheco, in a mid-sized Holstein cow dairy and farming operation in the Kerman area. Pacheco raises a herd of Brown Swiss dairy cows, which mixes with the Holstein herd. Pacheco Dairy Inc. is a member of the cooperative California Dairies, Inc.

Since 1991, Pacheco has been involved with FCFB, specifically with dairy issues, and serving as the Director for Rural Health and Safety. In addition to Farm Bureau, Pacheco also serves as a trustee of the Kerman Unified School Board, and serves on the Fresno Madera Farm Credit Board of Directors and Community Regional Medical Center Board of Directors.

Pacheco is a graduate of University of California, Davis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a minor in rhetoric and communication. Pacheco and his wife Alena live in Kerman and have three children, Anthony, Danielle and Matthew.

#### Second Vice President Ken Tatami

Ken Tatami is a third-generation farmer who was born and raised in the Reedley area on the family farm that grew, packed and shipped deciduous tree fruit, table grapes, raisins and strawberries. Since 1989, Tatami has managed the family farm in the Reedley area. He also has been employed in agricultural lending for over 25 years and currently works for Farm Credit West in Dinuba.

Tatami has been on the FCFB Board of Directors for eight years, serving as secretary/treasurer, Kingsburg and Reedley Center chairman, and Ag Education

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Committee chairman. As part of the Ag Education Committee, Tatami helped develop the FCFB leadership development program, Future Advocates of Agriculture Concerned about Tomorrow, as well as the Fresno County Farm and Nutrition Day for third graders. He also is a graduate of CFBF's Ag Leadership Program, Class II.

Tatami graduated from Reedley High School, and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural business administration.

For 18 years, he has coached youth volleyball in the Reedley area. He coached club volleyball for 13 years, and has coached Reedley High School Junior Varsity for the last five years. He and his wife Mary live in Reedley with daughter Ashley.

#### Secretary-Treasurer Mark Sorensen

Since the early-1900s, Mark Sorensen's family has been farming in the Selma and Caruthers areas. Today, the fifth-generation farmer produces raisins and blueberries in the Caruthers area. He also operates a raisin harvesting business.

For the past two years, Sorensen has served as a director at large for FCFB and served on the banquet committee. He also served on boards of directors of Sun-Maid Raisins of California, San Joaquin Political Academy, Caruthers Fair and the Alvina Elementary Charter School. He also chaired the Veteran's Memorial Committee in Caruthers, overseeing the fundraising and construction of the memorial for service men and women.

Sorensen also is a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program, Class XXIII. He and his wife Kim live in the Caruthers area and have three daughters, Johannah, Elizabeth and Olivia.

#### Immediate Past President Russel Efird

Russel Efird completed his two-year term as FCFB president in October. The Caruthers-area diversified farmer produces almonds, walnuts, grapes, dried prunes and fresh fruit, and provides custom almond and wine grape harvesting services. Efird farms with his son Matthew, who is a fifth generation farmer in their area. Russel's father, Irwin, served as FCFB president from 1982-1984.

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Efird has served on the FCFB board for 18 years, and has served on the boards of directors of the Caruthers Unified School District, Fresno County Fire Protection District, Western Cotton Growers Association and the Laton Co-op Cotton Gin. He also graduated from the Class X of the California Ag Leadership Program.

Efird graduated from California State University, Fresno with a civil engineering degree and at one time worked as a professional engineer. He and his wife Kathleen have four grown children, Matthew, John, Adam and Elizabeth.

Fresno County Farm Bureau represents more than 4,800 members on air quality, land use, water, labor and agricultural-related issues. Fresno County is the nation's number one agricultural county, producing more than 350 commercial crops annually, totaling more than \$5.3 billion dollars in gross production value in 2007.

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