



Riverside County

Seasons Greetings

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

ROBERT M. HOWIE PLAZA OFFICIALLY DEDICATED



The official dedication of the Robert M. Howie Plaza took place on December 12, 2006 at the County Administration Center in downtown Riverside.

Robert "Bob" Howie was the Agricultural Commissioner for Riverside County from 1954 to 1982. The plaza was designed to pay tribute to the important role that agriculture plays in Riverside County as well as honoring Mr. Howie for his twenty-eight years of dedicated service and contributions to agriculture in Riverside County.



The original plaza was called the Howie Citrus Plaza and was dedicated in November 1983. The Howie Citrus Plaza was removed when the county's Administration Center was expanded. John Snyder, the current Agricultural Commissioner for Riverside County, "... saw an opportunity to expand on what he always considered a valuable reminder of the special place that agriculture enjoys in the history of Riverside County." "From the very beginning of the project," Snyder said, "I wanted to make sure that the monument and plaza really emphasize the great significance of Riverside County's agricultural industry and the man who was so vital to the protection and promotion of that industry."

The plaza was funded through donations from growers, ranchers, agricultural related businesses, friends and associates of Mr. Howie, as well as the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

Key speakers included Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and First District Supervisor, Bob Buster; former Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners Leon Spaugy and James Wallace; current Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, John Snyder; rancher and past president of the Riverside County Farm Bureau, Cindy Domenigoni, as well as Mr. Howie.



The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to take this opportunity to thank John Snyder and the entire staff at the Agricultural Commissioner's office for coordinating, developing, and doing the fund raising for the Robert M. Howie Plaza.



"It is hoped that through this monument and plaza, current and future

generations will be reminded of the historic and present-day importance of agriculture to Riverside County."



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The Riverside County Farm Bureau wishes to thank the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association for thier generous donation of wine for our 89th Annual Dinner Sponsor gift bags that were presented on November 18, 2006.



Offering government loans to family farmers/ranchers for farm ownership & operating purposes

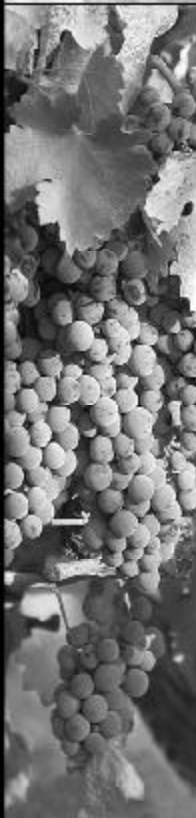
FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and

operating loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Often FSA borrowers are beginning farmers who can't qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient financial resources.

FSA has various tools to assist family farmers or rural youth (ages 10-20), including low interest rates and individualized credit counseling and supervision. Emphasis is placed on assisting beginning, minority, and other limited-resource family farmers. Maximum loan amounts: Direct - \$200,000; Guaranteed - \$852,000; and Youth - \$5000.

*Contact: Gary Troester at FSA, 82901 Bliss Ave, Indio, CA 92201; or phone: 760-347-3675 ext 106; or email: gary.troester@ca.usda.gov; or FSA website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl/>.

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Protecting oneself from identify theft during holidays

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so the song goes. But it's also the time when Americans, full of holiday cheer, are most susceptible to identity theft.

"Identity thieves see the holidays as a potentially lucrative time of year," says Kirk Herath, the chief privacy officer for Nationwide Insurance and an expert on identity theft. "More activity equals more opportunity for fraud. The more you buy, the more times your financial information is put at risk."

Herath offers his tips for avoiding the most common scams as you embark on holiday shopping this season:


- Raiding your trash. Commonly known as Dumpster diving, "it's still the No. 1 avenue for identity theft," Herath says. He recommends shredding anything that has your personal information on it. Unsure of what to give someone this Christmas? "A great gift is a shredder. Every house should have one - it's right up there after your home alarm and carbon monoxide detector," Herath says. You can get high-quality, affordable shredders for about \$40 to \$50.

- Shoulder surfing. It's not a sophisticated scam, but it's one people fall prey to often: You're standing in a long checkout line to pay for your goods, while a thief steals your personal information just by looking over your shoulder. And with the prevalence of camera phones, it's even easier to snap a picture without you ever knowing. So be aware of your environment and shield your credit cards, checks, IDs and PIN numbers while waiting in line or completing a transaction.

- Skimming. This occurs when a dishonest clerk slides your credit card through a second machine that stores the information from your card's magnetic strip. The information is then transferred to a counterfeit card. So keep your eyes on your card at all times, and monitors your statement for fraudulent charges. "The professional fraudsters often don't make huge purchases, they make small ones that go under your radar," says Herath.

- Online fraud. The Web is a convenient way to shop, but stay vigilant while using it. "Once you become an online shopper, you typically remain one. There's a familiarity and casualness about the Web that lures people into trusting too much," Herath says. "You just need to know how

to take precautions. Don't give your personal information via unsolicited emails. Use secure Web sites only." He also suggests shopping online with trusted brands, such as Amazon.com Inc. (AMZN), BestBuy.com and Target.com. These companies "spend a lot of money (on security) to protect their brands. You might get a slightly better deal from Crazy Bob's Emporium Dot Com, but you don't know who he is, and you might be paying less because he doesn't have the same security measures in place."



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2006 Agricultural Assistance Program (AAP)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is now accepting applications for the 2006 Agricultural Assistance Program (AAP). The primary purpose of the AAP is to provide financial assistance to agricultural operations located in Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties to comply with AQMD Rule 1110.2 - Emission from Gaseous and Liquid-Fueled Engines and to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM10) and reactive organic gases (ROG) from stationary engines rated over 50 horsepower. Most of these agricultural engines include irrigation booster pumps, well and reservoir pumps. Funding applications are now being accepted until closing December 29, 2006. For more information, please call the AQMD Headquarters at (909) 396-2000.

20th Convening California Farm Conference March 4-6, 2007 – Monterey, CA

This is to invite you or someone you know to apply for a scholarship to attend the California Farm Conference. The statewide conference will be held **March 4-6, 2007 in Monterey**. The three-day conference features on-farm tours, educational workshops and networking opportunities. The conference focuses on farming solutions and sharing information on issues, resources, techniques, and opportunities to help small farmers succeed. The conference provides an opportunity to improve business skills and farming practices. Conference topics include making the transition to organic farming, marketing your farm and farmers' market, building your farm business, and increasing profits through value-added processing. For a full list of the topics planned for the conference, or to register for the conference, visit www.californiafarmconference.com.

Thanks to the generous support of the USDA, scholarships will be available to support the participation of small farmers with limited means, as well as agriculture students and farmers' market managers. A group of volunteers from a number of agencies is available to help facilitate scholarship applications from farmers, including those with limited English proficiency. Please see the attached list to find a scholarship coordinator in your area.

Use the attached form to apply for a scholarship for yourself or to nominate someone else for a scholarship. Farmers, ranchers, farm and ranch employees, agriculture students, and farmers' market managers are eligible for scholarships. All scholarship recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. For farmers, priority is given to small-scale producers with limited resources or an economic disadvantage. Up to two members of a farm or household may apply using one form.

Applications are due by December 31, 2006.

Submit applications to the Scholarship Coordinator in your county, mail to: California Farm Conference, ATTN: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 73614, Davis, CA. 95617, or fax to 888-712-4188.

For questions, contact a scholarship coordinator or call 530-792-5536 or 888-712-4188.



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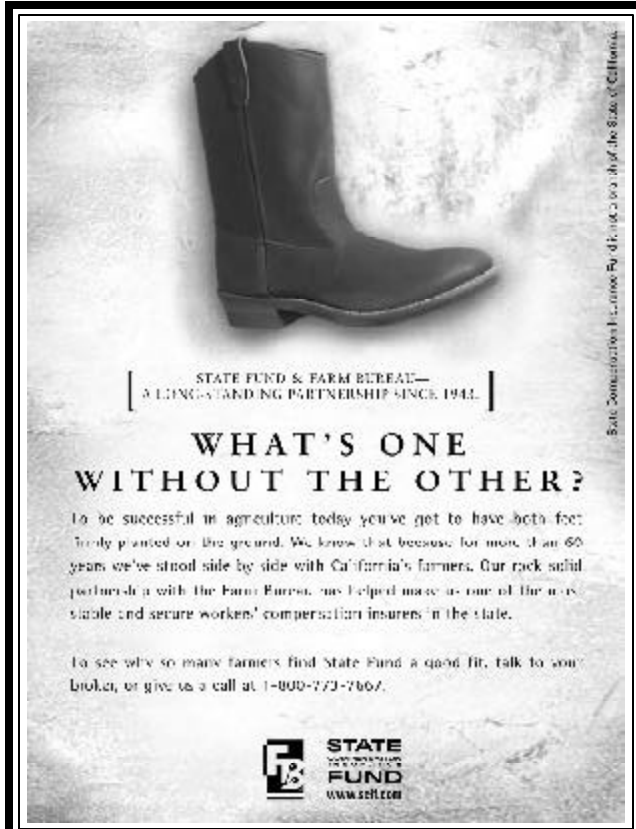
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DECEMBER 2006 / JANUARY 2007
CALENDAR OF EVENTS


- ☼ **NOTE: The RCFB office will be closed on December 25-26 and on January 1 to celebrate the holidays.**
- ☼ WRCAC meeting - Nuevo Water District office - December 27th at 10 am.
- ☼ January 10th - RCFB Board of Directors meeting - 6:30 pm, Sizzler, 81-760 Highway 111, Indio.
- ☼ January 16th - Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL meeting at 2:00pm.

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