



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

Heat Illness Prevention Programs

By Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

Every year at this time, I remind Riverside County farmers and ranchers of the importance of training their employees about heat illness. As temperatures rise in the county, farmers and ranchers should not take the risk of sending untrained employees into the fields. Here's why. According to Cal-OSHA, in 2009, sixteen jobsites were shut down for imminent hazards due to heat and untrained employees. Nearly \$2 million in penalties and 1,158 citations were issued. County district attorneys throughout the state may review these cases for the possibility of criminal activity. In California last year, there were forty-one confirmed heat illnesses and one confirmed death due to heat illness.

California state law, Title 8, Section 3395, Heat Illness Prevention, states that the employer's written Illness-Injury Prevention Program (IIPP) must include a section on training procedures for Heat Illness Prevention. In this program, employees must be trained about their rights on access to clean, cool, potable water, access to shade, and what they should do in an emergency. All this training must be recorded and documented in writing.

Heat illness, like all other training employees need to keep them safe on the job, will not mean anything to the inspectors from Cal-OSHA unless the employer has a written program specifically designed for Heat Illness or other job related injuries or illnesses. These written procedures must be kept on site or close to the site so that they can be made available to a representative of Cal-OSHA upon request. It is advisable that these procedures include copies of written proof that employees have been trained in heat illness.

An employer's Heat Illness Prevention Program must include how their company will; provide access to water and shade; monitor the weather; institute high heat procedures and address a lack of acclimatization; train all employees and supervisors; respond to heat illnesses without delay; provide first aid/emergency services; and provide clear and precise directions to the worksite for emergency vehicles.

This summer, Cal-OSHA will once again be targeting agriculture for compliance in heat illness training. Don't take the risk of being shut down or paying large fines. Be sure your farm or ranch has a written heat illness program and above all, be certain that each employee is properly trained in heat illness prevention and the training is documented. As an employer, make sure you follow and are in compliance with your own program.

For more information, go online to www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/etools or contact Cal-OSHA Consultation Division at 909.383.4567.

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Welcome New Members

We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part of the Farm Bureau Family.

VOTING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS RECEIVE A NEW BENEFIT

The California Farm Bureau Federation in conjunction with Nationwide Insurance is now offering a new benefit for voting members. "Voting Farm Bureau members are now eligible for a 12.5% discount on their personal auto insurance with Allied and Nationwide Insurance Companies," according to John Valentine of Nationwide Insurance. Sustaining members will continue receiving the 7.5% discount.

The discount was part of a filing made with the California Department of Insurance that also includes a personal auto rate increase. Not all voting Farm Bureau members will want or qualify for a personal auto policy since their coverage needs are more appropriately addressed by a business auto policy. Valentine said, "Our auto rates are extremely competitive for voting Farm Bureau members on both business auto and personal auto."

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New Low Profile

Mention this ad for Special June pricing!

State Fund is a leader in claims handling

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

When one of your employees has a work-related injury, your highest priority is to take immediate steps to take care of the injured person, including administering first aid, and when necessary calling in the emergency medical technicians. But as an employer, that's just the beginning. There is much more to be done when an injury occurs in the workplace.

It's reassuring to know you can count on State Fund at times like this. We know that as farmers and ranchers, dealing with the required paperwork and procedures is not something with which you have much familiarity. We know what to do and we can act promptly on your behalf because we've specialized in workers' compensation for more than 95 years.

Unlike most 9-to-5 office jobs, working in agriculture doesn't have anything to do with the clock. We've recognized that at State Fund, and as a result we provide round-the-clock claims reporting assistance every day of the year. By calling Claims Reporting at (888) 222-3211 you will receive the advice and assistance you need, when you need it.

Our knowledgeable representatives make reporting an injury quicker and easier and help provide authorized medical treatment as quickly as possible. By calling the Claims Reporting Center, you can save yourself a lot of time and effort when processing a new claim report.

Here are some ways in which we help you deal with these situations:

- * Complete the Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness form with you over the phone.
- * Eliminate any paperwork on your part.
- * Immediately assign a claim number to your case.
- * Mail written confirmation of your report to you the next working day or fax a copy to you the same day.
- * Immediately forward your claim to the appropriate State Fund Regional Office.
- * Refer you to a physician who has experience with occupational injuries.
- * Determine which physician is located nearest to the site of the industrial accident or the injured worker's home.

There have been a number of studies that show an injured person recovers much more quickly if he or she is able to return to work in some capacity. Even if the employee can

not perform his or her usual job, a Return to Work (RTW) program can help. You can modify the job temporarily or create a transitional job during the recovery period.

In addition, their return can decrease claims expenses, limit downtime, and eliminate the need for additional staff. Your claims

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Riverside County Farm Bureau VOTER GUIDE

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

The Riverside County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors adopted the following recommendations on statewide ballot measures that will be before California voters in the June 8 primary election.

	YES	NO
Proposition 13 – Property Tax Assessments for Seismic Retrofitting – Allows for construction to seismically retrofit buildings without triggering a reassessment of property tax value.	X	
Proposition 14 – Open Primary Elections – Provides voters with the opportunity to vote for any candidate, regardless of party, by creating a single-ballot system for primary elections; the top two vote getters will then advance to the general election.		X
Proposition 15 – Public Funding of Elections – Lifts the state's current ban on using public funding for political campaigns for elected office, starting with campaigns for the office of Secretary of State.		X
Proposition 16 – Two Thirds Vote for Local Electricity Providers – Imposes a new two-thirds voter approval requirement before local governments or local power entities could provide electricity service to new customers or establish a community-choice electricity program using public funds or bonds.	X	
Proposition 17 – Auto Insurance Coverage – Allows insurance companies to offer discounts to drivers who continuously maintained their auto insurance coverage, even if they change their insurance company.		NO POSITION

**FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS
FARM-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES**

**Governor - No Position
U.S. Senator - No Position**

adjuster and the treating physician are available to assist you. They can help you consider ways to return your injured employee to the workplace as soon as possible.

By implementing an RTW program you can:

- * Improve morale among all employees.
- * Gain control and increase potential for a positive resolution of the claim.
- * Reduce or avoid permanent disability.
- * Reduce temporary disability payments.
- * Reduce medical costs.
- * Reduce or avoid litigation.
- * Discourage fraudulent claims.
- * Avoid the replacement and training costs of hiring a new employee.
- * Identify cross-training opportunities that enhance employees' abilities in their regular jobs.
- * Increase awareness of safe work practices and injury prevention.

In a perfect world, workplace mishaps and injuries are real, but there are also individuals who may try to take unfair advantage. State Fund has a Special Investigative Unit that watches out for your interests. When the evidence is there, staff investigators submit cases to district attorneys for prosecution. And our in-house attorneys represent your interests at no extra cost.

We have regional offices throughout the state with experts on staff who know your local business community and medical facilities. In addition, our claims managers average 22 years in claims. Hopefully, you will never need to call on these individuals, but in case you ever do, you can take comfort in knowing that we are there for you.

Since 1943, Farm Bureau and State Fund have been business partners. When your policy comes up for renewal, if you are not insured with State Fund, please be sure to get a quote in our Farm Bureau Group Program.

Spring Storms Boost 2010 Water Delivery Projection to 40 Percent

Despite Heavy April Snowpack, California Water Crisis Remains

SACRAMENTO -- Persistent spring storms will allow the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase its 2010 allocation of State Water Project deliveries to 40 percent. However, despite the heavy snowpack, California's water crisis remains. "Although the snowpack has reached its highest May 1 levels since 2006, and allows us to raise our projected deliveries to communities, farms and businesses, we must not be lulled into a false sense of complacency" said DWR Director Mark Cowin. "The harsh reality is that we continue to have a severe problem with water in California. A 40 percent allocation will still leave many communities with water shortages this year. Recovering from three consecutive years of drought, and restrictions on Delta pumping, means we must continue to conserve water and work as hard as ever toward a comprehensive solution to our water crisis."

The SWP allocation had been raised to 30 percent of contractors' requests at the end of April. The initial 2010 allocation estimate, made back in December 2009, was 5 percent. That projection rose incrementally as snowpack accumulated during winter and early spring. The final snow survey of the year was conducted last week, and showed statewide Sierra snowpack water content is 143 percent of normal for the date.

Lake Oroville, the key Northern California storage reservoir for the SWP, has gained 490,000 acre feet since April 1, but still sits at 61 percent of capacity. Below average snowmelt run-off because of three consecutive dry years has hampered the reservoirs ability to fill.

Fishery agency restrictions on Delta pumping to protect delta smelt, salmon, and other fish species continue to limit amounts of water that can be delivered to SWP contractors serving the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California. DWR estimates that fishery restrictions have impacted State Water Project deliveries for 2010 by 560,000 acre feet.

DWR will continue to evaluate conditions and plans to announce a final 2010 allocation of SWP deliveries at the end of May. In 2009, the SWP delivered 40 percent of the amount requested by the 29 public agencies with long-term contracts to buy SWP water. The SWP contractors deliver water to about 25 million Californians and 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

DWR, in partnership with the Association of California Water Agencies, will continue to run the Save Our Water program. The program, which was created by Gov. Schwarzenegger's 2009 drought declaration, aims to educate Californians about easy ways to conserve water indoors and outdoors. Visit the website at www.saveourh2o.org

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED

On Friday, April 30th, the Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) met once again with Pete Peuron and his staff from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to discuss costs and compliance requirements for the Santa Margarita Watershed. The RCFB and the RWQCB will meet once again in San Diego on June 14th to continue our discussions.

Meanwhile, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has developed a Scope of Work for developing the monitoring program in the Santa Margarita Watershed. SCCWRP will present their Scope of Work at the meeting on June 14th.

The RCFB continues to work with the Claremont Law Group to develop and establish a non-profit 501 (c) 3 association to handle the legal requirements of a stakeholders organization. The RCFB Board of Directors has approved to pay for the attorney's fees to help develop this organization. After the state has approved the non-profit status of this organization (the official name has not been selected), the RCFB will hold a series of informational workshops at the Rancho Water District headquarters for the stakeholders. Costs to join the non-profit organization to be in compliance with the RWQCB have not yet been determined.

As part of forming the non-profit group, a Board of Directors must be established. If you are interested in being a director on this non-profit group, please notify the RCFB at 951.684.6732.

SKR LAWSUIT

Since our last update on the RCFB lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to delist the Stephens Kangaroo Rat (SKR) from the Endangered Species List, the Service has agreed to make a ruling by July 30, 2010. The Pacific Legal Foundation, the RCFB legal counsel in this case, has told the RCFB that we must now wait until July to learn the Service's decision on de-listing the SKR. The Farm Bureau will keep its members posted as to the outcome.

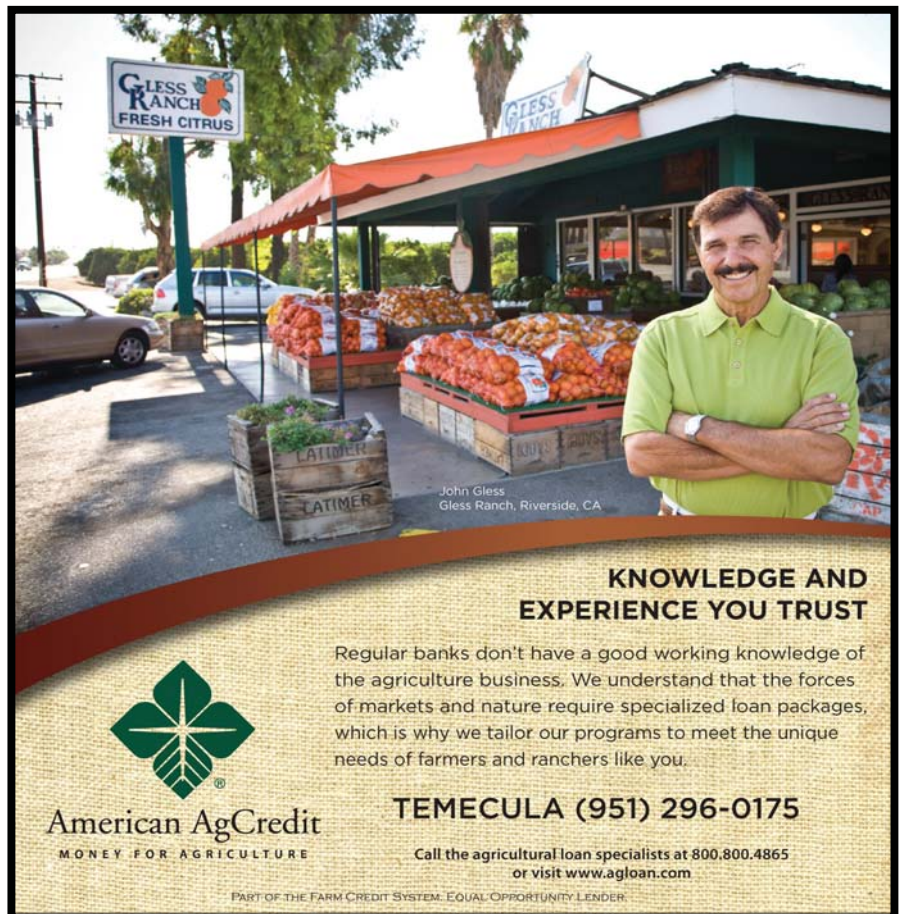
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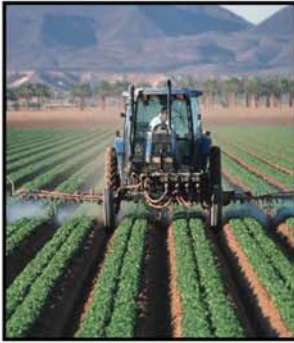
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JOINT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP FOR PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATORS IN ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, MEXICO AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

San Diego, California

July 27-28, 2010 (English)

July 29-30, 2010 (Spanish)



Course Description: Through this workshop, attendees will become qualified pesticide safety trainers in Arizona and California. They will receive information about federal pesticide laws as well as regulations that are unique to California, Arizona, Mexico, and local Tribal Communities.

This course is ideal for growers, supervisors, labor contractors, health care providers, outreach educators, and others who will provide pesticide information to people who handle pesticides or work in areas where pesticides have been applied.

Workshop Format: This two-day course will be presented in English (July 27-28) and Spanish (July 29-30). Breakout sessions will cover pesticide labels, personal protective equipment, pesticide-related health issues, and training requirements. Participants will receive an instructor's handbook, EPA-approved materials, and other useful resources.

A variety of hands-on training techniques and group activities will be used throughout the course to demonstrate ways to extend pesticide safety information to pesticide handlers and agricultural fieldworkers in an interactive and effective manner.

Registration is FREE; however **SPACE IS LIMITED to 40 people.** Please register early to reserve a space in the workshop and to ensure that you will receive handout materials.

Continuing Education Credit will be available for agricultural pesticide applicators in California and Arizona, pending approval by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Arizona Department of Agriculture.



Please send your pre-registration form by Wednesday, July 21, 2010 to:

Jennifer Weber
Arizona Department of Agriculture
Fax: (602) 364-0830
Phone: (602) 542-0985
E-mail: jweber@azda.gov

The Arizona Department of Agriculture reserves the right to cancel any classes if there are not enough participants registered by the cut off date. You will be notified in such case at the e-mail, fax or mailing address provided by you on your registration form.

Call Farm Bureau (951) 684-6732 for your pre-registration form.



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¹Our plans are again ranked in *U.S. News/NCQA* "America's Best Health Insurance Plans 2009-10," as they have every year since 2005-6.

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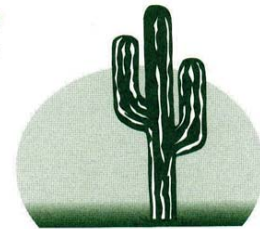
2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✧ May 31st - RCFB will be closed for Memorial Day.
- ✧ June 9th – RCFB Board meeting – 5:30 pm at the Farm House Restaurant, Banning.
- ✧ June 14th – RWQCB meeting in San Diego – 9:30 am.
- ✧ June 21st – LE/CL Task Force meeting – 1:30 pm at the EVMWD office.
- ✧ July 5th – The RCFB office will be closed to observe Independence Day.

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