



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

Riverside County Farm Bureau's 93rd Annual Dinner Meeting

Friday, November 5, 2010

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Desert Falls Country Club

1111 Desert Falls Parkway

Palm Desert, California

\$45/Single - \$75/Couple

Please RSVP by November 1, 2010.

For more information, reservations, and/or directions, please call Riverside County Farm Bureau at (951) 684-6732.

Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of Riverside County Farm Bureau, election of officers and directors will be held by voting members at the Annual Meeting on November 5, 2010 at Desert Falls Country Club in Palm Desert. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Board of Directors for election for the 2010 - 2011 Membership Year:

President

Grant Chaffin

Vice President

Richard Schmid

Vice President

Darl Young, Jr.

Vice President

Ellen Lloyd-Trover

Directors

Lee Anderson, Jr.
Stephen J. Corona
Ben Drake
Dan Hollingsworth
Alex Sanchez
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Linden Anderson
Andy Domenigoni
Jeff Elrod
Larry Minor
Tony Schmidt

George Cordero
Cindy Domenigoni
John C. Gless
Marlene Salazar-Pongs
Greg Young

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Grant Chaffin

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Darl Young, Jr.
Ellen Lloyd Trover

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Revisions Adopted to Heat Illness Prevention Reg

At its meeting on August 19, The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Standards Board adopted further proposed revisions of the Heat Illness Prevention standard for outdoor places of employment. After the Board's adoption of the revised standard, other state agencies must perform certain legal functions for the regulation to become valid, and the regulation will not be effective until after the 2010 heat season.

The proposed revisions are generally consistent with compliance guidance Cal/OSHA issued in March 2009. The revised standard would include these major points:

Water

An employer must have either:

- One quart of drinking water per hour per employee on hand at shift's start, or;
- Effective procedures to replenish the water supply so each employee can drink that much water;
- Employees must be encouraged to drink water frequently.

Shade

- Temperature > 85 °F: Shade must be present for at least 25% of crew's employees so they can sit fully in shade in a normal posture without touching each other;
- Temperature < 85 °F: Timely access to shade must be provided upon employee's request
- Shaded area must be as close as practicable to work areas;
- Employees feeling they need to cool down to protect themselves from overheating must be allowed and encouraged to rest in shade for no less than 5 minutes;
- By showing it is infeasible or unsafe to have shade continuously present, an employer may use alternative procedures for providing access to shade that provide equivalent protection.

High-Heat Procedures

Temperature 95 °F: In agriculture and four other specified industries, an employer must implement high-heat procedures, including to the extent practicable:

- Ensuring effective communication so employees can contact their supervisor when necessary;
- Observing employees for alertness and signs or symptoms of heat illness;
- Reminding employees throughout the work shift to drink plenty of water;
- Closely supervising a new employee for the first 14 days of employment;
- Exception: Not required if the employee when hired indicates he had been doing similar outdoor work for at least 10 of the past 30 days for 4 or more hours per day.

Training

Before starting work that should reasonably be anticipated to result in exposure to the risk of heat illness, employees (including supervisors) must be provided with effective training in required topics on ways to avoid heat illness and steps to take if it occurs.

Before supervising employees performing work that should reasonably be anticipated to result in exposure to the risk of heat illness, a supervisor must be provided with effective training in required topics including:

- The procedures the supervisor is to follow to implement the standard's applicable provisions;
- The procedures the supervisor is to follow when an employee exhibits symptoms consistent with possible heat illness, including emergency response procedures;
- How to monitor weather reports and respond to hot-weather advisories.

Written Procedures

- An employer must have written compliance and emergency procedures.

A coalition of 18 groups representing agricultural employers filed with the Standards Board a letter supporting the proposed revised standard but asking that it not be made effective until after the current heat season.

What it Means for Employers:

Employers will want to avail themselves of opportunities to be trained during the coming winter on the requirements of the new standard and to incorporate them in their compliance programs. To help employers comply with the standard, FELS provides resources at: www.fels.net.

Use care when working with ladders

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

Did you know that falls are the most common accidents in agriculture? These include falls from ladders, roofs or a piece of machinery. And in most instances, these are preventable occurrences.

The best way to protect against unintentional falls is to stay alert. Your chances of falling are increased by haste, fatigue, emotional upset, illness, alcohol or drugs. It is easy to overlook the hazards in what we look at in everyday life; so it would be a good idea to take a fresh look around your farm or ranch for potential hazards.

While most people associate ladder use with orchard operations, ladders are frequently used for other tasks as well—working around the shop or roof repair work to cite two examples.

Because of the potential danger that comes with using ladders, an occasional review of safety procedures is important. Before you use a ladder, you should check first to be sure rails and rungs are strong, properly fastened and undamaged. Be sure to keep ladder rungs free of debris because dirt, mud and oil can easily build up. Follow all the manufacturer's warning stickers on your ladder and don't use a ladder if it is defective.

When you are ready to position the ladder for use, be sure to look above for power lines and all around for other obstacles. For example, don't position it so that its legs are sticking out into the road. Set the ladder on a good base of firm, even ground and keep in mind that wet and grassy areas do not provide good support.

It is very important to not climb too high. Never go above the third rung from the top of the ladder. Hold onto the ladder by the rails, not the rungs and always face the rungs of the ladder. Don't over-stretch yourself, and when leaning, keep both feet on the rung or you could lose your balance. Work smoothly, avoiding over-vigorous or jerky motions with your tools. This movement could cause the ladder to become unbalanced and topple or collapse.

One area of potential danger that is often overlooked is the roof, such as the shop roof or the barn roof. Every year there are several mishaps, including some fatalities, involving accidents in which a person either falls off a roof or falls through a weakened roof. In most of those cases, the victim had planned on being on the roof for only a few minutes to do a quick repair.

Here are some suggestions for roof work.

- Know whether a roof will support your weight before work starts.
- Ask yourself whether the repair work is necessary and whether you or your employees are the right people for the job.
- Assess the risks before the work starts and provide the necessary equipment and precautions.
- Make sure you have a properly secured ladder for getting on and off the roof safely.

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. For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at www.statefundca.com.

EVERYONE MUST BE INVOLVED IN FOOD SAFETY

In recent years, food safety on farms and in food processing facilities has come to the forefront in the media. We often hear now days of food recalls such as spinach, beef, and lately, eggs due to salmonella, e. coli, or other health hazards.

Farmers and food processors cannot afford to have recalls on their products. It is extremely costly and hurts agriculture's public image to have food recalls. Agriculture has developed many new programs to protect the consumer from contaminated food products such as new tracking methods and updated quality assurance procedures. American farmers and ranchers produce and sell the world's safest food; however, it is not perfect.

That is where the consumer comes into the equation. In a recent survey from NSF International, a non-profit public health and safety organization, it was discovered that "...American consumers are in fact doing either too much or too little when it comes to the safe handling and preparation of meals. For example, consumers are taking great caution in the initial food preparation stages, as 78% of respondents knew the right way to defrost meat and poultry safety (such as defrosting in a refrigerator), but only 20% of them bother to use a clean meat thermometer to ensure food is properly cooked."

In addition, the survey discovered that in many American households, consumers could get lazy when it comes to safe hand washing and handling of raw food. Most consumers knew that they should wash their

CONT. ON PAGE 5.....

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hands before preparing a meal, but only 20% of those surveyed knew that they should use soap and warm water to reduce bacteria that causes food borne illness. The NSF survey also discovered that food safety habits vary between income levels, age groups, and different levels of education.

All this comes down to is the need for more consumer education on food safety in the home. Food safety begins on the farm and processing facilities. Farmers and ranchers as well as food processors can have and utilize the best and latest food safety programs available today; however, once these food products leave the farm, consumers must take over some of the responsibility for safe food handling. Safe food handling includes the use of thermometers in food preparations, proper hand washing, safe defrosting methods, washing of fruits and vegetables, and the use of correct and proper leftover storage methods. It also includes having a clean kitchen and using clean knives, plates, and other food serving utensils to ensure that any food borne contamination is kept to a minimum.

Farmers and ranchers must work together with consumers to prevent further outbreaks of food borne illnesses.

Form I-9 Requirements Clarified

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued clarification on how long an employer has to complete a Form I-9 for a newly hired employee.

According to ICE, the requirement to execute the I-9 form within three days actually refers to three "business" days, which though not specifically defined, is assumed to be weekdays, not weekends, also excluding all federal holidays.

The new ICE rule, which became final on July 22 and will be effective on August 23, relieves some Form I-9 record keeping burden by letting employers retain only the portion of the form with employee- and employer-provided data (i.e., the "front" of the form). Previously, ICE had considered a Form I-9 in an employer's file to be incomplete if the list of permissible documents was not filed along with the "front" of the form.

What it Means for Employers:

This builds on the announcement made a few weeks ago by ICE to clarify the so-called "Thursday" rule. ICE told employers that the actual date of hire is not included in the three-day calculation, so that if an individual is hired on Monday, Thursday would be the deadline for completing Form I-9. This would also mean that for an employee hired on the Friday before a Monday legal holiday, the next Thursday would be the last day on which Form I-9 and E-Verify processing could be completed.

This article is provided courtesy of the Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS), an affiliated company of the California Farm Bureau Federation. FELS provides labor-management consultation, union avoidance, human resources education, compliance materials and products and workplace safety and health training for agricultural employers throughout California and Oregon. For more information about FELS, please contact FELS Chief Operating Officer Bryan Little at 800-753-9073, at blittle@fels.net or visit FELS' website: www.fels.net.

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Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group

New regulations affecting your area!

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) has adopted new regulations that affect property owners of irrigated agricultural or nursery land. These new regulations require any property owner producing or expecting to produce \$1,000 gross income annually from agricultural or nursery products to either enroll in a collective monitoring group, or file an individual "Notice of Intent", providing detailed monitoring and quality assurance plans for testing and monitoring the watershed region for specific runoff contaminants. The SDRWQCB has set a deadline of January 1, 2011 for filing these "Notices of Intent".

The Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group (USMILG) is a non-profit runoff monitoring group. The purpose of this monitoring group is to assist property owners in compliance with the new water quality regulations being mandated by the SDRWQCB. Growers are encouraged to participate collectively in this group in order to share the high cost, instead of each grower bearing the financial burden individually. Instead of filing an individual "Notice of Intent" for each property owner, USMILG will file a "Notice of Intent" on behalf of all its members, which will include the required monitoring and quality assurance plans, to keep its members in compliance with these regulations.

There are two fees associated with enrollment in USMILG. There is an initial enrollment fee (per entity) of \$750.00, which covers start-up and administrative costs for organizing and running the monitoring group. Riverside County Farm Bureau members will receive a discount of \$250.00 off USMILG initial enrollment. There is also a preliminary monitoring fee of \$2.00 per acre (applicable to all irrigated acreage). These rates may fluctuate over time and are set by the USMILG board of directors. The deadline to enroll in USMILG is October 31st, 2010 and will not re-open until January 2nd, 2011. You can enroll online at www.usmilg.org and follow the directions located on the home page.

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It is the legal responsibility of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to enforce the regulations they are implementing. If a property owner has not fulfilled one of the two above listed options by January 1, 2011, they will be "non-compliant" and will be subject to fines or other sanctions set forth by the Regional Board. Please make sure to enroll before the deadline of October 31, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding enrollment in USMILG, please contact the USMILG Administrator, Dannielle Wood at (951) 595-2692. You may also contact Dannielle by email at dwood@usmilg.org.

For further information regarding the Porter Cologe Water Quality Act Conditional Waiver No. 4 please contact Peter Peuron @ the San Diego Regional water Quality Control Board: (858)637-7137 OR email: ppeuron@waterboards.ca.gov.



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2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✦ October 5th – RCFB Finance Committee meeting – 9 am. Call for location.
- ✦ October 13th – RCFB Board of Directors meeting – 5:30 pm at the Farm House Restaurant, Banning.
- ✦ October 16th – Junior Livestock Auction at the Southern California Fairgrounds – 10 am.
- ✦ October 19th – Salton Sea Workshop – 75-800 Frank Sinatra Dr., Palm Desert. Begins at 1 pm.

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