



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE



The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

WEST NILE VIRUS HAS RETURNED

By

Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

Once again, the West Nile virus (WNV) is back in the Inland Empire.

Preliminary tests at the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District in Chino has confirmed that the virus has returned. According to Min-Lee Cheng, the district director, the virus was found in a caged flock of chickens the district uses to detect the virus. Mosquitoes collected in the area also carried the WNV.

Due to the heavy rains and warming weather the Inland Empire experienced recently, the virus is predicted to start early and be potentially worse than last year. Last year, the WNV infected over 829 humans in California and killed twenty-seven individuals. Five of those twenty-seven were from the Inland Empire.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the “West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that was first detected in the United States in 1999 in the New York City area. The virus has since been identified in all forty-eight continental states and the District of Columbia. West Nile Virus may cause a wide range of clinical illness from mild, flu-like symptoms, to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) that may be fatal to both humans and horses. While horses are susceptible to WNV, many horses infected with the disease will not develop any illness and will recover uneventfully...”

Nevertheless, in 2004, California had 540 confirmed cases of equine WNV. The CDFA said that a “A high percentage of these horses died or were euthanized.” Last year, Riverside County, for example, had eighty-five cases of horses showing symptoms of the virus. Of those eighty-five cases, forty-three horses died. The Riverside County Department of Public health encourages all horse owners to “...contact a large-animal veterinarian and vaccinate their horses.” The WNV usually kills about thirty to fifty percent of the horses that develop serious symptoms of the WNV.

The CDFA recommends that horse owners watch for the following clinical signs in their horse(s) and to immediately consult your veterinarian if the horse exhibits any of the following signs:

- Lack of coordination, especially in rear limbs causing stumbling and falling.

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Members receive a 30 to 35% discount at Kelly Moore and Dunn-Edwards paint stores. Kelly Moore's stores are located from Bakersfield to the Oregon Border while Dunn Edwards's stores are in Southern California and a few stores in Northern California.

To receive a discount at Kelly Moore or Dunn-Edwards, members should simply ask for the "Farm Bureau Federation" discount.

We are happy to have this important Farm Bureau discount program back for our members. Information about this program will be on our website at www.cfbf.com.

Please call the "Help Desk" if you have questions regarding this or other member benefit programs.

Big Red Weekend, May 14-15, 2005

Tickets are now available for the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association's **Big Red Weekend** scheduled for Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15, from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Guests have an opportunity to visit 20 wineries during this event.

On Saturday and Sunday, guests may visit up to 20 Temecula wineries one time each over the two day period. Ticket holders will enjoy springtime as they "graze" their way through wine country enjoying spectacular RED wines paired with big bold red-wine friendly foods. This event is sure to stir mind, body and soul and is appropriate for all levels of wine appreciation.


Tickets are \$75.00 per person and may be purchased with check or credit card. Designated driver tickets are available for \$50.00 per person. Tickets are by reservation only and may be obtained by calling (800) 801-WINE or going on line at www.temeculawines.org.


Ticket holders will begin their day at one of two check-in points, Thornton or Keyways Winery and will receive a souvenir wine glass, special event bag and a program describing the wines and foods being featured at the event.





MARCH/APRIL


2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

 Mar. 24th - 9:00am, Coachella Valley MSHCP meeting, CVAG Building.

 Apr. 2nd - California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Fundraiser - "A Wine Country Adventure" wine tasting and lunch in the Temecula Valley. Call the RCFB for details.

 Apr. 6th - 10:00am, Western Riverside County Ag Coalition meeting, Nuevo Water District office.

 Apr. 13th - 8:00am, RCFB Board of Directors meeting in Blythe - meet at Scott Bros. Dairy. The bus will leave at 8:30am and we will return by 5:00pm.

 Apr. 19th - 3:30pm, Water Task Force meeting, CAC Building, Riverside.

 Apr. 20th - 1:30pm, RCA meeting, CAC Building, Riverside.

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.....CONT. FROM FRONT COVER. WEST NILE VIRUS

- Drooping lips and lip smacking.
- Generalized weakness.
- Muscle twitching.
- Head drooping, lethargy, and unresponsiveness.
- Grinding teeth.
- Hypersensitivity to touch or sound.
- Fever.
- Inability to rise.
- Seizures and coma.

You can decrease the chances of your horse being exposed to WNV by minimizing their exposure to mosquitoes, especially during the peak mosquito feeding period which is dusk to dawn. Applying mosquito repellent also effectively reduces the number of mosquito bites. Additionally, mosquito-breeding sites should be eliminated. Methods for eliminating mosquito-breeding sites include:

- Drain unnecessary standing water: wheelbarrows, tires, etc.
- Clean water containers: bird baths, plant saucers, etc., at least weekly.
- Schedule pasture irrigation to minimize standing water.
- Keep swimming pools optimally chlorinated and drain water from covers.
- Stock water tanks with fish that consume mosquito larvae (local mosquito control may provide assistance), or use mosquito dunk available at hardware stores.



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For further information about WNV, contact the CDFA Equine West Nile Virus hotline at 1.877.WNV.BIRD (1.877.968.2473) or go online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

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Farm Bureau Members Put Dent in Hunger

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 1, 2005 – The farm and ranch families of Farm Bureau last year raised \$121,308 and donated 2,465,445 pounds of food to hungry Americans under the organization’s “Harvest for All” program.

“Harvest for All,” a joint effort between Farm Bureau and America’s Second Harvest, in partnership with Syngenta and the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, is a national community-action program through which farmers can help ensure that every American can enjoy the bounty produced on America’s farms and ranches.

“Farmers and ranchers across the nation have joined together to help decrease hunger in America,” said AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair Ben Boyd, who farms in Georgia. “By sharing our bounty with those less fortunate, we are optimistic there will soon be a day where no child goes to bed hungry.” Farm Bureau YF&R programs are spearheading the “Harvest for All” program across the nation, but overall the project involves the entire organization. Aside from raising food and funds for the initiative, farmers and ranchers donated nearly 5,000 hours of their time for hunger-relief efforts at their local food banks, homeless shelters, churches and community centers.

State YF&R programs were recently recognized for their enormous strides to raise food, funds and volunteer hours through the farmer-driven, hunger-relief effort. California took top honors a second year in a row for raising the most money, food donations and volunteer time. The organization raised \$35,069, as well as \$2,411,107 pounds of food and 1,758 volunteer hours.

Coming in at second place in the categories: Georgia volunteered 845 hours; Virginia raised \$35,000 and Texas donated 15,487 pounds of food.

Out of appreciation, Syngenta presented members of the California Farm Bureau YF&R Committee three checks for \$3,000 each for being the top producers in each of the three categories. Georgia, Texas and Virginia were all presented checks for \$2,000. The state YF&R committees will donate the funds to their local food banks.

“We appreciate Syngenta’s continued support,” said Boyd. “Because of Syngenta’s generous contribution and commitment to this great cause, farmers and ranchers who worked hardest in their communities can funnel additional money back into their local food banks where it is most needed.”

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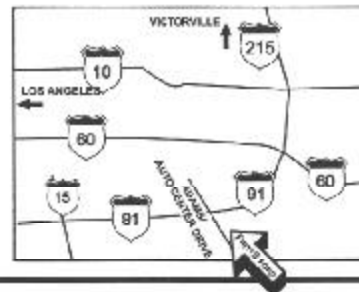
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