

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL

By Cindy Domenigoni, President

Wow, it is hard to believe I'm at the end of my third year as president of the Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB). It has been an eventful and busy time. I appreciated the opportunity to serve the membership and Board of Directors.

With over 2,500 members, the Riverside County Farm Bureau is the largest organization in Riverside County representing farmers and ranchers. Our organization has a responsibility and obligation to do our best to represent our members and agriculture as a whole. Membership continues to be the lifeblood of Farm Bureau and remains a challenge to build on as our county develops and urbanizes. In the past few years in an effort to reach out to our members, we have organized board meetings in Blythe and the Coachella Valley. Riverside County agriculture is very diverse with a variety of operations and people in the profession.

During my time as your president, we have dealt with many issues from pests such as the Red Imported Ant, and the Sharpshooter, to land mitigation issues, watershed issues to Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan issues. We also worked tirelessly on the Riverside County Integrated Project.

Through our efforts, we were successful in keeping the county from approving an involuntary government regulated Agricultural Mitigation Bank in their new General Plan. We were deeply involved and successful in the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) since its inception to its present implementation. Farm Bureau's goal was to develop a workable process for agricultural landowners and operators to receive Incidental Take Authorization under the MSHCP, instead of having to obtain individual permits under the Endangered Species Acts. We were successful in obtaining Take Authorization for existing agricultural operations and a streamlined process for extending Take Authorization for new and expanded agricultural operations. While the county agreed in concept with our recommendations, the language of the MSHCP did not clearly state those provisions. As a result, Farm Bureau initiated litigation against the county in July 2003. We have been victorious in reaching a Settlement Agreement this year (2005) that includes the clarifications we felt needed to be made in the MSHCP to protect agriculture in Riverside County.

We have commented and are participating in the Coachella Valley MSHCP that is still in process. We have worked with the county in strengthening the Grading Ordinance and retaining the Agricultural Exemption for farmers and ranchers.

Our staff and board members have been engaged in Title V, SB700 hearings. We have supplied comments on the effects of this legislation and the affect it will have on farmers and ranchers.

We have been and are involved in ground water management groups, watershed and water task forces, TMDL, and manure issues. The list of our involvements is endless.

CONT. ON PAGE 4.....

### Inside This Issue...

News in Brief .....	3
Statement of Ownership .....	3
President's Farewell Cont. ....	4
Jr. Livestock Auction Photos	5

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# News in Brief...

## REPEAT PUMPKIN GROWER CHAMP

There's a repeat champion in the Half Moon Bay World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-off. Joel Holland of Puyallup, Washington entered a record tying 1,229 pound pumpkin. Second place went to Leonardo Urena of Napa. San Mateo County Farm Bureau is one of the sponsors of the annual event. John Muller of San Mateo County and Mike Pezzini of Monterey County shared most beautiful pumpkin prize. The pumpkins will be on display this week at the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival.

## TOLL FROM WEST NILE VIRUS NEARS 200 HORSES

California horses continue to become infected with the West Nile virus, with 59 new cases reported in the past two weeks. Three counties reported their first equine cases of the year: Lassen, Mendocino and San Benito. The highest numbers of infected horses have been reported in Riverside and Stanislaus counties. So far, the disease has killed 192 California horses.

## 'STAY FIT, EAT RIGHT' PROGRAM AIMS AT TEENS

Farm organizations join food and school groups in a coalition to encourage students to "stay fit and eat right." The coalition launched its program this week, including radio announcements from teen pop idol Hilary Duff and a Web site that includes nutrition tips and descriptions of life on California farms. The state's agriculture secretary says the program should create new demand for California crops among teenage eaters.

## LOUISIANA FARMERS STILL FACE 'GRIM' SITUATION

Recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been slow in Louisiana, where a Farm Bureau spokesman calls the situation "grim." Louisiana Farm Bureau spokesman Mike Danna says hurricane damage affects every crop and commodity grown in the state. He said many of the services on which farmers depend remain disrupted. Colleagues from Mississippi and Texas said timber farms in those two states appeared to suffer the worst losses from the storms.

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY WILDFIRE HITS CHICKEN FARM

A Southern California wildfire scorched a poultry farm and killed an estimated 80,000 chickens. The fire started near the ranch, in San Timoteo Canyon near Moreno Valley, and damaged three chicken barns. Cause of the fire is not yet known. It has burned 1,300 acres.

## Welcome New Members Continued

Ronald Stoeger  
Paul Styve  
Yesenia Tellez  
Susan Thomas  
David Vergara  
Adam Warren  
Matthew Werner  
David Ybarra



## NOVEMBER

### 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✳ Nov. 5th - 2:00pm to 6:00pm, 88th Annual Dinner Meeting, Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta.
- ✳ Nov. 9th - 10:00am, Ag Coalition meeting, Nuevo Water District office.
- ✳ Nov. 10th - 1:30 - 3:30pm, Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL meeting, EMWD headquarters.
- ✳ Nov. 15th - 1:30pm, RCA meeting, CAC Building in Riverside.
- ✳ Nov. 16th - TBR Meeting in Ventura.
- ✳ Nov. 24th and 25th - RCFB Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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.....**CONT. FROM FRONT COVER.**

In 2004, we made recommendations to the California Farm Bureau Federation's House of Delegates. The recommendations came after incidents that occurred that we believed were adverse to RCFB agriculture. The recommendations included:

1. CFBF should oppose Agricultural Mitigation Banks being prepared by government for private property.
2. We proposed a policy requiring better communications between state and counties and counties to counties.


While we were not successful in getting new policies dealing with these issues in the policy books last year, we did bring it to the state and other counties attention. In fact these issues will again surface at the state convention this year.

When I say "we" I am referring to the Board of Directors and volunteers that serve the members and organization so well. Countless volunteer hours are expended. The "we" is also referring to Farm Bureau's staff – Executive Director Steve Pastor and Office Manager Stephanie Bell, who work tirelessly and loyally for us all.

Riverside County has an outstanding Board of Directors and staff. I wish to thank them for their help and dedication to the organization. While there have been many challenges and ups and downs, I have truly enjoyed this opportunity. I have expanded my knowledge of agriculture. I wish to thank the membership and the Board of Directors for making my time as president the wonderful experience it has been. I wish the incoming president, Brad Scott, and Board my best wishes and support for a fulfilling and terrific future.


**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOOTNOTE:** On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the RCFB, I want to thank Cindy for all of her hard work and dedication. She has been an outstanding president and inspirational leader as well as a great person to work with for many years. Good luck in the future, Cindy, and thank you for everything.


Cindy has agreed to be Chairwoman of the RCFB's Natural Resources Committee.



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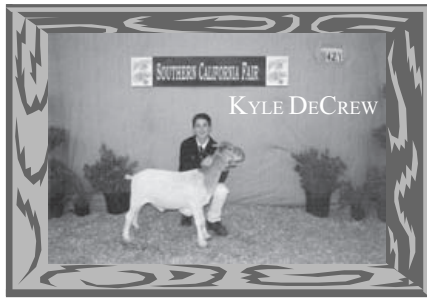
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KYLE DeCREW



NATALIE KIRSCHNER



CHRIS EMTER

The Farm Bureau would like to give many thanks to the members who have contributed to the Auction Support Fund.

With your contributions you have helped these young people continue in learning important life skills, including time management and financial responsibility. We hope that you will

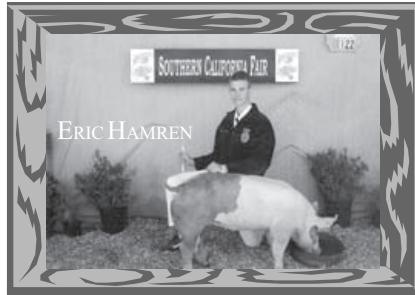
continue to support these three great organizations with the choices that children have today. FFA, 4-H, and Grange organizations are worth supporting. These photos are of young people that the Farm Bureau and

members like you helped support this year.

Please know your dollars are working to teach a young person the skills necessary to become a responsible adult.



BOBBY EMTER



ERIC HAMREN



KYLE WIEST



## CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU VOTERS GUIDE

### 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION

The California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors adopted the following recommendations on statewide ballot measures that will be before voters in the November special election.

**Tuesday, November 8, 2005**

	YES	NO
<b>Proposition 73 - Parental Notification for Minors' Abortions.</b> Amends state constitution to prohibit abortions for unemancipated minors until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minors' parents or guardians.		NO POSITION
<b>Proposition 74 - Public School Teachers.</b> Reforms education laws, modifying teacher tenure rules to assure high-quality teachers in California schools.	X	
<b>Proposition 75 - Public Employee Union Dues.</b> Protects public employee union members from having political contributions made from their dues without their annual permission.	X	
<b>Proposition 76 - State Spending.</b> Reforms the state budget process and enacts limits on state budget growth through an amendment to the state constitution.	X	
<b>Proposition 77 - Redistricting.</b> Improves government accountability through state constitutional amendment that reforms legislative and congressional redistricting.	X	
<b>Proposition 78 - Prescription Drug Discounts.</b> Creates a prescription drug program that provides discounts of 40 percent for certain low- and moderate-income Californians.	X	
<b>Proposition 79 - Prescription Drugs and Medi-Cal.</b> Imposes new government program to administer prescription-drug rebates; allows trial lawyers to file "profiteering" lawsuits against drug companies.		X
<b>Proposition 80 - Electricity Regulation.</b> Restricts consumer choice on electric service; establishes complex, inflexible policy better developed through public hearings than through an initiative.		X

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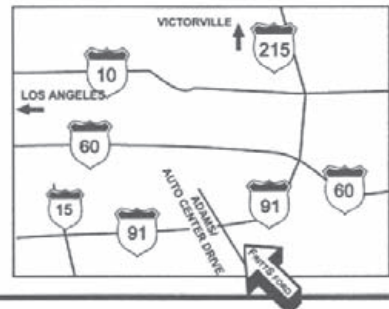
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