



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 91st Annual Dinner Meeting

**Palm Valley Country Club
39205 Palm Valley Drive, Palm Desert, California**



Mark Your Calendar!!!

Saturday, November 15, 2008

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Come join us in celebrating our 91st year!!!

6:00 pm Social Hour \$55 Single

7:00 pm Dinner \$85 Couple

8:00 pm Program

Please RSVP by November 10th

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Welcome New Members

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

CALIFORNIA LAST STATE TO ADOPT "D R A OF 2005"

Article provided by Craig Smedley and the Estate Advisory Group

The New Medicaid/Medi-Cal eligibility rules are part of the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005". These rules will dramatically affect seniors entering a nursing home and limit the amount of assets they can protect. Advance planning is more important than ever. Most people over the age of 65 don't have nursing home insurance and are very concerned about nursing home issues. With these new rules, pre-planning will become more important than ever before. At the end of this year you may no longer have the luxury of waiting until you are in a nursing home to start a Medi-Cal plan. Decisions made early, without the panic and fear that take hold whenever a catastrophic event occurs, are much easier to make and best for you overall.

Some of these changes include:

1. Asset transfers going from a three-year look-back to a five-year look-back.
2. Look-back period does not start until you apply for Medicaid/Medi-Cal Benefits.
3. The home exemption under the Spousal Impoverishment Act has changed.
4. How divestments are treated when applying for Medicaid/Medi-Cal.

A good Estate/Medi-Cal Planner, current on these issues, is of great value to your Family.

Spread the Word!

Applications for the **Leadership Farm Bureau (LFB) Class of 2009** are available online at www.cfbf.com.

What is LFB?

LFB is a training program developed by Farm Bureau to assist members in reaching their full leadership potential. Members receive over 250 hours of training in seven sessions on a variety of topics including personal development, governmental affairs, and California agriculture. A lobbying trip to Washington DC and an opportunity to tour agriculture operations in another region of the United States round out the program.

Who should apply?

Farm Bureau members who are interested in learning more about the organization and developing the skills and expertise needed to lead Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry into the future. If you or someone you know is a **County Farm Bureau Board Member, newly elected Officer, YF&R County Chair or State Committee member, or a Farm Bureau member looking to step into a leadership position**, LFB is designed with you in mind!

Detailed information about the program, a tentative 2009 calendar and a complete application package is available online at <http://www.cfbf.com/programs/lfb/index.cfm>. Deadline to apply is **October 1, 2008**. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

Protecting Your Interests with FARM TEAM

Your Farm Bureau staff has been busy monitoring the numerous pieces of legislation introduced by the California State Legislature that will surely have impacts on your daily lives and how you do business.

The question is; how will you be able to keep up with the actions of your elected officials to protect your interests?

This is why Farm Bureau created the **FARM TEAM**, a statewide grassroots network, as a way to inform and engage our membership in the political process.

The California State Legislature returns from summer recess on August 4, and your response to **FARM TEAM** alerts will be critical.

This marks the start of the “gut-and-amend” season, where legislators gut the contents of proposed bills – sometimes changing the contents entirely – and pass them with little or no opportunity for input.

While your Farm Bureau staff will be working around the clock to ensure that the most current information is available, your letters through **FARM TEAM** are needed to back up the work they are doing at the State Capitol.

By activating our membership at the local level, we are building on our grassroots strength, putting Farm Bureau in a better position to influence policy and the outcome of elections.

As the end of the legislative session approaches, you will begin receiving email Action Alerts when your help is needed the most.

The Action Alert explains the issue at hand, and has a letter attached which has already been drafted for you. Because the program is web-based, all you have to do is enter your zip code and the system looks up your elected officials for you.

FARM TEAM takes the hard work and guessing out of writing letters to your elected officials. Responding to Action Alerts take no more than five minutes. All you have to do is:

- Customize the letter according to how the issue impacts your business
- Complete the contact information
- Click the “Send” button

Already a Farm Team member?

- Keep informed with Legislative Updates
- Respond to Action Alerts
- Show your friends the value of FarmBureau by forwarding Action Alerts

Not a Farm Team member?

- Visit www.cfbf.com
- Email us at FarmTeam@cfbf.com
- Contact your County Farm Bureau at 951.684.6732

Regardless of what level you participate, there is no better time than now to get involved. Every action counts as we work to protect California's family farmers and ranchers.

ATTENTION AGRICULTURAL MEMBERS

At the annual meeting of members in November, the corporation's board of directors intends to present to the members for their approval a set of amended and restated corporate bylaws.

Significant proposed amendments include those that would change the qualifications of the corporation's voting members, directors, and delegates to the annual meeting of members of California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF); those proposed amendments result from recently approved amendments to CFBF's bylaws.

To view the proposed amended and restated bylaws, please contact the corporation's office.



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CCOF Streamlines Organic Certification with Online Services

Santa Cruz, CA - CCOF streamlined its' certification process this week with the introduction of a range of online services for certified clients and applicants. The new digital documentation includes online certification applications, renewals and payment options as well as e-forms covering key areas of certification such as requests to add acreage, review input materials and expedited services.

CCOF plans to grow revenue by 12% annually and double the number of certified operations by 2013, to a total of 4000. The streamlining of the certification process while maintaining the highest level of organic integrity is a key strategy for achieving this goal.

"As we strive to meet the needs of clients, it's critical we maximize the use of technology," stated CCOF Director of Certification Services, Jake Lewin. "We are proud to be the first organic certification agency to implement such a comprehensive suite of electronic services and to demonstrate to our clients our ongoing commitment to bringing them customer service improvements, online services and cost-savings."

The move to electronic documents aims to reduce both the paperwork and time involved in key certification service areas. CCOF anticipates that the introduction of the new online services will be welcomed by its wide range of certified operations. Less time spent on organic certification documentation activities means farmers can spend more time out in the field rather than in the office. And processors and handlers will be able to divert resources to other administrative tasks or areas of manufacturing.

"The new online services will certainly assist certified operations with their paperwork," said Malcolm Ricci of CCOF certified Bolthouse. "We will definitely be using them. The paperwork for organic certification was cumbersome and time-consuming. In the past we've downloaded the papers, scanned our own documents and cut and pasted text. On one occasion we even tried to duplicate the necessary forms ourselves. The new online documents solve this problem. Being able to type in the information directly and then email the form back with attachments will make things much simpler and save us a lot of time".

CCOF has long been a leader and innovator in organic certification. The new online services are a part of a much larger organizational strategy to make use of the best available technology. This includes migrating to a new data management system using state-of-the-art European certification software. "The new database software will vastly improve upon our existing internal certification operations and will increase our ability to grow as the demand of organic certification rises," stated Amanda Paulson, Director of CCOF Information Technology.

About CCOF:

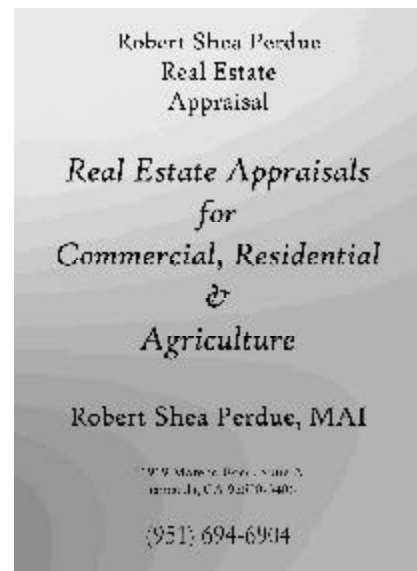
CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1973 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest third-party organic certifying agencies. Today CCOF certifies more than 1,800 organic farmers, processors, handlers, retailers, and private labelers, and over 800 products and services in 29 states and six countries. CCOF certifies, educates, advocates and promotes organic through:

A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.

Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic product and to expand public support for organic agriculture.

Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.

For further information on CCOF visit: www.ccof.org



Take extra care when using an ATV

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

With diesel fuel prices reaching record highs, many farmers and ranchers are turning to all-terrain vehicles for many functions that they previously performed with less fuel-efficient vehicles. For many people, however, an ATV is not a familiar piece of equipment and care must be taken in its use.

There are as many as 65,000 ATV-related accidents each year in the United States, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Rolling over, falling from the ATV or colliding with a stationary object causes most accidents. Statistics show 40 percent of ATV accidents involve children under the age of 16.

One thing to keep in mind is that ATVs handle differently than other vehicles, such as motorcycles and tractors. Operators should become familiar with shifting their weight on turns, the turning radius of an ATV, its performance in muddy or sandy soils and on grass versus gravel, and the effects of going over or through fixed obstacles such as railroad tracks, driveways and waterways.

ATVs are intended for off-road use and should never be operated on public roads. It is recommended that you never operate an ATV without an approved motorcycle helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Handling characteristics differ among ATVs.
- Most, but not all, ATVs have front and rear brakes. Be sure you know the proper stopping technique for your ATV.
- Some ATVs are two-wheel drive while others are four-wheel drive.
- Controls and their locations differ from one ATV model to another.
- Never carry anyone else on an ATV unless it is specifically designed to carry a passenger.
- Be certain that any attachments are necessary—many added attachments affect the stability, operating and braking of an ATV.
- Read owner's manuals carefully.
- Children should not be allowed to operate an ATV without specialized training and even then should not operate an ATV of greater than 90cc size.

Before putting your ATV to work it is important to do a pre-ride mechanical inspection. Check the following: tires and wheels, throttle and other cables, brakes, foot shifter, lights and switches, oil and fuel, chain drive and chassis. It is also a good idea to have an adequate tool kit on board in case you have mechanical problems when you are a long distance away from your shop.

The ATV Safety Institute in Irvine offers a wealth of information on operation of an ATV for both recreation and work. Visit their website at www.atvsafety.org or call (949) 727-3727.




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Howie Award Nomination Form

I nominate (name of candidate for Howie Award):

Your name and telephone number:

**Deadline for Nomination Form is
September 15, 2008.***

Send your nomination to
Riverside County Farm Bureau
21160 Box Springs Road, #102
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
 or Fax to 951/782-0621



*Any forms received after September 15, 2008 will be considered a nomination for next year.

Because (why should your candidate receive the Howie Award) (use extra pages or attach resume/supporting information if available):

The Robert M. Howie Award is an annual award given by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to recognize outstanding service to Riverside County agriculture.

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2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ☼ RCFB Board meeting – September 10th, 6 pm, Sizzler Restaurant, Indio.
- ☼ RCFB Insurance Agent's luncheon, Wilson Creek Winery, September 18th, 11:30 am.

Renewal Reminder

If you are due to renew your membership, please take a moment to do so by calling Farm Bureau at (951) 684-6732 or renew on-line at www.cfbf.com. Members that are due in the upcoming months and those that have a due date of November 1, 2008, are asked to pay their dues **by October 24, 2008**. This will give Farm Bureau ample time to process incoming renewals. Farm Bureau would like to thank all it's members for their continued support and being part of the Farm Bureau family.

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