



Riverside County

# AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## Farm Bureau Working for you

By Doug Mosebar, President, CFBF

The ability to produce food on our own soil, and not be reliant upon other countries, is a national security issue. As farmers and ranchers in the most populous and geographically diverse state in our nation, it is our responsibility to ensure that we can continue to provide for the food security of our people.

In 1919, when the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) was formed, delegates to the first annual meeting stated that Farm Bureau "should be a fighting organization for the good of the farmers of the state." We have held to that charge for 90 years, advocating for your rights to water, land, energy, and labor while opposing onerous legislation and regulations that would impact your ability to remain viable.

Working for you we strive to allow you to farm without having your hands tied and market your commodities without excessive red tape. We want you to be able to pass your land on to future generations, so that all families can continue to enjoy the freshest, safest, and most affordable commodities we have to offer.

You all play a part in feeding America. Take the opportunity to speak to your community leaders. Help them to understand that protecting California family farms and ranches is the way to ensure food security for all.

We are Farm Bureau – and the strength of our organization, and our ability to give a voice to your challenges, is illustrated in the 2008 Action Report (contact CFBF at [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) or call 800.698.3276 for a copy of the report).

Thank you for your innovation and perseverance.

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<p><b>NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Tuesday, March 17, 2009 Reception 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament</b> 1017 11th Street Sacramento, CA 95814</p> <p><i>10-minute tours of the newly renovated Cathedral</i> 5:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b> Saturday, March 28, 2009 Tour 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Luncheon 11:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>El Adobe Restaurant</b> 31891 Camino Capistrano San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675</p> <p><i>Tour of Mission San Juan Capistrano</i> 26807 Ortega Hwy San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675</p>
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## Welcome New Members We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part of the Farm Bureau Family.

### SURVEY DEMONSTRATES EFFICIENCY IN FARM WATER DELIVERIES

A new survey of farm water districts debunks criticism that water is flowing unmeasured to California farms. Improved measurement systems are used on more than 87 percent of the irrigated acreage from surveyed districts, resulting in very efficient management and delivery of farm water.

The survey was conducted by the Agricultural Water Management Council, a non-profit organization that works toward increasing agricultural water management efficiency in California. The survey results represent more than 3 million irrigated acres, or more than one-third of all irrigated acreage in the state.

"These numbers prove that farm water districts have embraced new technology in order to best manage their water supplies and deliveries," said AWMC Executive Director Mike Wade.

"Efficient Water Management—irrigation district achievements" is a 62-page report available on the Council's website at [www.agwatercouncil.org](http://www.agwatercouncil.org) and being distributed this week in Long Beach at the Association of California Water Agencies' fall conference.

"Before automation, many districts were opening and closing delivery gates by hand," explained Wade. "As a result, more water might have been delivered than ordered by the farmer. It could also result in operational spill or water that could be lost from the system operated by the district."

"Automation has enabled district personnel to remotely monitor and control the settings of gates, valves or pumps from a central location. Now, operational spills are practically non-existent and farmers are getting the amount of water ordered."

The increase in delivery efficiency is one of several efficiencies documented by the report. Other achievements by farm water districts include:

- Almost 90 percent of irrigated acreage represented in the survey utilizes volumetric pricing as a component of the water pricing structure. Volumetric pricing guarantees that farmers are paying for every drop of water delivered to their farms.
- More than half of the transportation systems that move farm water are either pipelines or concrete-lined canals. Other transportation systems utilize earthen canals to deliver water and at the same time recharge the groundwater supply.
- Almost two-thirds of the irrigated acreage in the responding water districts has an active program to reuse tailwater. Tailwater is water not used by the crop, absorbed into the ground or evaporated and runs off the field. Tailwater is either reused by individual farmers or returned to the district's supply.
- About 70 percent of irrigated acreage serviced by water districts conjunctively use both surface and groundwater supplies. Conjunctive use provides a flexible management tool for farmers to irrigate their crops. Not all areas are able to utilize this practice because of soil conditions.
- Almost 90 percent of the acreage in the survey receives water that is measured at the point of delivery from the district's canal to a farmer's field.

"The survey also points out that the greatest obstacle to achieving greater agricultural water efficiency is cost," Wade added. "Responding districts representing 69 percent of the irrigated acreage have developed financial assistance programs for farmers. Many of these programs are grants or low-interest loans for farmers to upgrade irrigation systems, install drainage-reducing tailwater return systems or other infrastructure improvements that reduce water demand or irrecoverable losses."

## The Riverside County Farm Bureau wishes to thank our 2008 Annual Dinner Silver Sponsors



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# Metal Theft Prevention Implementation Information

By Noelle G. Cremers, CFBF

California Farm Bureau Federation achieved significant success earlier this year with the approval of three bills aimed at reducing metal theft. The provisions of AB 844 (Berryhill) went into effect on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the provisions of SB 447 (Maldonado) go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

These bills improve record keeping and reporting requirements and payment methods for junk dealers and recyclers. Below you will find a document outlining, in greater detail, the provisions of the new laws.

Passage of this legislation was a big step towards reducing metal theft, however, without implementation of these laws little will change. Please work with your local law enforcement agencies and recyclers to let them know of the new requirements. Many are already aware of the requirements, but it is beneficial for them to hear from their county Farm Bureau members regarding the importance of enforcement.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916.446.4647.

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## METAL-THEFT PREVENTION NEW BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS (B&P) CODE PROVISIONS

### Identification

*B&P Code §21606*—When purchasing junk (including scrap metals such as materials and equipment commonly used in agricultural operations—*B&P Code §21600*), junk dealers and recyclers must record:

- 1) The place and date of the purchase;
- 2) The seller's name and either:
  - a) Valid driver's license number and state of issue, or
  - b) California-issued identification card number;
- 3) The license number and state of issue of the delivery vehicle;
- 4) A description of the junk purchased, including its type, quantity, and any visible identification number; and
- 5) A statement indicating either:
  - a) That the seller of the junk owns it, or
  - b) The name of the person from whom the seller obtained the junk, as shown on a signed transfer document.

The junk dealer or recycler must report this information to the chief of police or sheriff by the first working day after the purchase.

*B&P Code §21608.5*—In addition to the above-required information, junk dealers and recyclers (excluding coin dealers and automobile dismantlers) purchasing copper, copper alloys, stainless steel, or aluminum (but not redeemable beverage containers) must obtain:

- 1) A clear photograph or video of the seller;
- 2) A clear photograph or video of the metal being purchased; and
- 3) The seller's thumbprint (which may be inspected or seized only by a peace officer with a criminal search warrant issued upon probable cause based upon a theft specifically involving the transaction for which the thumbprint was given).

Exceptions: None of those three items need be obtained under either of these circumstances:

- 1) The junk dealer or recycler, on the purchase date, either has on file or obtains:
  - a) The name, physical address, telephone number, and either business-license number or tax-identification number of the seller's business, and
  - b) A copy of the valid driver's license of the person delivering the metal.
- 2) Metal worth \$20 or less is being redeemed in a transaction whose primary purpose is the redemption of beverage containers.

*B&P Code §§21608 & 21608.5*—Junk dealers and recyclers must keep these records, including the photographs or videos and thumbprints, for at least two years.

**CONT. ON PAGE 4.....**

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**Inspection**

*B&P Code §21606.5*–Junk dealers and recyclers must allow periodic inspection of their premises and purchase records by a peace officer with a search warrant or examination order or by a person appointed by the sheriff or police chief.

**Payment**

*B&P Code §21608.5*–Junk dealers and recyclers must pay for copper, copper alloys, stainless steel, or aluminum (but not redeemable beverage containers) by cash or check, either of which may be collected by the seller on the third business day after the purchase date. Or, a check may be mailed to the seller at either the address shown on the seller’s valid driver’s license or ID card or another address. If the seller wants the check mailed to another address other than a post-office box, the seller must provide a gas- or electric-utility bill addressed to the seller at that other address with a payment due date no more than two months before the purchase date.

Exception: A junk dealer or recycler may immediately pay a seller with whom at least five separate transactions on at least five days per month were completed during any three-month period commencing after November 30, 2008. To remain eligible for immediate payments, the seller must continue to complete five or more separate transactions per month with the junk dealer or recycler.

**Liability**

*B&P Code § 21608*–Recordkeeping violations are misdemeanors. Knowing and willful violations of the recordkeeping provisions have these penalties:

- 1) First offense: A fine of at least \$1,000, or imprisonment in the county jail for at least 30 days, or both.
- 2) Second offense: A fine of at least \$2,000, or imprisonment in the county jail for at least 30 days, or both. The court may also order the defendant to stop engaging in business as a junk dealer or recycler for up to 30 days.
- 3) Third and subsequent offenses: A fine of at least \$4,000, or imprisonment in the county jail for at least six months, or both. The court must also order the defendant to stop engaging in business as a junk dealer or recycler for at least one year.

*B&P Code §21608.3*–The unauthorized disclosure of personal identification information collected from sellers is prohibited; a violator is liable for a civil fine of up to \$5,000.

*B&P Code §21609*–A person convicted for the theft of metal placed on a 90-day disposal hold by a peace officer shall be ordered by the court to:

- 1) Pay the junk dealer or recycler reasonable storage costs, and
- 2) Pay the victim for both the value of the property stolen and any reasonable collateral damage caused in the commission of the theft.

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### 2008/2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ☼ The RCFB office will be closed on December 25-26 and on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> to observe the holidays.
- ☼ January 14<sup>th</sup> – RCFB Board meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant in Indio. The meeting begins at 6 pm.
- ☼ January 19<sup>th</sup> – The RCFB office will be closed to observe the MLK holiday.
- ☼ January 21<sup>st</sup> – WRCAC – 9 am at the Nuevo Water District office.
- ☼ January 22<sup>nd</sup> – San Geronio Heritage Corridor meeting at the RCFB office – 10 am.



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