



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

VISION FOR CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE IN 2030

By Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

What will California's agriculture look like in the year 2030? That was the question asked to various groups of farmers, ranchers, government agencies, and the general public at several listening sessions sponsored by the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation and the Columbia Foundation.



California's Department of Food and Agriculture secretary, A.G. Kawamura, and the State Board of Food and Agriculture launched the listening sessions throughout the state "... to provide a forum for the agriculture industry and the public to give their input into a California strategic agricultural vision. This vision will be used to guide public policy and investment priorities at the state and national level for the next 20 years. It will be a vision that affects everyone who produces, ships, processes, markets, eats, drinks or wears California agricultural products."

The panel asked speakers four questions about their (speakers) vision for agriculture in the year 2030. The four questions were 1) What is your vision for California agriculture by 2030? 2) What will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision? 3) In 2030, how has the public perception of agriculture changed? 4) What is a "must have" in an Ag Vision for California?

During the listening session on July 8th at the San Diego County Farm Bureau's office in Escondido, over thirty individuals gave their vision of agriculture in the year 2030 to Secretary Kawamura and to the State Board of Food and Agriculture directors. Overall, most speakers stated that California agriculture must change politically, socially, and economically.



Politically speaking, many speakers noted that Californians must elect politicians locally, statewide, as well as at the federal level who understand the critical need for agriculture and the role agriculture plays in our society. Politicians must stand-up for the needs of agriculture on water issues, land preservation, tax incentives for agriculture, crop research, country-of origin labeling as well as fair trade issues. Many of the speakers spoke of the "...distracted, inefficient, and dysfunctional" government and politicians and how things must change if agriculture in California is to survive.

Urban voters, for example, must realize that we are all in this together and when they vote on issues that are detrimental to agriculture, they are directly influencing their own lives as well as the lives of those of generations to come. Many speakers at the workshop spoke about educating the voting public about agricultural issues so that they, the public, can make the proper, well-educated decisions affecting agriculture. Any plan for agriculture in 2030 must include informing non-agriculture citizens about the importance of water, science, pest control, labor, research, ecological issues, and

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

.....Cont. from Front Cover.

working together for the common good. In short, agriculture must do a better job connecting with the public.

Socially, many speakers spoke about how our society's perception of agriculture must change. Individuals spoke about the need to treat farm workers with respect, dignity, and fairness. Any vision must include laws that protect farm workers and the need for a guest worker program. Any vision for 2030 must include a steady, legal, and reliable work force in order to provide a safe food supply. This vision, many said, must be backed-up with benefits for the work force as well as safe working conditions and security.

Economically, many stated that "...its all about profit." If they cannot continue to make a profit in agriculture, there is no need to continue. Agriculture, the backbone of our society, is similar to any other business. If the business cannot make a profit, there is no need to continue. Agriculture, however, is far more important since it provides the food and fiber needed by our society to survive.

Many speakers mentioned the need to support locally grown commodities and to support local farmers as well as the local economy. Local farmers, in most situations, use local suppliers, merchants, financial institutions, labor, and markets to sell their commodities. This has a ripple effect on the local economy and helps support individuals in their communities.

In summary, most everyone agreed at the listening session that things must change and move forward in order for agriculture in California to survive. There is a great need for infrastructure improvements in the state including water storage and a solid plan to improve and repair the delta conveying system. Farmers must create a positive image for themselves and support politicians who will support agriculture. Most important is the need to support California grown products and to educate and encourage the younger generation to make agriculture their career choice.

According to Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture, "The Ag Vision will give California agriculture the opportunity to design its own future through 2030 – this will not be a document to gather dust, but an action plan to secure the viability of this industry for today and years to come."

For further information or to voice your opinion, go onto the CDFA website at www.CDFA.ca.gov and click onto Ag Vision 2030.



Photo L-R: RCFB Executive Director Steven A. Pastor and California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura at the Vision for California Agriculture in 2030 listening session held at the San Diego County Farm Bureau.

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Attention!!!**

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Many farmers as well as individuals have asked why should they join Farm Bureau or continue their membership? The answer is very simple. First, Farm Bureau is the most powerful farming organization in California. It represents over 88,000 farmers, ranchers, and individuals who support agriculture. The Farm Bureau is the unified voice of California's diverse agricultural industry, which makes Farm Bureau extremely influential, as well as the most recognized agricultural organization in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. At the local level, the Riverside County Farm Bureau offers local service and is very focused on fighting regulatory and tax burdens at the local level.

Second, Farm Bureau offers a great value for the money. Farm Bureau offers expert political representation at the local, state, and federal levels. It is a great source of current information from everything from politics to leadership development to various outreach and advocacy programs. Farm Bureau also offers outstanding member savings programs including \$500 Dodge rebates, Allied Insurance discounts, Farm Bureau Bank services, amusement park discounts, savings at Boot Barn, and a 20% discount from Lenscrafters.

If you have not yet renewed your Farm Bureau membership or would like to join, please contact our office at 951.684.6732 and we will be delighted to help you. If you choose, you may go onto our website at www.riversidecfb.com to renew or join. Remember, if your Farm Bureau renewal is due in July, please renew before July 25th.

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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.

Howie Award Nomination Form

I nominate (name of candidate for Howie Award):

Your name and telephone number:

**Deadline for Nomination Form is
September 1, 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 1, 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.



ROBERT M. HOWIE, who served as Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner from 1954 to 1982, died on July 4 at his home in Riverside. He was 95. Bob was born in Compton, California on June 14, 1913. He moved to Riverside in 1927 and graduated from Poly High in 1930. He rode rodeo (bull riding and roping), played football and edited the Aggie Newspaper while attending the University of California at Davis where he graduated in 1934. It was a tough time for ranching so in 1934 he took a "temporary" job as a county inspector in the Coachella Valley. He married Betty Williams Attride in 1937 and they lived in Banning until 1939 when they moved to Riverside and Bob was named deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 1940. Upon the death of William Wright, Bob became Riverside's sixth Agricultural Commissioner. During his time in office, Riverside became

one of the top producing agricultural counties in the United States. After 28 years Bob retired in 1982.

On December 12, 2006 in honor of his 48 years of service, The Robert M. Howie Plaza and Monument was dedicated in downtown Riverside. Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Lois; his grandson, Daniel; and his beloved wife of 65 years (2002), Betty. He is survived by his son, Dick (Connie) of San Diego; his daughter, Marty Ditchey (Roy); and granddaughters, Allyson and Kate Ditchey.

The Robert M. Howie Award was established by the Riverside County Farm Bureau in 1983 to honor Robert M. Howie. Each year, Farm Bureau makes the award to remind our industry the dedication and outstanding service to agriculture that Robert M. Howie demonstrated. This special award is given annually at our Annual meeting of members.

Mr. Howie was a great asset and a dear friend to the agricultural community. He will be greatly missed.

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Be sure to have your emergency response plan ready

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

Accidents by their very nature happen without warning, and being properly prepared may mean the difference between life and death. Unfortunately, many farm and ranch operators are not prepared if a serious accident occurred.

Adding to the seriousness of these situations is the fact that many farms and ranches are located far from urban centers and professional medical assistance, creating a time gap between when an accident occurs and expert medical aid can arrive on the scene. It is during this interval that advance emergency preparation may spell the difference between life and death for an accident victim. At times like these, it is simply too late to start thinking about emergency preparation—that needs to be in place before an accident occurs.

When an accident occurs, there is a tendency by those around the victim to panic and act quickly to provide aid. When confronted by an emergency, the first order of business is to assess the situation carefully. Calmly decide what steps need to be taken and in what order. Your calmness can help reassure the accident victim and actually increase his or her chance of survival.

It is important that all employers, family members and employees prepare for worksite emergencies. Here are some suggestions to follow:

- Take a close survey your operation and look for potential hazards and ask your employees to do the same and report any concerns to yourself or their foreman.
- Make sure that there are people on your farm or ranch who know the basics of first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and standard rescue procedures.
- Be sure that everyone on the farm knows where emergency supplies are located.
- Keep several first aid kits properly stocked for the types of emergencies that may occur at your operation. Don't forget to replace supplies as they are used or become outdated. Some items that you may want to include are emergency wash stations, personal protective equipment, oxygen tanks and ice packs.
- Have a good medical guide on hand that includes information on how to handle any situation—poisoning, bleeding, shock and other first aid procedures.
- Instruct your employees and family members on the proper procedures to follow for various emergency situations—fire, chemical spill, tractor rollover, PTO entanglement and so on.
- Make fire extinguishers readily available in several locations on the farm and train employees in their proper use.
- Post emergency response numbers (911 and any other relevant numbers) in prominent locations. Teach everyone, youngsters included, how to call for help.
- Draw up an emergency action plan for any situation. Make sure employees are trained and retrained in the possible

emergencies that may occur, the emergency procedures to follow, and first aid or rescue procedures, and the location of emergency response equipment.

First aid provides only temporary assistance until expert medical personnel arrive on the scene. Call for help as soon as possible and teach others, including youngsters how to call for help.

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CFBF Conducts Water Shortage Impact Survey

The California Farm Bureau Federation is conducting a Water Shortage Impact Survey to determine the effects drought and water delivery reductions are having on family farmers and ranchers in our state.

As water allocations are reduced throughout California, farmers are having to make tough decisions regarding continuing with crops already in the ground, fallowing fields and stumping trees due to the extreme uncertainty of immediate and future water supplies.

We need to know exactly how this water shortage is impacting Farm Bureau members so we can fight for their needs. Policy makers must know that without a reliable water supply we cannot continue to feed California, the United States and the world.

Last week, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency in nine Central Valley counties, due to water shortages: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern.

The Governor's Executive Order earlier this month declared a statewide drought and he directed his state agencies and departments to take immediate action to address the serious conditions and water delivery reductions that exist in California

Although a state of emergency has been declared, the California Farm Bureau still needs information from growers across the state detailing how water shortages have impacted them.


We are experiencing a water crisis, there is no doubt about it. We have to make this crisis clear to policy makers and we can only make it clear with your help. I know this is a busy time of year and growers have a lot going on, but please take the time to answer the questions in this simple survey and forward it on to anyone this might impact. Five minutes of your time will help us help all farmers and ranchers who are being affected by this crisis.

You can participate in the survey by going to www.cfbf.com/watersurvey/. Or look for the survey in this week's issue of Ag Alert. Also attached is a PDF version of the survey. Please distribute hard copies to your members and feel free to add the survey to your county newsletters. If you have any questions about the survey please contact Danny Merkley, CFBF Director of Water Resources at (916) 446-4647.

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- ☼ July 24th - WRCAC meeting, 9 am at the Nuevo Water District.
- ☼ August 20th - San Jacinto River council "Gap" meeting at the San Jacinto School District office at 2 pm.
- ☼ August 26th - LE/CL TMDL meeting - 1:30 pm at the EVMWD office.
- ☼ September 10th - RCFB Board meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant, Indio at 6 pm.



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