



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

THE DANGERS OF AGROTERRORISM

By Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

In April, President Brad Scott, Director Richard Schmid, and I had the privilege of being asked to attend the first of several workshops on the threat of agro-terrorism. The first workshop was entitled, "Understanding the Dangers of Agro-terrorism."

These workshops were prepared by the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) combined with the expertise of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Department of Health Services, the University of California, private industry, and federal agencies to address emerging threats to the food system.

According to WIFSS, "Agro-terrorism is defined as an intentional criminal act perpetrated on some segment of the agriculture industry and/or the food system, intended to inflict harm (public health crisis or economic disruption) and intended to achieve the objectives of the terrorist."

"The United States' agricultural and food systems are vulnerable to terrorist attacks and to a wide spectrum of natural disasters. These events can cripple capacity to deliver safe, affordable food in sufficient amounts for the U.S. populace. The negative impact may spread well beyond U.S. borders to other nations. Potential agricultural targets are greatly varied and include animals, plants, and food processing facilities. The complexity of domestic food production and processing, as well as domestic and international distribution networks may make detection of agro-terrorism and recall of intentionally contaminated food extremely difficult."

How can farmers and ranchers in Riverside County as well as the state and nation prepare and/or prevent agro-terrorism? The best way is to be aware of activity on and around your farm or facility. Report any suspicious individuals to the police immediately. Be certain your chemicals are locked in a secure area and night-lights and any video surveillance equipment is working and maintained properly. Secure all trucks that transport any food items from your facility. If you have an entrance gate that locks access to your property, make certain that it is locked. Prepare and train your employees of what to do in case they see or suspect an unusual activity on your farm or facility.

In food processing plants, have all visitors check-in and out in one main location. Deny access to anyone who cannot and/or will not show proper identification. Once again, train your employees of the importance of challenging anyone who does not have the proper authorization to be inside the building or on the property.

To combat any threat of agro-terrorism, it takes teamwork and communication between all aspects of our society. This includes farmers and ranchers, their employees, local, state, and federal agencies, as well as individuals who are aware of the dangers of agro-terrorism. Educate yourself and your employees about agro-terrorism. Be aware and prepare!

The next workshop, entitled "Principles of Preparedness for Agro-terrorism and Food Systems' Disasters," will be held on June 22nd at the Orange County Sheriff's Training Facility. If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact WIFSS at 530.757.8311 or email Maria Vicino at mvicino@wifss.ucdavis.edu.

Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB), in cooperation with WIFSS and the County Agriculture Commissioner's office is in the process bringing this series of workshops on agro-terrorism to Riverside County. The RCFB will keep its members informed as to the date, time, and location of the workshops.

For further information on how to become aware and prepare for any agro-terrorism, contact WIFSS at 530.757.5700 or at their website at www.wifss.ucdavis.edu.

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\$1000 Built Ford Tough Trucks/FFA Scholarship Awarded to Local Youth

David Garcia, a 2006 graduate of La Sierra has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship by, Fritts Ford and Ford Motor Company. Garcia's parents are Salvador Valenzuela and Maria Nunez of Riverside, and plans to study Teaching at Riverside Community College (CA).

The scholarship is one of 540 scholarships awarded by Ford Division, Ford Motor Company Fund and the Ford Dealers to FFA members who are high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall of 2006. The Built Ford Tough Trucks/FFA Scholarship Program recently celebrated its ninth full year.

535 scholarships are being awarded on behalf of individual participating Ford Dealers. Additionally, five \$1000 national scholarships are being awarded on behalf of Ford Division. The Built Ford Tough Truck/FFA Scholarship Program is designed to recognize FFA members' talents and accomplishments while encouraging

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Sid Sybrandy was born on December 31, 1951 in Artesia, California. His parents operated a small dairy in Artesia and later relocated to Ontario. In 1970, Sid graduated from Ontario Christian School and in 1975 he graduated from Cal Poly-Pomona with a B.S. degree in Animal Science.

In 1977, the family dairy moved to its present location in San Jacinto. Sid and his beautiful wife, Anne, have two children, Jason and Joleen, and four grand children.

Sid is an avid San Diego Chargers football fan and enjoys activities that involve his children and grandchildren including youth basketball and baseball.

Sid has been an active member and director in the Riverside County Farm Bureau since 1990 and has been its Second Vice President since 2002.

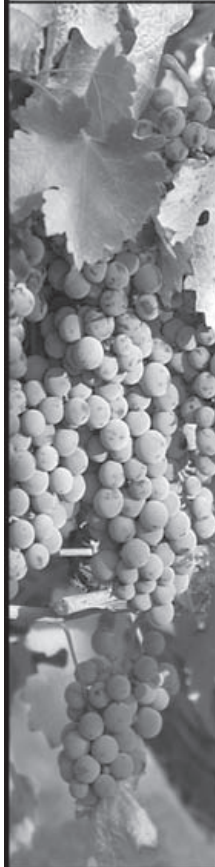
their past and future academic achievements. Built Ford Tough Trucks and Ford Motor Company Fund sponsor these scholarships as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Fritts Ford is proud to support FFA and the Built Ford Tough Truck/FFA Scholarship Program.

For 57 years Ford has supported FFA, and for more than 50 years, people all over America have been putting Built Ford Tough Trucks to work. Ford knows the value of hard work, and believes that hard work should be rewarded. That's why Ford has increased the Built Ford Tough Truck/FFA Scholarship Fund each year since its inception. Educating aspiring young people to become the leaders of tomorrow is just another way of ensuring a successful future.

FFA is a national youth organization of over 490,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with approximately 7,210 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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21160 Box Springs Road, #102
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***Any forms received after September 1, 2006 will not be considered for the award.**

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The Farm Team has been busy these last few months. The participation of our members has moved important legislation along, helping to protect the future viability of California's family farms and ranches.

Auto Insurance Rates:

The Department of Insurance proposed changing auto insurance rates based upon location so that rates of rural drivers would increase. As a result of action taken by Farm Team members, a bipartisan group of legislators introduced AB 2840, a bill that requires a study be conducted before changes to auto insurance rating factors can go into effect.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

Farm Team really stepped up, as the House Immigration Bill came to the Senate. Over 1,000 letters were sent to Capitol Hill, and with great success! After receiving your letters, Dianne Feinstein became convinced of farming's unique needs and introduced a temporary worker amendment. However, our work is not done – the bill now goes to conference committee where it is unsure how quickly they will act.

Permanent Repeal of the Death Tax:

Once again, the Death Tax debate has come up in the Senate. Farm Team members did an excellent job of sending in their stories, which paired with Farm Bureau leadership traveling to Washington D.C., showed just how important permanent repeal is to California family farms and ranches.

Unfortunately, the Senate failed to pass the cloture hurdle. Regardless, there are still four more years until the sunset provision expires, and the tax level bounces back to where it was prior to the 2001 tax cuts. We continue to put your stories before our Senators and fight for permanent repeal.

Your participation in Farm Team is making a difference! In one of the most highly regulated states in the nation, your perspective is key to improving the business climate for California's family farmers and ranchers.

While your operations get busy in the summer months, don't forget about Farm Team – as surely our political battles will heat up too. Not a Farm Team member? Visit www.cfbf.com and click on "Join the Farm Team"



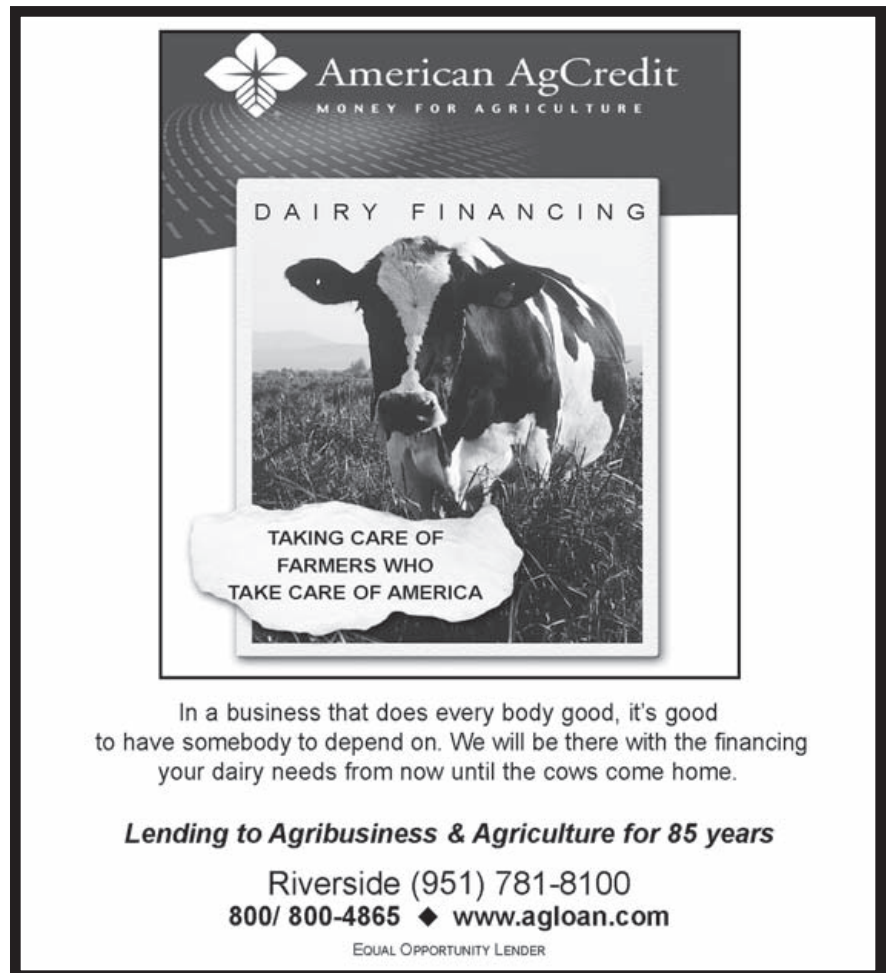
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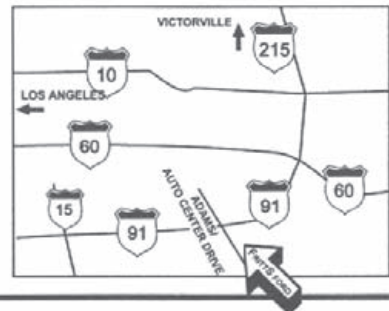
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The official publication of

Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

Our 60th Year of Publication: Volume LX, Number 6, June 2006.

(USPS 466-900) Published monthly by Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc., a non-profit organization serving farmers and ranchers at 21160 Box Springs Road, #102, Moreno Valley, California 92557. Telephone 951/684-6732 or Fax 951/782-0621. Subscriptions: \$1 per year of membership dues. Periodicals postage paid at Riverside, California 92507, under act of March 3, 1887. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 21160 Box Springs Rd., #102, Moreno Valley, CA 92557.



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JUNE / JULY 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✱ June 28th - 9 am, Western Riverside County Ag Coalition meeting at the Nuevo Water District office.
- ✱ July 3rd & 4th - The RCFB office will be closed to observe Independence Day.
- ✱ July 11th - 1:30 pm, San Jacinto Watershed TMDL meeting at the EVMWD office.
- ✱ July 12th - 6:30 pm, RCFB Board of Directors meeting at Carrows Restaurant, Banning.
- ✱ Please Note: There will be no Board meeting in August.

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