



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

NEW HEAT-ILLNESS PREVENTION RULES

With warm weather and long, hot summer days just ahead, Riverside County farmers and ranchers must be aware of the new heat-illness prevention standards that were adopted by Cal-OSHA last August.

Commonly referred to as General Industry Safety Order (GISO) 3395, the new standards are specific to outdoor work when risk factors are present that may place workers at risk for heat related illnesses. Most of these standards are already required by other regulations, such as fresh drinking water, first aid, and emergency response procedures. The new requirements, however, deal with risk factors that are specific to temperature, such as humidity, ambient air temperature, as well as other heat sources that may increase the temperature where the work is being performed. Heat from engines, for example, is a source of heat that may increase temperature.

The new requirements go on to define the new training rules. According to the Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS), “Employers must educate covered employees and their supervisors on ways to avoid heat illness and steps to take if it nonetheless occurs. The following topics must be covered with employees:

- Environmental risk factors for heat illness – this means working conditions that affect the possibility that heat illness could occur, including air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and other sources, conductive heat sources such as the ground, air movement, workload severity and duration, protective clothing and personal protective equipment worn by employees.
- Personal risk factors for heat illness – this refers to factors such as an individual’s age, degree of acclimatization, health, water consumption, alcohol consumption, caffeine consumption, and use of prescription medications that affect the body’s water retention or other physiological responses to heat. This must include the employer’s procedures for identifying, evaluating, and controlling exposures to the environmental and personal risk factors for heat illness.” For instance, “An employer must provide employees suffering from heat illness or who believe they need time to recover from heat exposure to prevent the onset of heat illness with access to cooling shade for at least five minutes. The employer must also stress the importance of frequent consumption of small quantities of water, up to four cups per hour under extreme conditions of work and heat.” Once again, “An employer must either have on hand one quart of drinking water per hour per employee at the start of a shift or show that procedures were in place to replenish the water supply to enable each employee to drink that much water. Further, an employer must stress the importance of frequent water consumption.”

FELS also points out that the employer must train his/her employees on the importance of acclimatization. Once again, according to FELS, “Acclimatization means temporary adaptation of the body to work in the heat that occurs gradually when a person is exposed to heat. Acclimatization peaks in most people within four to fourteen days of regular work for a least two hours per day in the heat.”

Employers must now train their employees on the different types of heat illness and the common signs and symptoms of heat illness; the importance of immediately reporting any heat illness to the employer, directly or through a supervisor; and the employer’s emergency medical service plan including phone numbers of emergency transportation, and directions for emergency responders. In addition, for supervisors, the employer must train them on the proper procedures he/she is to follow to implement in case of an employee heat related illness and the procedures the supervisor is to follow when an employee exhibits symptoms consistent with possible heat illness.

When rules and regulations change, don’t forget to update your Injury, Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). You may obtain further information on heat related illness by going online to www.scif.com/safety/losscontrol or contacting FELS at 800.753.9073. FELS website is www.fels.org.

Inside This Issue...

Meet Your Directors	3
FarmPac Fundraiser	4
WNV Update	5
Calendar of Events	8

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FUN FARM FACTS

Frankly, my dear, Americans will eat approximately 7 billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day this year. Laid end-to-end, those hot dogs would stretch around the equator 27 times.

California's 22,000 beef cattle producers make up just .03 percent of the state's population and only 1 percent of U.S. beef producers, but they produce about 4 percent of the nation's beef.

California's Coachella Valley is known as the date capital of the world. A healthy date palm can produce 300 to 600 pounds of dates per year, and will produce for 100 years or more.

If all the strawberries produced in California this year were laid berry to berry, they'd wrap around the world 15 times.

RCFB CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

The Riverside County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors has voted to endorse the following candidates for office. The candidates are:

Jerry Lewis for Congress, 41st District

Ken Calvert for Congress, 44th District

Mary Bono for Congress, 45th District

Darrell Issa for Congress, 49th District

Ray Haynes for Board of Equalization, 3rd District

Dennis Hollingsworth for State Senate, 36th District

John Benoit for Assemblyman, 64th District

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

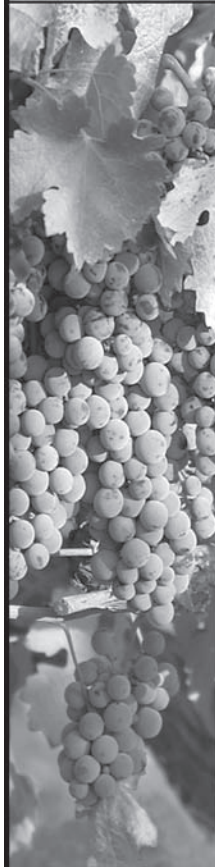


Richard (Rick) Schmid was born on November 15, 1966, in Michigan. In 1977, he moved to Riverside with his family. Rick graduated from La Sierra Academy. In August of 1985, Rick joined the Navy and became an airborne anti-submarine warfare technician. Rick earned his flight "wings" in December 1986.

It was during training at Moffett Field near San Francisco that he met his lovely wife, Alma. He and Alma were married in December 1986, and left shortly afterwards for his duty station at Barbers Point, Hawaii. After seven years at Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii, the Schmidts were transferred to North Island in San Diego. Rick left the Navy in 1996 after eleven years of service. At that time, he and his father decided to form a limited partnership and start a beekeeping operation based in Homeland, California. Rick enjoys camping, family gatherings, and water activities.

Rick has been active in the Farm Bureau serving as a director since 1997 and is the chairman of the RCFB's Rural Health, Safety, and Crime Prevention Committee.

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Co-hosted by the Riverside and San Bernardino County Farm Bureaus, the first annual FarmPac fundraiser was a great success.

The event, named "Seeds of Change," raised over \$7,750 that will be used to support candidates and causes beneficial to agriculture in California. The FarmPac fundraiser was well attended by farmers, ranchers, and supporters from the Inland Empire. Representatives from Assemblyman Emmerson's office and from Congressman Joe Baca's office also attended. Overall, seventy-eight people attended including CFBF President, Doug Mosebar, CFBF 2nd Vice President, Kenny Watkins, CFBF Administrator, George Gomes, and guest speaker CFBF Director of Labor Affairs Roy Gabriel.



Jim and Kathy Rietkerk

I would like to thank Jim and Kathy Rietkerk for the use of their nursery and for their hard work in making this event a success. I would also like to thank all of the event's sponsors and those individuals who took the time to attend the event and/or make donations to FarmPac®.



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WATER AND WARM WEATHER MEAN MORE MOSQUITOES AND WEST NILE VIRUS, STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER WARNS

SACRAMENTO – Heavy rain and warm weather are perfect ingredients for breeding mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus (WNV), State Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Horton warned today.

“While no predictions can be made on the severity of West Nile virus this season, record rainfall this spring has saturated yards to create perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes,” Horton said. “Californians need to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites by eliminating all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding and applying insect repellent containing DEET.”

Horton encouraged the public to remain vigilant and “fight the bite” during an event at the State Capitol to mark WNV Awareness Week. WNV was first detected in California four years ago. So far this year, WNV has been detected in 12 birds in Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara and Ventura counties.

In 2005, a total of 935 human WNV infections, including 19 deaths, were reported in the 54 counties that detected WNV activity. Of the 456 horses that also tested positive for WNV, 200 died or were euthanized.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Health officials emphasized that the risk of serious illness to humans is low. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. However, elderly individuals and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk for serious illness. Individuals with diabetes or hypertension also appear to be more prone to develop more serious complications from WNV, according to research by CDHS’ Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory.

Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger included \$12 million in the state budget to supplement the resources of existing mosquito control programs statewide and to expand efforts in areas of the state currently not covered to combat WNV. That investment in equipment and other products to control mosquitoes continues to benefit mosquito control efforts this year.

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) will continue to use a sophisticated geographic information system it began using last year to track regions at elevated risk for WNV. The system is able to produce detailed color maps that identify the locations of birds that succumbed to WNV and indicate with a high degree of accuracy the areas where human WNV illnesses are more likely to occur. The system is determining the areas for enhanced surveillance and control efforts by local agencies.

Horton recommended four simple ways for individuals to protect themselves from WNV:

- Eliminate all standing water buckets, flowerpots, old tires, gutters and other sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding.
- Wear DEET, the most effective insect repellent, picaradin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants if you’re going to be out at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Make sure all window screens in the home are in good repair and functional.

Californians are encouraged to report dead birds by calling toll-free 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or logging on to www.westnile.ca.gov.



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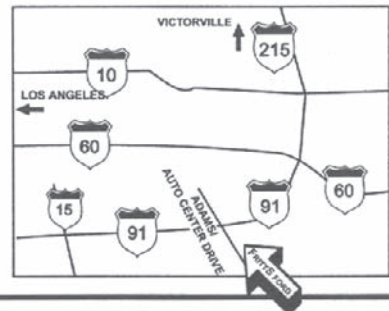
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MAY / JUNE 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✱ May 29th - The RCFB office will be closed to observe Memorial Day.
- ✱ Jun. 2nd - 9:00 am, AQMD Board meeting to discuss Rule 223, AQMD headquarters in Diamond Bar.
- ✱ Jun. 13th - 9:00 am, Annual Committee meeting at RCFB office.
- ✱ Jun. 14th - 6:30 pm, RCFB Board of Directors meeting, Carrows Restaurant in Banning.
- ✱ Jun. 22nd - 8:30 am, Water Symposium at the Hyatt in Palm Desert.

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