



Riverside County

# AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## Cal/OSHA Inspections

Cal/OSHA Inspectors make unannounced visits to ensure California workplaces are safe and healthy. If your business has a documented uncontrolled hazard and, as a result, receives a Cal/OSHA citation, the resulting penalties, legal issues, and lowered employee morale and publicity can have serious financial and business impacts. Managers, supervisors, and employees need to know what to expect during a Cal/OSHA inspection and how to respond appropriately.

Cal/OSHA conducts site inspections in cases of imminent danger or industrial accidents. A fatal injury to one or more employee; a serious injury or illness; a serious exposure; or the inpatient hospitalization, regardless of duration, of three (3) or more employees (a catastrophe) will trigger an accident investigation and must be reported to Cal/OSHA within 8 hours. Inspectors also focus on high-hazard work sites and industries with loss rates at or above Bureau of Labor Statistics averages.

Inspectors will also visit worksites as a response to employee complaints posing an imminent danger. At times, employee complaints may be considered low risk. These are handled with a letter reporting general information and a request to follow-up and report back within a certain time period. Conduct investigations into these complaints, gather documentation, and submit it in writing on time to the Cal/OSHA office. Note that the name of the complaining employee will be kept confidential. It is against the law to retaliate against employees for reporting safety hazards and concerns.

Cal/OSHA inspectors will present their identification and request permission from a management representative to conduct a site inspection. Instruct your receptionist and/or security personnel on which management staff should be notified of a visit. Inspectors will wait onsite about one hour for management contact. They will conduct an opening conference to explain the reason for the visit. Inspection walkthroughs may include your entire facility, or a targeted work area. Inspectors have the right to walk around the building (accompanied), interview employees in private, and document hazards with photos and measurements.

When you work with an inspector, be courteous and friendly. Limit the inspection focus to only the documents and facility areas listed in the opening conference. Accompany the inspector at all times, though private employee interviews can be arranged in controlled access conference rooms. Provide neutral, fact-based answers to the inspector's questions; don't offer opinions or guess at answers. It is okay to offer follow-up at a later date. Don't argue with an inspector. Also don't agree with comments, as they may be incorrect. Don't make jokes about health and safety, worksite, or personnel matters. Keep notes, photos, and records during the visit. If the inspector takes measurements and readings, conduct the same measurements and readings simultaneously.

After the walkthrough, the inspector should conduct a closing conference to provide inspection results, next steps, and timelines. Inspectors may request protocols, work procedures, or other documents. Deadlines for submittal range between 24 hours and 14 days. The Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) may be required immediately, since it is required to be readily accessible to employees. Conduct follow-up investigations, corrective actions, and gather requested documents and provide them to the inspector by the stated deadline. Missed deadlines can result in further site inspections or citations.

Cal/OSHA inspections are unannounced. Start planning now so you can present a competent, organized, and complaint response to a Cal/OSHA inspection. Designate and train staff to respond to Cal/OSHA inspectors. Maintain your safety program and employee training procedures at appropriate levels. Keep safety records organized and on site and ensure key staff know how to access them.

Source: Cal/OSHA website: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/Pol/P&PC-1A.HTM>

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## Riverside County farmers honored for safety records

Twelve County farmers are among the winners of this year's Farm Bureau State Fund Group Insurance Program's safety-award program.

The beautifully engraved safety awards are presented to those agricultural employers who had perfect safety records among State Compensation Insurance Fund's Farm Bureau group policyholders in 2007. They achieved the lowest injury losses among policyholders with premiums of \$20,000 and above.

"State Fund is proud to honor these individuals and we congratulate them for outstanding safety efforts," said Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager for State Fund. "We hope the program inspires others to safety excellence."

Danielle Rau, CFBF Rural Health and Safety Program director, said the winners are excellent examples of successful farmers who recognize the importance of making farms and ranches safe places to live and work.

"We've seen in recent years a significant decrease in the number of injuries reported on the farm. We believe this is due to the rise in safety awareness efforts and incentive programs such as this," said Rau.

"Day-to-day farming operations can be tedious. The safety awards program reminds farmers and their employees not to take their safety for granted, 'or get sleepy at the switch.' Complacency is a prime suspect in workplace injuries," she said.

Remember that unnecessary injuries and illnesses can be prevented on farms and ranches by incorporating an effective safety-training program. If you take the time to do this, you should save time, money and a lot of suffering in the coming year.

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



# Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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[www.RiversideCFB.com](http://www.RiversideCFB.com) Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

## NO ON PROPOSITION 2 Resolution of Opposition

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WHEREAS, a Washington, D.C. based special interest group has qualified an initiative for the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot that would ban current safe and humane farming practices in California, particularly regarding housing requirements for egg-laying hens; and

WHEREAS, this unnecessary initiative would place new, extreme mandates on how egg-laying hens are housed, banning almost all modern egg production in California, which would have dangerous and expensive consequences for our county and state; and

WHEREAS, existing laws and standards already protect animal welfare and food safety; and

WHEREAS, modern housing systems, which constitute about 95 percent of U.S. egg production, were developed by animal scientists to ensure the fundamental components of sound animal care-optimal feed, light, air, water, space and sanitation for egg-laying hens; and

WHEREAS, banning current housing practices threatens food safety and increases the risk of salmonella; and

WHEREAS, new mandates would expose farm animals to deadly diseases such as avian flu, which jeopardizes public health; and

WHEREAS, the measure would cut off access to safe, local eggs from California farmers, forcing Californians to rely on imported eggs trucked from thousands of miles away from other states and Mexico, where egg farmers are not subject to the same safety guidelines as California egg farmers; and

WHEREAS, the measure would harm California's economy and drive up consumer prices, and egg production costs would rise by 76 percent, the state and county would lose thousands of jobs and \$615 million in economic activity, and millions more in lost state and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of veterinarians, family farmers and consumers have joined together to oppose this initiative;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Riverside County Farm Bureau opposes Proposition 2, the Farm Animal Initiative of 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Riverside County Farm Bureau does hereby adopt this resolution this, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

Grant Chaffin, President  
Riverside County Farm Bureau

### RCFB Board of Directors Endorses

Randy Record for EMWD Board of Directors  
John Fricker for Lake Hemet MWD Board of Directors

The California State Republican Party has endorsed a NO vote on Proposition 2.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of Riverside County Farm Bureau, election of officers and directors will be held by voting members at the Annual Meeting on November 15, 2008, at the Desert Falls Country Club in Palm Desert. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Board of Directors for election for the 2009 Membership Year:

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### **‘Musseling’ their way into our waterways**

By Mike Wade, Executive Director,  
California Farm Water Coalition

My family enjoys it when I pull the boat out and we travel to a nearby lake for a day of relaxation and water skiing. But these types of outings by boat owners are causing a very serious problem to California’s water supply system.

Quagga mussels—sounds like a villainous creature from a late-night horror flick—are now invading our waterways after a relaxing cruise from their home in the Ukraine. They visited the Great Lakes before showing up in Lake Mead on the Colorado River and then crossed the border to various Southern California waterways.

These one-inch in diameter mollusks breed at a rapid pace. A single adult quagga mussel releases as many as 10,000 larvae at a time, up to 1 million in a single reproductive season. They attach themselves to one another and create a wall of mussels that can block water flowing through delivery pipes, forcing water districts to spend extra dollars and man hours to keep their systems clear. The mussels can also strip an area clean of vegetation that other species rely upon for a food supply.

Quagga mussels first showed up in the Great Lakes in the 1980s. Researchers point to water ballast unloaded from visiting ships from Europe as the likely avenue of transport. It was only a matter of time as they hitch hiked their way attached to the hulls of pleasure boats to other regions across the United States.

State agencies have banded together to block these mussels from gaining a permanent foothold in California. State Food and Agriculture inspectors at entry points to California have increased their efforts to fully check any boats to verify they are not harboring the troublesome mussels. Fish and Game officials have stepped up their surveillance at in-state lakes and reservoirs. Boat owners have been warned to thoroughly give their boats a look-over before leaving or entering the water.

The Coachella Valley Water District is taking steps to block the mussels from entering its distribution system by daily adding chlorine into the Coachella Canal close to where it branches off from the All American Canal. We should all hope that the district’s efforts will provide a blueprint on how to stop the march of the mussels.

Meanwhile, you can be assured that I will keep an eye out for any unwanted hitchhikers when my family goes boating.

.....CONT. FROM PAGE 2.

Riverside County’s award recipients are: Joey De Coninck, Galleano Winery Inc., Ag Accounting LLC, Manuel A. Milke, Washburn & Sons Inc., NCH Calf Ranch, Mesquite Enterprises, New Union Farm Inc., Dwight H. Holcomb, Rico Trucking LLC, Dowlin L. Young, and Washburn Grove Management.

Since 1943, the California Farm Bureau and State Fund partnership has provided farmers affordable worker compensation insurance coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the SCIF Web site at [www.scif.com](http://www.scif.com).

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Where: Rancho California Water District Board Room

When: November 6, 2008 from 9:00 to 12:30

- 9:00 – 9:20** - Overview and Authorities of the Statewide Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program - Johnny Gonzales, State Water Resources Control Board
- 9:20 – 10:00** - New Ag Waiver for the San Diego Region (including Temecula Valley) - Pete Peuron, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 10:00 – 10:40** - Current Agricultural Regulation and Proposed Conditional Waiver for Ag Discharges in the Santa Ana Region - Mark Adelson, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 10:40 – 10:50** - Break
- 10:50 - 11:40** - A Grower's Guide to Water Quality & Irrigation Efficiency, Justin Haessly - Mission Resource Conservation District
- 11:40 – 12:10** - Management Options for Agricultural Water Quality – Dr. Valerie Mellano, University of California Extension
- 12:10 – 12:30** - Sources, Patterns & Mechanisms of Stormwater Pollutant Loading from Watersheds & Land Uses of the Greater Los Angeles Area - Liesl Tiefenthaler, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

For more information, contact Pete Peuron at (858) 637-7137 or [Peuron@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peuron@waterboards.ca.gov)

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### 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ☪ Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – LE/CL TMDL meeting, 1:30 pm at LEMWD office.
- ☪ Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – DWR Workshop – 10 am at the RWQCB, Riverside.
- ☪ Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – WRCAC meeting – 9 am at the Nuevo Water District office.
- ☪ Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – RCFB Annual Meeting – call for details.
- ☪ Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Region 1 Caucus at the RCFB office – 10 am.
- ☪ Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – RCFB office closed to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.



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