

FARM BUREAU

OF VENTURA COUNTY
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR AGRICULTURE

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Ventura County targeted for drought disaster assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Ventura and 26 other California counties natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by extreme drought.

Agricultural operators in all counties designated as natural disaster areas may qualify for low-interest emergency (EM)

Farmers and ranchers in designated counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the EM loan to help cover part of their actual losses.

loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Counties that are contiguous to the primary disaster counties declared also qualify for USDA natural disaster assistance. The agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. The maximum

amount for an EM loan is \$500,000.

"Just about everyone in California agriculture has been negatively affected by drought this year," said Val Dolcini, Farm Service Agency state executive director. "California's

diverse farmers and ranchers of all sizes and backgrounds have experienced drought conditions and water shortages and may find help at FSA offices."

Farmers and ranchers in designated counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the EM loan to help cover part of their actual losses.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has conservation-related disaster assistance to protect soil, water and habitat (www.nrcs.usda.gov). The Farm Service Agency's Emergency Conservation Program may also help restore conservation-related farm property and facilities. And the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is available for producers who have enrolled in this annual protection program prior to the deadline earlier this year.

Contact the Ventura-Santa Barbara FSA office regarding program eligibility requirements and application procedures: 920 E. Stowell Road, Santa Maria, (805) 928-9269, Ext. 2 Additional information is also available at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Informational meeting set for international agricultural tour

An informational meeting will be held Feb. 13 for everyone interested in participating in Farm Bureau of Ventura County's agricultural tour of Argentina next summer. Departing Aug. 30 and returning Sept. 11, the tour will include visits to citrus and avocado production areas, packinghouses and experimental farms, plus historical sites, wineries and more.

The informational meeting for all potential tour participants will be at 5 p.m. in the Farm Bureau conference room, 5156 McGrath St., Ventura. Refreshments will be served, and

Brian T. Robertson, owner of Robertson International Travel Consultants of Santa Barbara — who is coordinating and booking the tour — will be on hand to describe the trip itinerary and answer questions.

Please RSVP for the informational meeting no later than Feb. 10 by calling the Farm Bureau at (805) 289-0155 or sending an email to john@farmbureauvc.com.

Argentina is the world's No. 1 producer of lemons, and it is an increasingly important producer of avocados. The itinerary for this trip will provide a first-hand look at the Argentinian

countryside, allowing participants to meet the growers, the packers and the researchers who are helping drive this formidable competitor to our domestic fruit industry. Mr. Robertson is also working with the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires to arrange for a meeting with the agriculture attaché.

But it won't be all business. Argentina has a rich history, a diverse culture and spectacular scenery. Our hosts have arranged a delightful array of diversions along the way. You'll have a chance to enjoy Tango Night at a Buenos Aires restaurant, explore colonial villages and pre-Columbian ruins, look for exotic wildlife in a rain forest, taste wine amid mountain vineyards, and view one of the scenic wonders of the country: the spectacular cataracts of Iguazú Falls.

As a bonus, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's student scholarship fund.

While in Argentina, the tour group will be led by Jorge H. Cazenave, Sr., the founder of Cazenave y Asociados, an agricultural consulting company that originally focused on farm management and exporting, and later expanded into international agricultural touring. He served as the agricultural attaché in the Argentine Embassy in Washington, D.C., and was subsequently appointed Argentina's undersecretary for agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food. Also accompanying the group will be John Krist, chief executive officer of Farm Bureau of Ventura County.

What's Inside?

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UCCE plans Day of Science and Service

By Rose Hayden-Smith, Connie Schneider, Marissa (Palin) Stein and Yana Valachovic

On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Smith-Lever Act, which created the world's first system connecting public higher education with citizen scientists in the pursuit of service to the land and its people. Smith-Lever was the beginning of the Cooperative Extension Service, now called UCCE in California, which strongly tied service, science and citizen participation in scientific enterprises together.

"Citizen Science" (also known as crowd science, crowd-sourced science, networked science, or public participation in science research), is a form of participatory scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by

amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Citizen science has been defined as "the systematic collection and analysis of data; development of technology; testing of natural phenomena; and the dissemination of these activities by researchers on a primarily avocational basis."

An example of an international citizen science project is the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Day Bird Count. Increasingly, data for these projects is collected via social or web-based technologies, or even via mobile applications. A good example of this is the iNaturalist smartphone application, which is used by a number of organizations, including the UC Master Naturalist Program.

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, each UCCE office and UC Research and Extension Center,

as well as each UC campus, will be asked to participate in and host for those they work with a Day of Science and Service, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever legislation. Activities will be designed around UC ANR-wide citizen science projects.

Simple questions (aligning with strategic initiative areas) will be developed, and citizens of all ages (youth to adult) will be encouraged to participate in at least one activity. Individuals will be able to submit their responses to questions via computer-based or mobile applications, including popular social media technologies such as Twitter and Instagram, using a common hashtag to link the responses.

After the Day of Science and Service, the data will be tabulated, analyzed, and shared with participants. Simple and easy-to-tabulate questions are currently being formulated. Some examples might include: How many minutes did you spend in the shower today? How many pollinators can you count in your front yard, schoolyard, community park etc.? Why do farmers irrigate plastic-covered fields? Why do growers cut the tops off of citrus trees?

Complete information about the Ventura County event will be available in February. Farm Bureau and the Cooperative Extension Service were born together, and the local UCCE Office hopes that Farm Bureau members will participate in this activity.

— Rose Hayden-Smith is based in the UCCE office in Ventura. Connie Schneider and Marissa (Palin) Stein are at UC Davis. Yana Valachovic is based in the UCCE office in Humboldt County.

Ag Leadership Program seeks applicants for Class 45

Applications are now being accepted for Class 45 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Growers, farmers, ranchers and individuals working in allied businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply.

The Ag Leadership Program, operated by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF), is considered to be one of the premier leadership development experiences in the United States. More than 1,200 men and women have participated in the program and are influential leaders and active volunteers in the agriculture industry, communities and other areas.

The 16-month program, from October 2014 to January 2016, is *(continued on page 3)*



Land As Your Legacy

IF YOU WANT A SAY in what happens to your farm or ranch, you need a plan.

It's your land and you should decide who inherits it. But if you want to ensure your wishes are carried out after you're gone, then you need a transition plan. It ensures your wishes are honored and minimizes legal difficulties and confusion for your family as your operation transitions to the next generation.

So, join us for a no-obligation seminar to learn how you can take control of your legacy. We'll cover topics such as the benefits of having a transition plan, who needs one and what you need to do to get your plan in place.

SPONSORED BY: Farm Bureau of Ventura County

EVENT DETAILS:

Wednesday, March 5
8 a.m. — Breakfast is included
Courtyard by Marriott
600 E. Esplanade Drive
Oxnard, CA 93036

For Farm Bureau Members Only
Please RSVP by Friday, February 28, by calling (805) 289-0155 or sending email to admin@farmbureauvc.com. The workshop is free.

SPEAKERS:
Mike Kirkpatrick, CLU, ChFC
Land As Your Legacy Financial Consultant
Advanced Consulting Group
Nationwide Financial
(916) 751-9513
kirkpm1@nationwide.com

Just remember, federal income tax laws are complex and subject to change. The information in this presentation is based on current interpretations of the law and is not guaranteed. Neither the company nor its representatives give legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for answers to specific questions.

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Keep your OSHA 300 Log up to date

By Mike Klimenko

As a farm employer, it is very important to stay current on the recordkeeping requirements of the California Division of Occupational Health (Cal/OSHA) relating to safety in the workplace. Required records include the OSHA 300 Log and documents about safety hazard analysis, inspections, and accident investigations.

The OSHA 300 log is probably the most familiar to workers and employers. It records all work-related deaths along with injuries and illnesses that require more than first aid treatment. An annual summary of injuries and illnesses is required to be posted in the workplace. Some small businesses (fewer than 10 employees) and certain industries may have limited exemptions from this recordkeeping requirement.

Keeping track of all of the recordkeeping requirements can be very challenging, but it is necessary. For this reason, State Fund has taken up the task of making it easier for all of our policyholders. We have developed a

Ag Leadership Program

(cont'd from page 2)

composed of monthly seminars delivered by Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, UC Davis and other academic institutions. Fellows also participate in a 10-day national travel seminar and a 15-day international travel seminar. Seminars provide a comprehensive curriculum focusing on a variety of subject matter.

"Ag Leadership is an incredible educational opportunity for emerging or mid-career leaders in agriculture," said CALF President and CEO Bob Gray. "Fellows will gain important skills and awareness to enhance their leadership capabilities and effectiveness in a rapidly changing environment. They will be better prepared to assess and deal with the challenges affecting their business, agricultural associations and community."

CALF invests approximately \$45,000 per fellow to participate in the Ag Leadership Program. The costs are underwritten by individual and industry donations.

Detailed program information and the phase one application are online at www.agleaders.org. The phase one application is due no later than May 12, but individuals are encouraged to complete it earlier.

bulletin that provides instructions on keeping the 300 Log.

For instructions on keeping the 300 Log, see the State Fund Loss Control Bulletin *Required Recordkeeping Procedures* at www.statefundca.com/safety/losscontrol/LossControlArticle.aspx?ArticleID=311. For instructions on reporting illnesses and injuries that require treatment beyond first aid, see *First Aid Reporting Requirements* at www.statefundca.com/safety/losscontrol/LossControlArticle.aspx?ArticleID=301.

Cal/OSHA also requires employers to keep records on hazard evaluations and the corrective actions taken to reduce or control safety risks in the workplace. Job hazard analysis evaluates a worker's job tasks, tools, equipment and procedures to determine the level of safety risk and how to control it. Employers should also examine and plan for hazards associated with new tools, equipment, chemicals, tasks, and work environments. Keeping records of these hazard evaluations and risk reduction efforts can document that a business has diligently worked to protect workers. Communicate with employees about these evaluations to make them aware of job hazards and help them work safer.

Periodic workplace safety inspections identify hazards in the workplace. Keep records of the identified hazards and the actions that were taken to correct them. Investigate all employee accidents and near misses to determine the root cause of the accident. Document any corrective actions taken to reduce the risk of further accidents. Take the same steps when investigating employee complaints by recording the investigation process and any necessary corrective actions. Communicate the results of inspections, accident investigations, and complaint response to employees.

For copies of OSHA's Form 300, 300A, and 301 or further information clarifying mandatory recordkeeping, including which employers are exempt or no longer exempt, visit Cal/OSHA's Web site, or the federal OSHA Web site. For employers without Internet access or for questions not addressed on these Web sites, call your local Cal/OSHA consultation office.

— Mike Klimenko is Farm Bureau group manager for State Compensation Insurance Fund. Contact him at mnklimenko@scif.com.

Member Benefits

TICKETS & DISCOUNTS

Farm Bureau members qualify for discounts on admission to many of Southern California's most popular theme parks and other attractions. To take advantage of any of these special offers, drop by the Farm Bureau office at 5156 McGrath St. in Ventura. You can also place an order and pay by phone, and have the tickets mailed to you. For more information, contact Cissy Perez-Haas at (805) 289-0155. Have your membership number handy. We accept Visa and MasterCard.

Aquarium of the Pacific — Adult (12+ yrs): \$19.95 (save \$9); Child (3-11 yrs): \$11.95 (save \$3). Valid thru 12/31/14 except 4/11-13 & 12/25 2014.

California Adventure and Disneyland 1-day

Park Hopper — Adult (10+ yrs): \$131 (save \$6); Child (3-9 yrs): \$126 (save \$4). Valid through 12/31/14.

Cinemark Theatres — Platinum ticket, valid any show time at all Cinemark & Century locations: \$8.25 (savings \$2.75). Additional premiums may be applied for specially priced films and/or events priced higher than normal box office. No expiration.

Knott's Berry Farm — Buena Park/Palm Springs. Adult (12+ yrs) \$34.95 (save \$27.05); Junior (3-11 yrs) Senior (62+ yrs) \$29.95 (save \$3.05). Valid thru 12/31/2014.

Six Flags Magic Mountain — General use ticket (3+ yrs): \$40.95 (save \$27.04). Valid thru 9/28/14.

Regal Cinemas — Unrestricted tickets \$8.25 (regularly \$9.50 Sun.-Thurs, \$10 Fri.-Sat). Good at Edwards, Regal, Signature and United Artists Theaters. No expiration.

San Diego Sea World — Adult (10+ yrs) \$68.95 (save \$15.05); Child (3-9 yrs) \$68.95 (save \$9.05). Valid thru 12/31/14.

San Diego Safari Park — (Formerly Wild Animal Park) Adult-African Tram Safari : \$39 (save \$7) (12+ yrs); Child-African Tram Safari: \$31 (save \$5) (3-11 yrs). Africa Tram Safari includes admission, unlimited rides on the Africa Tram, and all shows & exhibits. Valid through 01/31/15.

San Diego Zoo — Adult (12+ yrs): \$39 (save \$7). Child (3-11 yrs): \$31 (save \$5). Includes admission, unlimited use of Guided Bus Tour, Express Bus, Skyfari Aerial Tram and all shows & exhibits. Valid through 01/31/15.

See's Candy gift certificate — One-pound box \$14.95 (Save \$2.05). No expiration.

"E Tickets" are available for certain amusement parks.

FARM**B**UREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

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We represent the broad and dynamic interests of the agricultural industry through our diverse membership. We serve members by delivering services, promoting policies, developing coalitions, and fostering community action that will ensure the long-term success of agriculture in Ventura County.

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