

Notes from the CEO

By John Krist

Farm Bureau is hosting or helping organize a number of events in coming weeks that are likely to be of interest to many of our members.

The most elaborate of these will be a kickoff event at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on March 12 for a

... The [Spray Safe] program is being embraced by growers in other counties as a way of better protecting the health and safety of farmers, field crews and neighboring residents.

program called "Spray Safe." Originally developed by a coalition of farmers, pest control advisers, applicators and labor contractors concerned about drift incidents in Kern County, the program is being embraced by growers in other counties as a way of better protecting the health and safety of farmers, field crews and neighboring residents.

The program, which is being promoted throughout California by the Alliance for Food and Farming, focuses on making sure growers are aware of and implement all safety precautions when applying pesticides. It encourages better communication among growers, applicators, neighbors and employees about pending applications, to reduce the chance of inadvertent exposure. It emphasizes constant vigilance among growers to make sure they, their employees and their neighbors are going the extra mile to avoid the mistakes and accidents that not only can affect public health and

safety, but also can cause legal and political problems for the entire agricultural community.

For the past few months, a group of growers, applicators and other representatives of local agriculture (including staff of Farm Bureau and the Ventura County Agricultural Association) have been meeting with a representative of the Alliance for Food and Farming to discuss the program and tailor it to conditions in this county.

In addition to regular educational events, establishment of communication networks and distribution of Spray Safe signage and informational materials, one of the key components of the program is an annual countywide

meeting involving growers, applicators, PCAs, farm employees, the agricultural commissioner and other interested people. The meeting provides an opportunity to review the rules and regulations governing pesticide use, and to share experiences and discuss concerns.

The first such event will be at the Fairgrounds on March 12, from approximately 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It will feature educational presentations, equipment displays and other exhibits. Among the speakers will be Mary-Ann Warmerdam, director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Lunch will be included. Admission to the entire event will be free.

More details to come. Mark your calendar.

"Labor Pains"

Another event to put on your calendar is a workshop on labor issues presented by the Farm Bureau and the Farm Employers Labor Service, a company affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation. "Labor Pains: Spring Cleaning for Farm Employers" is a continuation of a successful seminar at CFBF's 90th Annual Meeting in Burlingame in December. It will feature two expert presenters on the labor issues that will be facing farm employers in the coming year:

■ Ron Barsamian is an attorney with the Fresno-based law firm of Barsamian and Moody. He has decades of experience advising farm employers throughout California and extensive expertise in litigating cases as an employer's advocate. He will address important employer liability issues to ensure compliance with various California and Federal statutes.

■ William Krycia is Region II administrator for the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health. He is based in Sacramento and will discuss CalOSHA's enforcement priorities for the coming year, including high-profile issues such as heat stress and field sanitation.

FELS reference materials and other information useful to farm employers also will be available.

The workshop will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, at the Courtyard by Marriott, 600 E. Esplanade Drive, Oxnard. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling the Farm Bureau of Ventura County at (805) 289-0155.

— John Krist is chief executive officer of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Contact him by e-mail at john@farmbureauvc.com.

What's Inside?

- Farm trucks gain time to meet emissions standards
- Working with large animals can be hazardous
- Crop Disaster Program sign-up ends Feb. 27
- Member Benefits

Farm trucks gain time to meet emissions standards

By Steve Adler

Farm and ranch operators who rely on heavy-duty diesel trucks to transport their products from the field to processors are breathing a collective sigh of relief following last month's ruling by the state Air Resources Board regulating diesel truck emissions.

While their vehicles will still have to comply with the new rules designed to reduce emissions, these infrequently used vehicles were given additional time to accomplish the retrofitting or replacement needed to meet the new ARB standard for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and diesel particulate matter.

Essentially, most farm trucks have until Jan. 1, 2017, to meet the standard. Trucks used less frequently – under 10,000 miles annually –

have until Jan. 1, 2023.

Owners of heavy-duty diesel trucks that do not fall within the agricultural category must install soot traps on the exhaust pipes of their vehicles or take them off the road starting in 2011.

Vehicles that qualify for the special agricultural provision are defined by the ARB as follows: "Agricultural vehicles are those vehicles that are used exclusively in agricultural and forest operations, those used exclusively to transport agricultural products to the first point of processing after harvest, and certain heavy-duty vehicles that exclusively deliver fertilizer or crop protection products from a distribution center to farms."

California Farm Bureau Federation and other agricultural associations have worked actively during the past

18 months in providing testimony and comment to the ARB relating to agricultural use of heavy-duty diesel trucks.

CFBF conducted a diesel-truck survey of Farm Bureau members both in Ag Alert and on the CFBF Web site. Information was compiled from the more than 200 survey responses and sent to ARB staff to help them better understand why diesel trucks used in agriculture should not be linked with open-road, interstate diesel rigs that operate year-round transporting products throughout North America.

"Our ag coalition worked extremely hard to obtain the provisions in the truck rule that will allow much-needed flexibility. Unfortunately the low-mileage thresholds will not work for everyone, but we are confident it will help many (Continued on next page)

Working with large animals can be hazardous

By Mike Klimenko

Livestock and dairy play a big part in California agriculture and are a large reason why we rank No. 1 in agricultural production among all

While livestock generally are creatures of habit, there is no guarantee that an animal will do what you expect. Some animals are large enough to cause serious injury or death if handled improperly.

the states. But like all areas of farming and ranching, there are certain occupational hazards that need to be kept in mind – particularly when working around large, unpredictable animals.

Even experienced livestock handlers are at risk and it is important to never let your guard down when dealing with these animals. Everyone who works with or around animals needs to follow some basic safety principles. While livestock generally are creatures of habit, there is no guarantee that an animal will do what you expect. Some animals are large enough to cause serious injury or death if handled improperly.

Remember that it is important to

always remain calm and deliberate around livestock. Strange noises, sudden movements or other animals easily startle livestock. Let an animal know your presence by a gentle touch rather than a bump or shove. Be extra careful around a strange animal or one that exhibits symptoms of fright, injury or sickness. Stay alert around female animals that have newborn or young offspring and male animals that can be aggressive.

There are warning signs to watch for that may indicate animal aggressiveness or fear. These indicators vary among the various types of livestock, but can include such things as raised fur or hair, flattened ears, twitching tails, or bared teeth. Whenever possible, avoid approaching these animals until they are in a calmer state. Also keep in mind that many herd animals are calmer when handled in small groups.

As a general rule, workers should approach an animal from the front and avoid its blind spots as well as the "kick zone" behind cattle and horses. Emphasize to livestock han-

dlers that they should avoid cornering, teasing or poking animals.

If you have to move a large animal such as a dairy cow into a confined place such as a stall or squeeze chute, remember to give the animal some time to adjust before handling it or working on it. And above all, leave yourself an escape route when working in close quarters.

Be sure to wear proper clothing and personal protective equipment. Safety shoes or boots protect the feet against hooves, dropped items and sharp objects. Skid-resistant soles provide traction on wet, muddy, or manure-covered surfaces. Protect your hands with gloves and your head with a helmet or hardhat.

For 65 years, Farm Bureau and State Fund have been business partners. When your policy comes up for renewal, if you are not insured with State Fund, please be sure to get a quote in our Farm Bureau Group Program.

— Mike Klimenko is Farm Bureau group manager for the State Fund workers compensation insurance program. Contact him at (916) 263-7349 or mnklimenko@scif.com.

Emissions standards

(continued from page 2)

California growers,” said Cynthia Cory, CFBF director of environmental affairs.

“We knew if we were to get any consideration for our seasonal and low-mileage trucks that we needed to provide a proposal that did not keep the state from meeting the air quality goals mandated by the federal government,” she said. “It took lots of patience and time but it certainly paid off for the ag community. We will

“Our ag coalition worked extremely hard to obtain the provisions in the truck rule that will allow much-needed flexibility. ... we are confident it will help many California growers.” — Cynthia Cory

start outreach as soon as possible. There are several ways to comply with the rule, so folks need to be aware of their options and choose the one that will work best for their fleet.”

The state suggests government funding options to help with the cost of complying with the new regulations. They include Carl Moyer Program grants, which are designated for compliance with diesel regulations, as well as Proposition 1B funds for air quality improvements related to goods movement. But these options are limited and agricultural vehicles often do not qualify due to their size and low mileage.

In addition, Assembly Bill 118 is supposed to establish a low-cost truck loan program to help pay for early compliance with the truck rule.

Cory notes, however, that the government assistance is not sufficient to take care of the nearly 1 million trucks that fall under the provisions of the new rule. The rules are expected to impact more than 400,000 trucks registered in the state, as well as about 500,000 out-of-state vehicles that do business in California, and more than a half million trailers.

“Unfortunately, it is clear from industry cost estimates that state assistance will have minimal impact, as the needs will far outweigh the available funds,” Cory said.

The rule must go through further procedural steps before becoming final, but the basics will remain unchanged. Farmers and ranchers will have to report to ARB by Jan. 31, 2010, which of their

vehicles that they owned as of Jan. 1, 2009, will be designated as agricultural vehicles. Diesel trucks used by farmers and ranchers in their operations that do not meet the lower mileage thresholds will be subject to the earlier compliance dates in the rule.

Special exceptions for agricultural vehicles apply as follows:

- Pickups and other vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of less than 14,000 pounds.

- Off-road vehicles.

- “Low use” vehicles, which means those operating less than 100 hours and 1,000 miles per year.

- Limited-mileage agricultural vehicles would be exempt until Jan. 1, 2017.

Limited mileage for agricultural vehicles would be defined as operating less than 15,000 miles per year for pre-1996 model year engines; 20,000 miles per year for 1996 through 2005 model year engines; or 25,000 miles per year for 2006 or newer model year engines.

- Low-mileage agricultural vehicles operating less than 10,000 miles per year would be exempt until Jan. 1, 2023.

- Specialty agricultural vehicles also would be exempt until Jan. 1, 2023. These vehicles would include nurse rigs, cotton module movers, water trucks, feed trucks or mixer-feed trucks used exclusively at feedlots.

- “NOx Mileage Exempt Vehicles” in certain counties would be limited to heavy-duty vehicles (GVWR greater than 33,000 pounds) operated less than 7,500 miles, and medium heavy-duty vehicles (GVWR 14,000 pounds-33,000 pounds) operated less than 5,000 miles. But the proposed regulation still requires diesel particulate filters and replacement of the truck by Dec. 31, 2020, and installation of an electronic tracking system for determining hours of use.

— Steve Adler is associate editor of *Ag Alert*, where a version of this article first appeared. Contact him at sadler@cfbf.com. To download a CFBF fact sheet about the new ARB rules, go to www.farmbureauvc.com.

Member Benefits

TICKETS & DISCOUNTS

Aquarium of the Pacific —

Adult \$16.95 (save \$6) Age 12 yrs+; Child \$10.95 (save \$1) 3-11 yrs. Valid thru 12/31/09.

CA Adventure or Disneyland —

“2-fer” Ticket: Adult \$61 (save \$8) Age 10+; Child \$58 (save \$5) Age 3-9. Valid thru 12/17/09. First visit may be to either park between Jan. 6 and June 3, 2009. Second visit *must* be to alternate park within 30 days of first visit. One person per party (max 8 per party) must show proof of Southern CA residency. Valid thru 12/17/09.

1-Day Park Hopper: Adult \$73 (save \$21) Age 10+; Child \$65 (save \$19) Age 3-9 yrs. Valid thru 12/17/09

Knott's Berry Farm —

Adult \$28.95 (save \$21) Age 12+; Child \$18 (save \$1.99) Age 3-9. Valid thru 3/31/09.

Legoland & Sea Life Aquarium —

General Use Ticket, 2nd DAY FREE \$47 (save \$16 adult, \$6 child) Age 3-adult. Valid thru 1/31/10 Includes 2nd day FREE ticket for use within 90 days of first visit. Pick up 2nd day ticket at Legoland Guest Services.

Magic Mountain —

General Use ticket \$26.95, (save \$33.04) 48" tall+; Child \$17 (under 48") (save \$12.99) Valid thru 12/31/09.

Regal Cinemas —

\$7.70 (unrestricted) Good at Edwards, Regal, Signature and United Artists Theaters. Reg. \$9.50 (Sun-Thurs), \$10 (Fri, Sat). No expiration.

San Diego Wild Animal Park —

Adult \$30 (save \$5) Age 12+. Child \$24 (save \$2) Age 3-11. Valid thru 1/31/10. Good for admission, the Journey into Africa Tour and the Conservation Carousel.

San Diego Zoo —

Adult \$30 (save \$5) Age 12+. Child \$24 (save \$2) Age 3-11. Valid thru 1/31/10. Allows unlimited use of guided bus tour, express bus and Skyfari aerial tour.

San Diego Sea World —

“Two Days of Fun”: Adult \$54.50 (save \$10.50) Age 10+; Child \$49 (save \$6) Age 3-9. Valid thru 12/31/09.

See's Candy Gift Certificate —

\$12.35 (save \$2.65) one pound box. No expiration.

Universal Studios —

1 Day Gen. Use Ticket \$55 (save \$12) Age 3+. Thru 5/31/09. Annual Pass: General Use Ticket \$68 (save \$11) Age 3+, expiration 12/31/09. Valid 12 months after first day of activation. Only 11 blackout dates.

Tickets available at
Farm Bureau, 5156 McGrath St.,
Ventura, or by mail.
Visa/MC accepted.
For more information
please call 289-0155.

Board of Directors

Scott Deardorff, President*
 Leslie Leavens-Crowe, First VP*
 Josh Pinkerton, Second VP*
 Will Pidduck, Secretary*
 David Murray, Treasurer*

David Borchard Steve Onstot
 Gus Gunderson Chris Sayer
 Andy Hooper David Schwabauer
 Ed McFadden Fred Van Wingerden

Chief Executive Officer
 John Krist

* Member, Executive Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

We represent the collective interests of the agricultural industry, for the benefit of our members, in political and policy interactions with our urban and rural neighbors. We seek to be aggressive in promoting the interests of our members and are committed to the long-term success of agriculture in Ventura County.

FARM BUREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

5156 McGrath St., Suite 102
 P.O. Box 3160
 Ventura, CA 93006
 Telephone 805-289-0155
 Fax 805-658-0295
 www.farmbureauvc.com

Crop Disaster Program sign-up ends Feb. 27

Growers have until Feb. 27 to sign up for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP). "Congress authorized CDP as a special disaster recovery program for agriculture in 2007 and it is now coming to a close," said Brenda Farias, executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. "The new Farm Bill provides an array of new and continued disaster assistance programs for crop and livestock producers for 2008 through 2011."

The deadline of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. CDP quality claims as well as quantity claims are still being accepted for review until this deadline. Sign-up information and required forms are available at the local FSA office, which is at 920 East Stowell Road in Santa Maria. Late applications will not be approved.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For more information about CDP and the sign-up deadline, visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov or contact the local FSA office at (805) 928-9269.

• PLATINUM MEMBERS

Beardsley & Son
 Al & Elaine Cavaletto
 Deardorff Family Farms
 Dullam Nursery
 Farm Credit West
 Fruit Growers Lab Inc.
 Gimlin & Udy Insurance Agency
 Leavens Ranches
 Limco Del Mar Ltd.
 Limoneira Company
 Rio Farms
 Saticoy Lemon Association
 Terry Farms Inc.
 Henry Vega Coastal Harvesting

• DIAMOND MEMBERS

Ag Rx
 Randall Axell
 Bob Jones Ranch Inc.
 John Borchard Jr.
 John W. Borchard Ranches Inc.
 Boskovich Farm Inc.
 Chase Bros. Dairy
 City National Bank

Crisalida Berry Farms LLC
 DeMartini Enterprises LLC
 Jack M. Dickenson
 Farmers Irrigation Company
 Friedrich Ranch
 Hoffman, Vance & Worthington
 Index Fresh
 Kimball Ranches El Hogar
 Larry Walker Associates
 Dorcas McFarlane TT
 Mission Produce
 Nunes Vegetables
 William Orcutt
 Oxnard Lemon Co.
 Oxnard Pest Control Assn.
 Pecht Ranch
 Don Petty Jr.
 Jonathan Pinkerton
 Robert Pinkerton
 Rancho Limcado
 Southland Sod Farms
 Travis Ag. Construction
 Western Farm Service
 Fred Van Wingerden

• GOLD SEAL MEMBERS

Ag Land Services
 Ehud Ariav
 Associates Insectary
 Barkley Ins. Agent Brokers
 Berylwood Tree Farm
 Brokaw Nursery Inc.
 William Burgett
 Calavo Growers
 Camulos Ranch
 Humberto Candelario
 Lee Cole
 Crane Estate Inc.
 Dufau Ranch Co.
 Estate of William Worthington
 Faria Family Ptnr. LTD/Rincon
 Friends Ranches Inc.
 Green Meadow Nursery
 R. Logan Hardison
 Ron Hertel
 Hirashima Berry Farm
 J. D. McGrath Farms
 Tom Lindsay
 Luna Fertilizer Inc.
 Joseph Maulhardt

Messori Ranch
 Moon Mountain Farms LLC
 Yoshifumi Nakano
 Naumann Land Development
 Newhall Land Farm Company
 Frances Pidduck
 W. J. Pinkerton Estate
 Quality Ag Inc.
 F. Richardson
 San Cristobal Farms
 San Miguel Produce Inc.
 Santa Rosa Berry Farms LLC
 Scott Dunbar Ranch Land
 Broker
 Seacoast Farms LLC
 Sine Qua Non
 Frank Staben
 Sunnyland Nursery
 Tierra Rejada Ranch LLC
 Yu Ying Tsai
 Ventura Certified Farmers
 Market
 Kay Wilson Bolton
 Yamamoto Farms

FARM BUREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

PERIODICALS
 POSTAGE
 PAID
 Oxnard, CA

FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER published monthly by the Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Subscription is included in membership fee. Subscription to non-members is \$10 per year. (USPS 896-880)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Farm Bureau Newsletter
 5156 McGrath St.
 Ventura, CA 93003