

Notes from the CEO

By John Krist

The Farm Bureau of Ventura County will hold its annual business meeting on May 20 at the Pierpont Inn, 550 Sanjon Road, Ventura. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. with registration, followed by a buffet lunch and presentations on the organization's activities and finances by President Leslie Leavens-Crowe, Chief Executive Officer John Krist and others. It will conclude at 2 p.m.

Results of the election for members of the Board of Directors will be announced during the meeting. Ballots will be sent soon to voting members.

The keynote speaker will be Ellen Hanak of the Public Policy Institute of California, an expert in state water issues who has written numerous reports on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its role in

the state's water system. Most recently, she was a lead author of the PPIC report "California Water Myths," which PPIC describes this way:

"California faces enormous challenges in establishing a sustainable path for water resource management. One challenge is the rhetoric surrounding major water issues in the state. This study highlights eight common water myths, focusing on water supply, ecosystems, and legal and governance issues. In combating these myths, the report sets the stage for a more informed approach to water policy and management."

The study is available for download at www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=890.

Ellen's presentation at our annual meeting is sure to be interesting and provocative. And with the state's voters looking at a package of ballot measures to address many of the state's water issues on the November ballot – including an \$11.4 billion bond – it could not be more timely.

Please confirm your attendance by calling (805) 289-0155 no later than Friday, May 14.

Grading ordinance revision underway

At my request, representatives of the Ventura County Public Works Agency attended the Feb. 18 Farm Bureau board meeting to brief directors on the county's plan to revise its grading ordinance and do away with the Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance permits that historically been issued by the Resour-

ces Conservation District. Instead, grading involving operations on both hillsides and flat land will be regulated under a single ordinance, administered and enforced by the County Public Works Agency.

Agency Director Jeff Pratt and Raymond Gutierrez of the Engineering Services Department discussed the proposal and answered a great many questions from the board. Jeff and Ray asked for additional input reflecting the agricultural community's concerns, and the board appointed a committee to develop recommendations and guidelines for county staff as they develop the draft of the new ordinance. We submitted those comments On March 12.

Obviously, any regulations pertaining to movement of soil have the potential to impose significant costs and restrictions on agricultural operators. That's why Farm Bureau has been engaged in this process from the start, submitting comment letters, attending workshops and providing additional input at every step of the process.

Although it must be emphasized that there is not yet any ordinance language to review – merely a conceptual endorsement of the process from the Board of Supervisors, which has repeatedly and by a wide majority indicated its support for the revision – we have emphasized several points consistently in our discussions with county staff:

1. The new grading ordinance should not result in the requirement of permits – whether ministerial or discretionary – for routine and traditional agricultural cultural practices involving land and soil disturbance on flat or moderately sloping land.

2. Any efforts intended to protect waterways from sediment deposition due to erosion should be narrowly drafted – if drafted at all – to avoid duplicating or conflicting with regulations already imposed by the appropriate regulatory authorities.

3. The county should minimize its involvement in regulation of impacts to waterways and wetlands from agricultural activities, which are already regulated extensively by state and federal agencies.

4. Hillside grading permits should remain under oversight of the Resource Conservation District and its board, which have more familiarity with and understanding of agricultural practices than the county's planning and public works staff. If that cannot be achieved, and consolidation of authority over all grading activities within the Public Works Agency is necessary, then the new permitting requirements and procedures for designated hillside zones should mirror as closely as possible those currently in place under the Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance.

Our formal comments go into each of these in a great

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Farm Bureau of Ventura County's Annual Business Meeting to be held on May 20, 2010 at the Pierpont Inn.

What's Inside?

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- Protecting your eyes when working
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UCCE brings Watershed University to the Ventura River

By Sabrina L. Drill

Throughout California and the country, there is a growing emphasis on increasing integration and coordination in managing water and land resources at the watershed level. A watershed is the area in which topography and geogra-

phy determine that any drop of rain that falls flows to a single water body. As such, watersheds can be a good organizing unit.

Watershed management can be defined as a strategy to “increase and sustain a watershed’s ability to provide for the diverse needs of the communities that

depend on it” (California Department of Conservation). Watershed management can include issues related to competing water supply needs, water quality impairments and improvements, flood protection, and habitat conservation. Land uses, ranging from urban to agricultural and industrial to open space, all have various water requirements and impacts.

Balancing all of these issues requires the coordinated effort of a large group of diverse stakeholders, from residents and farmers to government agencies such as the County Watershed Protection District and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It may also require working across jurisdictional and institutional boundaries.

State and federal programs often provide incentives for taking this integrated approach to water and watershed management. In the early 2000’s, the Water Resources Control Board funded the development of watershed management plans throughout California. The CalFed Bay-Delta program morphed into the Statewide Watershed Program administered by the California Department of Conservation, which also gives grants to hire watershed coordinators. State Propositions 50 and 84 require the development of Integrated Water Resource Management Plans before local agencies can receive funding for specific projects.

In Ventura, county government institutionalized watershed management as a strategy by changing the Flood Control

District to the Watershed Protection District. In addition, the chief executive officer’s office encouraged the development of Santa Clara and Ventura River Watershed Councils, which together with an ongoing effort in Calleguas Creek make up the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, of which the Farm Bureau of Ventura County is an active member.

One thing that can hamper watershed management is a lack of shared common knowledge that can help these various players understand each other’s interests. The Watershed U Program of UC Cooperative Extension seeks to help fill these gaps.

Beginning April 22, and running each Thursday afternoon through May 27, experts from academic institutions and local agencies and organizations

will present information at Watershed U-Ventura River on the geography of the watershed, water supply, flood management, water quality, ecology and habitat, land use and ongoing and newly started planning efforts for the watershed. Presentations about water conservation and water quality improvement on farms, the economic future of the county and the agricultural sector, and land use, development, and conservation in agricultural settings will be of specific interest to growers.

For more information and to register for Watershed U -Ventura River, please visit us on the web at ucanr.org/watershedu_ventura.

— Sabrina L. Drill is the UC Cooperative Extension natural resources advisor for Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Contact her at sldrill@ucdavis.edu.

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Protecting your eyes when working

By Mike Klimenko

An injury to the eye is among the most devastating and irreversible injuries that can occur, especially if it results in permanent loss of sight. It is unfortunate, too, that in most instances, the injury could have been prevented if proper precautions had been taken.

Accident investigators report that most workers who’ve suffered an eye injury wore no eye protection and of those who did, most wore the wrong kind. Protective eyewear offers very little protection if it isn’t cared for and worn properly. For best protection against eye injury, wear eye protection whenever it is warranted and require workers to do the same. Allow no exceptions.

Damaged or ill-fitting eyewear should be replaced. Select protective eyewear designed for a specific operation or hazard. Protective eyewear must meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

To prevent safety glasses or other eye protection equipment from fogging while you’re working, wear a sweat band on your forehead or a cool rag in your hard hat, keep the lenses clean and unscratched, use an anti-fog solution on the lenses or buy/use safety glasses that have anti-fog coatings.

There are several common causes for

eye injury and in all cases consult an eye care professional to make sure you’re treated correctly for the injury.

- Foreign particles such as dust, dirt, wood chips, or even an eyelash can get into your eye and cause damage or painful eye irritation.
- Bumps and blows to the eyes can cause minor to severe eye injury.
- Cuts in or around the eyes (especially while pruning) can be serious and jeopardize vision.
- Chemicals, fumes or steam can cause severe damage to the eye.
- Light burns or sparks can cause injury that may not be felt until hours later.

To help prevent an eye injury from occurring, it is important to conduct a thorough analysis of the work to be done and the equipment that will be used. Inspect work areas and equipment and identify operations and areas that present eye hazards.

Don’t be caught unprepared if an accident occurs. Plan for an emergency. Establish first-aid procedures for eye injuries. Make eyewash stations accessible, particularly where chemicals are used. Train employees in basic first aid and identify those with more advanced first-aid training. In an emergency, know whom to call, *(cont’d on back page)*

Notes from the CEO *(cont'd from p. 1)*

deal of detail. A full copy of our most recent comment letter will be posted soon on the website the county has established for the process. The address is www.vcgrading.org.

It is important that growers participate in this process to help county staff understand how regulation affects farming and ranching. I encourage all Farm Bureau members to visit the county website and submit comments and recommendations.

Deadline approaching for truck registration

The March 31 deadline for registering agricultural trucks as part of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Heavy Duty On-Road Vehicle Regulation is rapidly approaching.

To help with the reporting forms, CARB has scheduled a series of workshops up and down the state. One will be conducted on March 24 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District office, 669 County Square Drive, Ventura.

On December 12, 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved a new regulation to significantly reduce emissions from existing on-road diesel vehicles operating in California. The regulation requires affected diesel trucks and buses to meet performance requirements between 2011 and 2023. By January 1, 2023 all vehicles must have a 2010 model year engine or equivalent.

Affected vehicles include on-road heavy-duty diesel fueled vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 14,000 pounds, yard trucks with off-road certified engines, and certain diesel-fueled shuttle vehicles of any GVWR. Out-of-state trucks and buses that operate in California are also subject to the regulation. Diesel pickups with a GVWR of 19,500 pounds or less with the originally equipped pickup beds used exclusively for personal use, non-commercial, non-governmental use are exempt. Diesel pickups over 14,000 GVWR with utility or flat beds are included in the rule.

For further information, please call 866-6DIESEL (866-634-3735) or e-mail 8666diesel@arb.ca.gov. A two-page summary of the agricultural provisions of the bill can be downloaded and printed at www.cfbf.com/issues/truckbus.cfm.

Farm Bureau to provide truck labels

Within 30 days of the March 31, 2010 reporting date for the Heavy Duty On-Road Vehicle Regulation, fleet owners must permanently affix or paint an AG identification label on each low-mileage, limited-mileage,

and specialty agricultural vehicle in the fleet according to the following specification:

1. The letters AG shall be white block lettering on a black background. Both letters shall be at least three inches high on a five by eight inch background.

2. The label shall be located in clear view on the left and right door of the vehicle and be in clear view at all times.

The Farm Bureau of Ventura County has ordered enough labels for 150 trucks from California Farm Bureau Federation, and will provide them to voting members on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact us at (805) 289-0155 to find out whether they have arrived yet.

APCD to begin enforcement of non-vehicle engine rule

On September 11, 2007, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control Board adopted Rule 250 that requires owners of non-vehicle diesel engines 50 hp and greater used in agricultural operations to register with the Air Pollution Control District (APCD). Rule 250 implements the California Air Resources Board's Air Toxic Control Measure for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines. Under the Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) and Rule 250, agricultural engines 50 hp and greater were required to register with the APCD by March 1, 2008. New engines installed after September 11, 2007, must be registered within 90 days after installation.

Engines used to propel agricultural vehicles are exempt, as are those that power wind machines. The rule applies to all other stationary engines, as well as those that are mounted on movable platforms but not used to drive them.

The APCD is beginning a program to take enforcement action against owners of unregistered agricultural engines. Owners of unregistered agricultural engines will be issued Notices of Violation and monetary penalties will be sought. The California Health and Safety Code allows the APCD to seek penalties of up to \$1,000 per day of violation. Contact Ken Hall at (805) 645-1401 for information on registering agricultural engines.

The State's ATCM prohibits the operation of agricultural engines categorized as "Tier 0" engines after either Dec. 31, 2010, or Dec. 31, 2011, depending upon the engine's horsepower. (Most engines greater than or equal to 100 hp must be replaced by Dec. 31, 2010. Most engines between 49 and 100 hp must be replaced by Dec. 31, 2011.)

A "Tier 0" engine is not certified by the U.S. EPA to any emission *(cont'd on back page)*

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 (Age 12+): \$18.95 (save \$5); Child (age 3-11): \$10.95 (save \$1). *Valid through 12/31/10.*

California Adventure and Disneyland 2Fer Ticket — Adult (age 10+): \$72; Child (age 3-9): \$62. *Valid through 4/24/10. First visit may be to either park; second visit must be to other park within 30 days of first visit. One person per party must show proof of California residency.*

California Adventure and Disneyland one-day Park Hopper — Adult (age 10+): \$76 (save \$21); Child (age 3-9): \$68 (save \$9). *Valid through 4/24/10*

Knott's Berry Farm — Adult (48" tall): \$29.95 (save \$22.04); Junior (age 3+, under 48" tall): \$21.95 (save \$2.04). *Valid through 12/31/10.*

Legoland — General use ticket: \$51.95 (save \$15 adult, \$5 child). Triple Park General: \$62.95 (save \$24 adult, \$14 child) *Valid through 12/31/10. Includes two visits to Legoland, including new Water Park opening Memorial Day weekend, and two visits to Sea Life Aquarium.*

Magic Mountain — General use ticket: Adult (48" tall): \$25.95, (save \$29.04); Child (under 48" tall): \$16 (save \$11.50). *Valid through 12/31/10.*

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 : "Two Days of Fun" — Adult (age 10+): \$57.95 (save \$11.05); Child (age 3-9): \$52 (save \$7). *Valid through 12/31/10.*

San Diego Wild Animal Park — Adult (age 12+): \$31.95 (save \$5.05). Child (age 3-11): \$23.95 (save \$3.05). *Valid through 12/15/10.*

San Diego Zoo — Adult (age 12+): \$31.95 (save \$5.05). Child (age 3-11): \$23.95 (save \$3.05). *Valid through 12/15/10.*

See's Candy gift certificate — One-pound box \$12.95 (save \$2.65). No expiration

Universal Studios — Two-day ticket (age 3+): \$59 (save \$10). *Valid 1/1/10 through 12/31/10. First use must occur by 5/31/10. Buy a Day, Get 2010 Free: \$69. Valid through 6/30/10. Includes 15 blackout dates.*

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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

Notes from the CEO *(cont'd from p. 3)*

standard, and may be as new as 1997. The lack of an EPA emissions label on the engine is an indicator that the engine may be a "Tier 0" engine. The APCD has funds available to assist in the purchase of electric motors or new, cleaner agricultural engines that replace "Tier 0" engines; however, in order to receive funding, the old engine must be registered first and the new engine must be installed and operational by Dec. 31, 2010. Contact Chris Frank at (805) 645-1409 if you wish to apply for funding.

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

Protecting your eyes *(cont'd from p. 3)*

where to locate emergency phone numbers, and where to find first aid equipment.

Take the time to educate employees about eye safety and then periodically review these safety steps. Conduct ongoing educational programs to establish, maintain and reinforce the need for protective eyewear. Continuously review and when necessary revise your accident prevention strategies.

Eye injuries can be prevented, but it is up to you to take the proper precautions.

— Mike Klimenko is Farm Bureau Group Manager for State Compensation Insurance Fund. He may be contacted at mnklimenko@scif.com.

• PLATINUM MEMBERS

Beardsley & Son
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Deardorff Family Farms
Dullam Nursery
Farm Credit West
Fruit Growers Lab Inc.
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Limco Del Mar Ltd.
Limoneira Company
Rio Farms
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Oxnard Lemon Co.
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Pecht Ranch
Don Petty Jr.
Jonathan Pinkerton
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Rancho Limcado
Travis Ag. Construction
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William Burgett
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FARM BUREAU OF VENTURA COUNTY

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