

Notes from the CEO

By John Krist

Another new face has joined the leadership team at Farm Bureau of Ventura County.

Board of Directors named Danny Pereira to fill the remainder of Andy Hooper's term on the board.

At its Oct. 17 meeting, the Board of Directors named

Danny Pereira to fill the remainder of Andy Hooper's term on the board. Andy resigned Sept. 23 because a new job will leave him too little time to devote to Farm Bureau business. Danny was among the candidates for the board during this year's election by the membership, and finished high in the balloting. His

term will expire in 2013.

Danny is general manager of Rio Farms, where he has worked since 1988. He is a 1988 graduate of California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, with a bachelor's degree in crop science and a minor in plant protection. He has been a member of the Celery Research Advisory Board since 1992, and is currently serving as board vice chairman and chairman of the Research Committee. He is an alternate member of the California Pepper Commission, and served on the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Agricultural Association from 2001 to 2004, serving as chairman for 2003-2004. He is a member of the Ventura County Spray Safe Committee.

We will miss Andy's perspective and leadership, but are happy to welcome Danny on board.

FBVC recognized for program excellence

Farm Bureau of Ventura County will be honored at this year's California Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting with Activities of Excellence Awards for Membership, Leadership and Public Relations.

We will be receiving a President's Award in the membership category. That means FBVC was judged to have the best membership program of any county Farm Bureau in our membership category (1,201 to 1,999 members).

The Annual Meeting will be Dec. 3-7 in Sparks, Nev. All Farm Bureau members are eligible to attend. Visit the CFBF website at www.cfbf.com/am2011/ to register.

ACP-HLB update

It's been nearly a year since

the first Asian citrus psyllid specimens were captured and positively identified in traps in Ventura County. Those initial finds, just a few days apart in La Conchita and Santa Paula last December, were followed by additional detections in Moorpark and Camarillo over the summer, and one in Newbury Park late last month. The most recent find brings the total to seven, four of which have been found in commercial orchards.

Although it does not sound like much of an invasion, the periodic discoveries hammer home the need for continued vigilance. The infestation in the Los Angeles area, centered in and around the communities of Lynwood, Echo Park, South Gate, Huntington Park and Montebello, is too large and too entrenched to eradicate, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture now regards its efforts there to be aimed at suppressing the ACP population, not eliminating it. Some treatment crews have, in fact, been redeployed from Los Angeles to outlying areas in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, where there's a better chance of eradication.

The Los Angeles infestation region, where hundreds of new detections are being logged each week, straddles numerous major transportation arteries, including Interstates 110, 5, 710 and 405. This means ACP can easily and quickly be moved north and west into the citrus-producing regions of Ventura County and the Central Valley, either as random hitchhikers or as passengers on illicitly transported fruit and nursery stock.

In Ventura County, this means we probably will remain in this phase of repeated new introductions for many years. Each new find must therefore be regarded as either the latest wave of invasion, or – even more seriously – as evidence that a breeding population may have already become established.

As Beth Grafton-Cardwell wrote in last month's FBVC newsletter, this is the most prudent way to look at the two detections, which occurred in rapid succession very close to each other, in commercial groves in the Moorpark area. The odds are extremely slim that both trapped ACP specimens represented isolated individuals blown off passing trucks or transported on the wind. There are just too few traps, and they are too ineffective at luring psyllids, to regard that as probable. More likely, there's already an ACP population established in that area, but it is being kept at low levels by routine pesticide applications and has not yet grown large or dense enough to be revealed by numerous simultaneous trap detections.

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What's Inside?

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- Protect your eyes when working
- FB members save 20% on workers' comp
- Member Benefits

Support YF&R by supporting FARM PAC

By Kevin Robertson

In preparation for the 2012 election cycle, the California Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Ranchers

The YF&R Committee's raffle helps raise funds for FARM PAC ... and has set a goal of raising \$100,000 to help elect business-friendly candidates.

Committee is working to refuel Farm Bureau's political engine. Between the newly drawn legislative districts and the first election cycle where the "top two" primary will be in place, Farm Bureau has a lot of work ahead in ensuring farmers and ranchers are well represented in government.

One of Farm Bureau's strongest tools for achieving this goal is through the California Farm Bureau Federation Fund to Protect the Family Farm, or FARM PAC. FARM PAC raises money to support candidates who are committed to working in the best interest of California agriculture, giving Farm Bureau leaders and our members a louder, stronger voice in the political arena.

Each year the YF&R Committee's raffle helps raise funds for FARM PAC. After a successful redesign of our program in 2010, we are continuing with the new format this year and have set a goal of raising \$100,000 to help elect business-friendly candidates. With your help, we will make sure that Farm Bureau is heard in the halls of government.

By supporting your local Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee with a \$25 contribution to FARM PAC, you will be strengthening the political voice of Farm Bureau. This small

investment has big returns when you compare the value of elected officials who will listen with the cost of keeping up with the regulatory climate.

And there's more: This year's raffle has these five fantastic prize packages up for grabs:

1. New Holland 115 2 WD Rustler Utility Vehicle;
2. Paint Rock Adventures, Wyoming – Use this \$3,000 credit on one of three packages: Five days of fly fishing for two, three days of cow elk hunting for two, or seven days of bull elk hunting for one. Travel, gratuity & tags not included.
3. Nordstrom Shopping Spree – Just in time to finish up your Christmas shopping or spoil yourself, shop to your heart's desire with this \$1,000 gift card.
4. Wine Tasting Weekend – Enjoy two days of Paso Robles wine country with this personally guided trip.
5. National Finals Rodeo – Take in the excitement of Las Vegas in 2012 with a trip for two including hotel, airfare and tickets to the rodeo.

The drawing will be held at the CFBF Annual Meeting in Reno on Tuesday, Dec. 6. You need not be present to win, so take part today by contacting your local Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee at yyfr@farmbureauvc.com, or by making a contribution online at www.cfbf.com/farmpac.

— Kevin Robertson is secretary of the California Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

Protect your eyes when working

By Mike Klimenko

Eye injuries happen much too frequently in the United States. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate is something like 2,000 per day, and in three out of five cases the injured person wore no eye protection at the time of the mishap.

An injury to the eye is among the most devastating and irreversible injuries that can occur. Experts believe that proper eye protection could have prevented or reduced the severity of injury in at least 90 percent of these accidents.

There are several common causes for eye 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.

Here are some steps to follow to help prevent eye injuries either to you or other workers:

- 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.
- Select protective eyewear designed for a specific operation or hazard. Protective eyewear must meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.
- For best protection against eye injury, wear eye protec-

tion whenever it is warranted and require workers to do the same. Allow no exceptions.

- Protective eyewear that doesn't fit properly and comfortably is not likely to be used. To ensure the eyewear is satisfactory, have it fitted by an eye care professional.

- 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.

- Educate and review. Conduct ongoing educational programs to establish, maintain and reinforce the need for protective eyewear. Continuously review and when necessary revise your accident prevention strategies.

Another thing to keep in mind is that uncorrected vision problems can contribute to accidents. Be sure to have your eyes examined periodically and encourage workers to do the same. As we grow older, most of us will experience a slow loss of the ability to see close objects or small print. This is a normal process that happens over a lifetime. Many people do not notice a change until after the age of 40. This situation can usually be corrected with reading glasses.

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

Farm Bureau members save 20% on workers' comp

The State Fund-Farm Bureau partnership started in 1943 and has been growing for more than 68 years. It is a relationship with built-in benefits for you and your business, and now that partnership can help you save on your workers' comp costs too.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, qualifying Farm Bureau members that insure with State Fund can receive a 20 percent premium discount on their workers' compensation insurance policy.

In addition, State Fund submitted a rate filing on Nov. 1 that includes a zero net increase in collectible premiums. Although manual rates will increase for some classifications, other changes to State Fund's rate filing, including the increase in group discount available to qualifying Farm Bureau accounts, will result in an overall decrease in collectible premium of approximately 1 percent.

Besides these potential savings, State

Fund also offers the following benefits to Farm Bureau members:

- It provides expert advice and training for you and your employees. Highly skilled safety consultants are available to answer your questions and conduct safety seminars including heat illness prevention at no cost.

- Your policy is backed by extensive claims management. A 24-hour claims reporting center along with coordinators ready to help injured employees make a smooth transition back to the workforce.

- State Fund stands firm. With \$20 billion in assets, it is one of the most experienced and stable workers' compensation providers in the U.S.

With these added benefits and savings, consider getting a quote from State Fund when your policy is up for renewal.

For more information, contact your broker or visit State Fund's Web site at www.statefundca.com.

Notes from the CEO

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That's why Beth and other experts strongly recommend a comprehensive and immediate response, urging that all commercial plantings within 1,000 meters of a detection be treated within two weeks with a foliar pesticide, followed by application of a systemic (in some cases, a foliar application that combines both classes of chemicals may be adequate).

As most of you probably know, the real reason we need to be so vigilant about ACP is the threat posed by the disease it can transmit. And on that front, the news is dismal indeed.

Huanglongbing in Mexico has been working its way steadily closer to the citrus regions of California and Texas for several years, but there are indications that the industry and government authorities south of the border have lost what little control they might have had over the situation. The following summary is from a recent report produced by Jim Cranney, president of the California Citrus Quality Council. It makes for sobering reading.

"Over the past three months, Mexican quarantine authorities (SENASICA) have released a steady stream of disappointing news about the spread of Huanglongbing (HLB) throughout Mexico. In July, HLB was detected in central Mexico in the state of

Hidalgo and in August SENASICA announced detection of positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in Michoacán, one of its major lime producing states, along with additional ACP detections in Veracruz, Mexico's largest citrus producing state.

"On the last day of Mexico's HLB conference during the week of Aug. 15 in Manzanillo, Colima, SENASICA announced that HLB had been detected in Cabo San Lucas in Baja California Sur and a positive psyllid was detected near Ciudad Obregon in the state of Sonora. HLB has since been detected in the adjacent county north of Cabo San Lucas. On Sept. 18, a positive ACP was detected in General Teran in Nuevo Leon, just 130 miles from the heart of the Texas citrus industry.

While Texas growers have made efforts to implement an areawide ACP control program in coordination with Mexican growers, there is insufficient security to implement the program in Mexico, because of drug-related violence in the state of Nuevo Leon.

"Most recently, SENASICA announced on Oct. 21 that HLB had been detected in Tanguian, San Luis Potosí and Tempoal, Veracruz where over 6,000 trees tested positive for the disease. The state of Veracruz is the largest citrus-producing state with over 450,000 acres of citrus accounting for 48 percent of Mexico's production. San Luis Potosí is the second-leading citrus-producing state representing 9 percent of Mexico's production.

"HLB has now been (continued 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 \$6); Child (age 3-11): \$10.95 (save \$2). *Valid through 12/31/11.*

California Adventure and Disneyland one-day Park Hopper — Adult (age 10+): \$97 (save \$5); Child (age 3-9): \$91 (save \$3). *Valid through 12/31/11.*

Cinemark Theatres — Platinum ticket, valid any show time at all Cinemark & Century locations: \$8 (savings \$3.50). *Additional premiums may be applied for specially priced films and or/events priced higher than normal box office. No expiration.*

Knott's Berry Farm — Adult (12 yrs.+) \$31.95 (save \$25.04), Junior/Senior (age 3-11yrs.) (62 yrs.+) \$22.95 (save \$2.04). *Valid through 12/31/11.*

Legoland — General use ticket: \$55.95 (save \$13 adult, \$3 child) + 2nd day FREE. Resort Hopper General: \$65.95 (save \$23 adult, \$13 child). *Valid through 12/31/11. Includes two visits to Legoland, including new Water Park when open, and two visits to Sea Life Aquarium.*

Magic Mountain — General use ticket: Adult (48" tall): \$27.95, (save \$32.04); Child (under 48" tall): \$18.95 (save \$16.04). *Valid through 12/31/11.*

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 — \$49.95 (Save \$20 per adult; Save \$10 per child) Adult /Child Ticket (3 yrs.+). *Valid through 12/31/11.*

San Diego Safari Park — (Formerly Wild Animal Park) Adult-African Tram Safari: \$33.95 (save \$6.05) (12yrs.+); Child-African Tram Safari: \$26.95 (save \$3.05) (3-11 yrs.). *Africa Tram Safari includes admission, unlimited use of the Journey into Africa Tour, Conservation Carousel and all shows/exhibits. Valid through 01/31/12.*

San Diego Zoo — Adult (age 12+): \$33.95 (save \$6.05). Child (age 3-11): \$26.95 (save \$3.05). *Valid through 01/31/12.*

See's Candy gift certificate — One-pound box \$13.95 (Save \$2.65). *No expiration.*

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MISSION STATEMENT

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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found in ACP or vegetative samples in 17 of Mexico's 23 citrus producing states. A scarcity of resources has impeded Mexico's ability to deal with the challenges of the disease. Many growers do not commonly use pesticides, so they do not have the equipment, infrastructure or knowledge to implement a sustained program to combat ACP. Additionally, many citrus growers in Mexico are poor and manage only small acreage, so they cannot afford pesticides and with so many small growers they are hard to organize. Only large growers have the capacity to use pesticides, but their efforts are hindered by increasing ACP populations in urban areas, small groves and abandoned properties.

"The situation in Mexico is serious; HLB is present, but little can practically be done to reduce ACP populations or reduce HLB infection. In some states where infections are high, such as Colima where 40 percent of the state's groves are infected, government authorities are urging citrus growers to transition to alternate crops. This scenario is likely to play out in an enormous scale into the future as more acreage succumbs to infection."

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

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