

## Notes from the CEO

By John Krist

Josh Pinkerton was elected president of Farm Bureau of Ventura County during the Sept. 15 Board of Directors meeting. Josh replaces Leslie Leavens-Crowe, who had served as president since September 2009. Board members thanked Leslie for her service, and Josh presented her several gifts in recognition and gratitude.

### 2011-12 Farm Bureau Officers:

**Josh Pinkerton, president**

**Andy Hooper, 1st vice president**

**Fred Van Wingerden, 2nd vice president**

**Scott Klittich, secretary**

**Ed McFadden, treasurer**

The board also elected Andy Hooper to serve as first vice president, Fred Van Wingerden as second vice president, Scott Klittich as secretary, and Ed McFadden as treasurer.

Joining the board on Sept. 15 for her first meeting as director was Jan Berk, who was elected by the membership in May to replace Steve Onstot, who retired from the board.

### VCAILG invoices coming soon

Members of the Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group should be receiving invoices for their 2011-2012 program assessments in early October.

Billing this year has been delayed for a number of reasons, including the need to wait for completion of upgrades to the accounting system used by Calleguas Municipal Water District to manage finances for the Calleguas Creek Watershed TMDL program. The new system makes it possible to more precisely track funds that have been collected in past years for work that was postponed or extended into future years. This improvement will prevent the buildup of significant unexpended funds in the TMDL account.

We also wanted to delay this year's billing so we could process as many VCAILG re-enrollment forms as possible. The more acreage we have enrolled in the program, the lower the per-acre assessment. Many members missed the initial enrollment deadline or submitted paperwork that was incomplete, and we have been continuing to work with those

members to finalize their enrollment. Each week has brought more members and more acreage into the system, reducing your costs.

This year's program assessments will be significantly lower than last year's. This is mainly because we have unexpended funds from last year that we will apply as a credit against 2011-2012 program costs.

It won't be much cheaper than it was last year to actually conduct the monitoring, reporting and other required program activities. But many of the tasks we expected we would have to conduct in 2010-2011 were postponed because the Regional Water Quality Control Board has been tardy in approving our work plans and other documentation. This means we have funds on hand that we did not have to spend. And, as mentioned above, shortcomings in the Calleguas accounting system resulted in accumulation of a great deal of unneeded funds in the Calleguas TMDL account.

The end result is that most VCAILG members can expect to receive assessments that are 30 to 50 percent lower than last year. More details will be provided in the cover letter and annual VCAILG newsletter that will accompany those invoices next month.

### More water-quality workshops

More than 500 VCAILG members attended the eight four-hour water-quality workshops conducted by Farm Bureau and VCAILG in June and July. Another 150 or so attended the two sessions conducted by the University of California Cooperative Extension office on Sept. 13 and 14.

Many VCAILG members were disappointed that they could not get into the UCCE workshops because of space limitations, and called Farm Bureau to express concern that they would therefore be unable to meet their education obligations under the Conditional Waiver.

Rest assured, there is plenty of time and we will be conducting many more workshops, tours and other educational opportunities. The Conditional Waiver gives growers two years to receive eight hours of approved education. The countdown to that deadline did not begin, however, until the Regional Board approved VCAILG's application to be recognized as an official discharger group. Although we submitted that application in May, the Regional Board did not issue that approval until Sept.

*(continued on next page)*

### What's Inside?

- Use extra care when operating an ATV
- Irrigation efficiency evaluations
- Member Benefits

## Notes from the CEO

(continued from page 1)

15. This means growers have until Sept. 15, 2013 to fulfill the education requirement.

VCAILG and Farm Bureau are finalizing the details of another round of education sessions that will take place in November. These will be much more focused on specific crops and best management practices that are appropriate for different commodities and types of operation. We will also offer more general overview courses, similar to those we conducted this past June and July, next spring and summer. Additional field trips and workshops will follow next autumn. All VCAILG members will be notified as soon as our sessions are on the calendar.

The upcoming courses will be Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 9 to 11:30

a.m. (two hours of credit); Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. (two hours of credit); and Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. (four hours of credit, and the course will be conducted in Spanish). All three sessions will be at the Courtyard by Marriott in Oxnard. VCAILG members will receive more detailed information about the courses in coming weeks.

These courses are logistically quite complicated to arrange – multiple speakers, multiple venues, materials and other handouts to assemble, food and beverages to arrange – and doing so takes time. So please be patient. We will continue this curriculum over the next two years and will ensure that everyone has ample opportunities to satisfy their regulatory obligations before the deadline.

From time to time, we will also work with partnering institutions, such as UC Cooperative Extension and the Resource Conservation District, to tailor some of their already planned educational offerings to meet Conditional Waiver requirements.

Farm Bureau and VCAILG publicize these events to our members, and we provide some financial support, but the responsibility for such workshops and tours remains that of UCCE and the RCD. This allows us to keep our costs down, which in turn enables us to keep your assessments as low as possible. But it does mean that we have no control over when these seminars take place, where they are held or how many people can attend. And we often do not find out about them in time to distribute notice through this newsletter or other postal mailings. We often rely on our VCAILG email distribution list to publicize these non-VCAILG offerings.

If you are not receiving VCAILG email announcements, please request that you be added to the recipient list by sending a message to [vcailg@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:vcailg@farmbureauvc.com).

### ACP update

There have been no new additional detections of Asian citrus psyllid in Ventura County since July, when psyllids were found in Moorpark and Camarillo. There has been discouraging news, however, from elsewhere in Southern California.

The bad news is that ACP specimens have been turning up at hundreds of new locations in the known infestation area of Los Angeles, as well as further afield in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The worse news is the revelation that breeding populations of ACP have been discovered in several retail nurseries and garden centers in the Los Angeles area, where a large and apparently entrenched population has infested residential yards. Although nursery stock must be treated with a foliar spray and a systemic pesticide before it can be moved from a production site within the quarantine zone, the stock apparently has been sitting long enough at the LA retailers for the chemicals to wear off and the plants to be colonized by psyllids flying in from infested landscaping nearby.

There had been no routine trapping or treatment in retail locations. When the California Department of Food and Agriculture discovered the infested nursery stock, field crews were dispatched to inspect every retail nursery and garden center in the heavily infested area of LA. The infested trees have been destroyed and traps installed at the garden centers for monitoring.

This alarming discovery revealed a dangerous gap in the safety net erected to protect commercial areas from infestation. Citrus nursery stock cannot leave the ACP quarantine area, which now encompasses nearly all of Southern California from Goleta to the Mexican border. But once it has been treated at the production nursery, that stock can move freely to any other location within the quarantine zone.

(continued on next page)

## IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY EVALUATIONS



ROW CROPS

NURSERY

ORCHARDS

The Ventura County RCD is offering FREE irrigation evaluations, nutrient and Best Management Practice recommendation for producers in Ventura County. This program is part of the RCD's efforts to assist landowners and producers with water efficiency, water quality, and BMP issues.

"IT'S YOUR MONEY"

**CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

Ventura County RCD  
Irrigation Efficiency and BMP Program  
Vic Akundzadeh, Irrigation Specialist  
805-386-4489 Extension  
805-216-3641 Mobile  
[vic.akund@gmail.com](mailto:vic.akund@gmail.com)

Program partners:

UCCE  
Ventura County Farm Bureau  
Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group  
NRCS  
RCD  
LARWQCB



Water Boards

"Funding for this program has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board"

# Use extra care when operating an ATV

By Mike Klimenko

On today's California farms and ranches, all-terrain vehicles, commonly known as ATVs, have evolved into much more than just outdoor recreation toys for the adventurous among us. On many farming operations, ATVs have become an important tool and a fuel-saving option for farmers and ranchers traveling from shop to field.

Whether ATVs are used to haul hay to cattle in a remote pasture or to carry tools and parts to a malfunctioning irrigation pump, these zippy little vehicles help farmers and ranchers save both time and money.

But like all farm equipment, operating an ATV presents its own unique safety challenges. Accidents can occur quite quickly and with potentially devastating results. Most ATV accidents can be traced back to one of two things – inattention or inexperience – neither of which is a good excuse.

To stay safe while operating an ATV, follow the ATV Safety Institute's Golden Rules:

- Read the owner's manual carefully before operating the ATV.
- Be careful that any attachments are necessary. Many added attachments affect the stability, operating and braking of the ATV.
- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Never ride on public roads – another vehicle could hit you.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Ride an ATV that's right for your age.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.

A good safety program always includes wearing protective gear. A helmet is the most important piece of safety gear and should never be ignored. For eye protection, use a face shield as part of the helmet or ANSI-approved goggles or glasses. Also, gloves, boots, long pants and a sturdy jacket or long-sleeved shirt will help protect the body. *(continued on next page)*

## Notes from the CEO

*(continued from page 2)*

This means a homeowner could buy an ACP-infested tree from a legitimate outlet in Los Angeles and transport it anywhere else in the zone – Santa Paula, for example – without violating the regulations. And of course, the even greater concern is that residents who don't understand the quarantine rules – or chose to disregard them – could transport a supposedly "safe" plant infested with ACP to a citrus-producing region outside the quarantine area, such as the Central Valley.

## Litigation update


As I reported last month, the city of Ventura sued the United Water Conservation District on Aug. 5, challenging the extraction charge UWCD levies on groundwater pumpers. The city claims that although the California Water Code requires that United charge urban pumpers at least three times as much as agricultural pumpers for each unit of water, this rate differential amounts to

a constitutionally prohibited subsidy of agriculture by urban water customers.

To ensure that the interests of farmers and ranchers are properly and effectively represented as this important case proceeds, Farm Bureau of Ventura County requested that California Farm Bureau Federation's Legal Services Division file a motion to intervene in the case.

The CFBF Executive Committee and Board of Directors approved our request. Chris Scheuring, CFBF managing counsel, filed the motion on Sept. 8. A hearing has been set for Oct. 6 in Ventura County Superior Court.

— John Krist is chief executive officer of Farm Bureau of Ventura County. Contact him at [john@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:john@farmbureauvc.com).



**NOTARY SERVICE**  
Free to Members\*  
Call Kathy at 289-0155

\*Exception: Home loan documents

## 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.

## Board of Directors

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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.

## 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

## Use extra care when operating an ATV (continued from page 3)

Another important safety practice is a pre-ride check. Always inspect: air pressure in tires (and look for cuts or gouges); controls and cables to ensure they are working properly; lights and electrical system; and oil and fuel levels. In addition, be sure to check and lubricate the chain or drive shaft chassis, and also look for nuts and bolts loosened by vibration.

Remember that ATVs handle differently than other vehicles, such as motorcycles and tractors. Operators should become familiar with shifting their weight on turns, the turning radius of an ATV, its performance in muddy or sandy soils and on grass versus gravel, and the effects of going over or through fixed obstacles such as railroad tracks, driveways and waterways.

If an ATV stalls on an uphill climb, the operator should turn the steering wheel as he backs up so the ATV goes sideways. The ATV can then be ridden back downhill. The ATV should not be allowed to roll backward down the hill.

— Mike Klimenko is Farm Bureau Group manager for State Compensation Insurance Fund. He may be contacted at [mnklimenko@scif.com](mailto:mnklimenko@scif.com).

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