

BULLETIN

May / June 2013

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Photo courtesy of Point Pleasant Ranch



Photos courtesy of Sacramento County Ag Commissioner

(Top) Jennifer Berger handles a county ag commissioner's inspection dog named Dozer. (Right) Dozer is busy at work inspecting packages. (Below left) Sheepdog Liz was first in the Open Division in last year's Mother's Day Sheepdog Trial.

Fair time is fun time!

Traditions will continue May 23-27, as the Sacramento County Fair will be the gathering place for close to 90,000 community residents, leaders, and friends. This year's theme "Let's Eat, Have Fun & Celebrate the Red, White and Blue" will showcase traditional county fair competitions, agricultural displays, hands-on family activities, carnival, festival-style entertainment and specialty foods.

The Sacramento County Fair is dedicated to serving the community through their youth programs. For over 70 years the County Fair has provided a platform for local 4-H and FFA youth to show and sell livestock, demonstrate club projects and display their arts and crafts. Exhibits will be on display throughout the fair and will showcase local talented youth in the areas of photography, floriculture, digital media and many others.

Additionally, livestock shows will be held on Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24, with 4-H and FFA members competing for that elusive belt buckle. The Junior Livestock Auction will take place on Sunday, May 26 at 10 a.m. Over 600 local youth involved in 4-H and FFA will sell livestock and eggs at the 2013 Junior Livestock Auction. In 2012, over \$500,000 was generated at the sale thanks to the generosity of auction buyers.

If you know of any business or individual who would like to become a buyer please contact the Fair office. Local 4-H, FFA and Independent exhibitors need you! The Junior Livestock Auction is the culmination of the many months of an educational work experience that teaches biology, nutrition, accounting, marketing and personal accountability.

In addition to the competitive exhibits, the Fair has opened its doors to Sacramento area elementary schools with

Ag dogs help in many ways

Dogs can be much more than just man's best friend. In agriculture, they are also hard-working employees.

From farm dogs that help ranchers drive herds to inspection dogs that help prevent agricultural pests from infiltrating the state, these four-legged allies work behind the scenes to get their jobs done.

Inspecting incoming packages

Since January 2012, Dozer has worked with his handler, Jennifer Berger, to inspect packages that come into various mail facilities in Sacramento County and beyond, looking for quarantined materials and other threats to the county's \$350 million agriculture industry.

Juli Jensen, the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights and Measures for Sacramento County, said Dozer, a young male black lab, is the fourth inspection dog that the county has worked with, after his predecessors retired (from old age or for medical reasons – none have been injured in the line of duty).

"We expect him to be with us for quite some

time," Jensen said. "He has been just excellent."

Dozer is one of 13 agricultural detection dogs used by agricultural commissioner offices throughout the state of California.

Dozer and Berger spend their work days going from one high-risk facility to another – post offices, UPS and FedEx offices, inspecting packages on the facilities' conveyor belts and inside delivery trucks.

Dozer alerts Berger to – or "cues on" – suspicious packages by scratching at them.

The dog teams, sponsored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have intercepted many significant pests which could cost millions to eradicate if not detected.

Since the program began in 2006, the dog teams have intercepted thousands of mislabeled or otherwise illegal packages, including shipments containing more than 360 actionable insect and weed pests. Jensen said that Dozer's predecessor,

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Calendar of Events

MAY

- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 9 Young Farmers & Ranchers Meeting 6:00 pm
- 12 Mother's Day
- 23-27 Sacramento County Fair
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm

JUNE

- 1 April Fools Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 20 Ag Foundation Meeting 7:00 pm
- 21 Summer Begins
- 25 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm

Save the Date

Friday
July 12, 2013

**Golf Classic
Lockeford Springs
Golf Club**

Bulletin

VOL. 31, No. 3
May/June 2013

Walter Hardesty • President
Jim Viether • Vice President
Dan Roemer • Vice President
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The FB Bulletin is produced by Exclamation Point Communications for the Sacramento County Farm Bureau

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President's Message

by Walt Hardesty, SCFB President

Tell our ag story and support our youth

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their support of electing me as president. I look forward to representing our agricultural members on issues that affect all of us and educating our urban members about the importance of farmers and ranchers.

Spring is here and we all have a lot of work ahead of us. Even though we all are really busy, never pass up the opportunity to tell your agricultural story. Ag education is extremely important and our urban neighbors are interested in what we do on the farm. Telling your story gives them a connection they can feel good about.

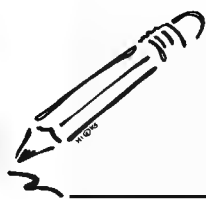
Recently, I had the chance to help give a tour of a dairy to 220 preschool and first-grade children. Every child was accompanied by an adult and all their teachers. It was a two-day event,

and they all loved it. Not only did we educate the kids, but also all of their parents. Many of them didn't have a clue about how they got their milk. This was a huge success for our industry because those children and their parents learned firsthand where milk comes from and it wasn't from a YouTube video that may not have been accurate.

Spring time also means Fair time!!! Sacramento County Fair will be held at Cal Expo, May 23-27. The fair is a good place to show your support for our young people in agriculture. The kids in 4-H and FFA work very hard on their projects all year and are proud to show them at the fair. Be sure to check out the indoor creative exhibits to see everything from jams and jellies to baked goods and artwork all crafted by young people all over the county.

The Junior Livestock Auction will be held on Sunday, May 26 and is where livestock exhibitors will sell their market animals. I personally have supported the auction for several years, buying market ready animals to eat. I have been totally satisfied with my purchase and have enjoyed the fine product of the hard work of the exhibitors. I encourage all of you to not only show your support for the youth in agriculture but purchase a local product, raised by a local producer. On sale will be beef, lamb, pork, goat, chicken, turkey and eggs. Support our county fair and our local kids. To learn more about buying an animal at the fair go to <http://sacfair.com/juniorlivestockauction.html>.

Have a great spring and see you at the FAIR!



Notes from the Editor...

Charlotte Mitchell, Editor
SCFB Executive Director

Twin tunnels will not solve our water problems

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is a proposed project which could be the largest habitat restoration project ever in the United States. It would create twin tunnels 35-miles long, each 40 feet in diameter and bored roughly 150 feet beneath the Delta, crossing beneath the Sacramento River two times. Three water intakes covering 2,700 acres of riverfront and a 925 acre fore-bay would also be constructed with over 100,000 acres of farmland potentially converted into publicly funded habitat to satisfy the 50-year permit the BDCP is working to obtain. Not to mention over 1,500 acres needed to store and manage the tunnel 'muck.'

Total price tag of the plan? Expected at about \$60 billion, which would include financing, mitigation, operations and maintenance for the 50-year project life. It is yet to be understood by the wildlife agencies if the new tunnels would leave enough water in the Sacramento River to protect the endangered wildlife and provide the water quality needed to ensure a healthy estuary, the two main objectives of the BDCP.

Other questions like, who is going to pay for the \$60 billion project? Where will the new water come from? If Mother Nature is not going to provide it, is storage part of the project? Will water right holders, especially those upstream of the Delta have something to lose? Will water users south of the Delta be able to afford the water that will come to them from a \$60 billion project? These questions and other have not been answered.

A more comprehensive approach to addressing California's water supply, flood protection and habitat issues in and outside of the Delta need to be considered rather than only the singularly focused BDCP alternative to ensure that sound and lasting solutions for California's water challenges are realistic and achievable.

Alternative projects like the Western Delta Intake Proposal, Delta Corridors and the NRDC Portfolio-Based Alternative are alternatives to the twin tunnels will result in water traveling through existing Delta channels to Southern California to serve the needs

of the cities and agriculture while keeping the Delta agriculture, communities and ecosystem viable, without the same habitat costs to the public or increases to rate payers of Delta water. Commitments to evaluating alternatives would represent a step forward in this critical debate for all Californians!



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Farm Bureau online at
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Ag dogs

Continued from page 1

Tassie, had a really big find during her tenure. She intercepted a shipment of curry leaves and guavas that contained Asian citrus psyllid, a potential threat to the state's \$1.88 billion citrus industry.

"They find quarantined materials all the time," Jensen said, "but finding the pest is what's really a big deal. Then you know that you have actually stopped a possible infestation."

All the dogs used in the program come from rescue groups or animal shelters, and are generally Labrador retriever mixed breeds. The dogs are chosen for their good temperament, energy level, and must undergo basic training at the USDA National Detector Dog Training Center in Georgia before being assigned to a handler. The dog and handler then become a team, which must be certified (and recertified annually) for proficiency by the USDA.

In the fields

Other dogs help ranchers move herds of cattle, sheep or goats from one place to another.

"When dogs are moving cattle, a couple of good dogs is probably like

one cowboy, a couple of good dogs working together with you," said Mike Tudesko, a beef cattle rancher in the Sloughhouse area.

Tom Spencer of Point Pleasant Ranch in Elk Grove is part of a three-generation ranching family. Spencer uses border collies to help move sheep on his ranch. The dogs help him bring the sheep in at night, as well as herding them when sheering or doctoring is needed.

Spencer, like his parents before him, also trains dogs and does "trialing," where his animals show off their skills in competitions around the nation. He is assisted by his wife, LisAnn, and daughter Chrissy Spencer, 32.

"Not all ranch dogs make good trial dogs," he said, "and not all trial dogs make good ranch dogs." Part of Spencer's task is identifying which animals are best suited for which kind of training.

The great thing about working dogs, Mike Tudesko said, is how devoted to their jobs they are.

"When you use them working cattle, they'll work till they drop," Tudesko said. "You have to stop them, otherwise they don't want to quit. They never complain about the work - they want more. If they're not working, they're



Photo courtesy of Point Pleasant Ranch
Jennifer Moaening and her dog Cody win First Place Nursery at last year's Point Pleasant Sheepdog Tournament.

unhappy. They look at you like they're saying 'Come on, come on, come on! What's next?' ... The more they work the happier they are."

Tudesko thought he had found the perfect little dog to be a ranch dog when Buster came into his life as a rescue dog a few years ago. Tudesko thought Buster might be able to stay out from under the cows' feet because he was small and quick. But his breed - dachshund - brought about an unintended problem. His little legs keep him so low that he gets lost in the tall grass. You can only see where he is from the grass

moving above him.

Spencer has another kind of working dog on his ranch. Pearl, a sturdy white dog who is part akbash and part maremma, is a guardian dog, protecting Spencers sheep from predators that might try to harm them, like coyotes or stray dogs in the area.

"Ever since we've had her," Spencer said, "we haven't lost any sheep."

So when it comes to dogs in agriculture, canines are much more than just pets. They work as hard - or harder than - their human counterparts, protecting livestock and crops.

Sacramento County Young Farmers and Ranchers

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JUNE 15, 2013

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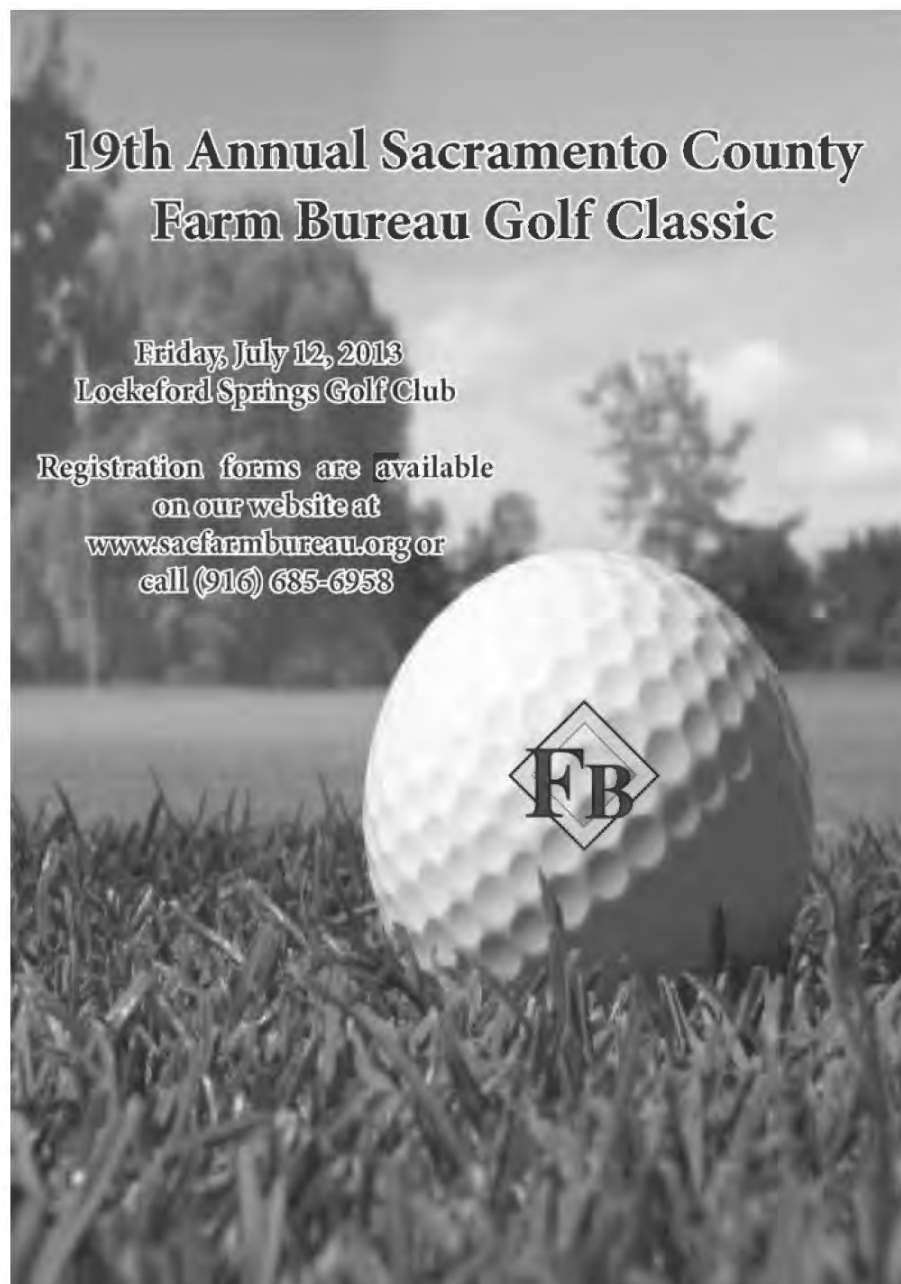
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Capitol Talk... From Washington to Sacramento

Local

Sacramento County Farm Bureau provided a tour for Congressman Bera of the county's agricultural areas.

On April 20, county Farm Bureau board of directors and staff provided Congressman Bera and his staff an exclusive tour of farms and ranches throughout Sacramento County. The day began with a look at the Cosumnes River farmland and a conservation project being installed to reuse irrigation water. Tim Nilsen of Nilsen Farms discussed his turkey operation which produces 22 million pounds of turkey annually.

Then off to see a look at aquaculture. Passmore Ranch provides fresh fish from his Sloughhouse fish farm to local and nationwide restaurants. The Congressman visited the Cal-Denier Dairy and then to Walnut Grove to tour the Sacramento County Farm Bureau's

Continued on next page



Michael Passmore (second from left) shows the Congressman (third from left) sturgeon in the tanks below. Ken Oneto (left) and Ben Gutierrez (right) look on.



Ken Mitchell (left) talks about the history of the Cosumnes River.



Left to Right, Lori Steward, Russell van Loben Sels, Congressman Bera, Walt Hardesty, Kevin Steward and Ken Oneto.



Tim Nilsen (left) and Ben Gutierrez (center) of Nilsen Farms discusses raising turkey with Congressman Bera.



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Health and Safety Fair.

Past President Kevin Steward and wife Lori had a wonderful lunch of local lamb and asparagus awaiting the group at their Walnut Grove home. After lunch the Congressman sat to discuss Delta issues and Sacramento River flows with board of director, Tim Neuharth at the Steamboat Slough beach.

The day ended with a tour of the Greene and Hemly packing house with

Continued on next page



Skip Jacobsen (left) explains farming hay to Congressman Bera.



Fred Denier (third from left) explains the dairy industry. Walt Hardesy (left), Congressman Bera, and Ken Oneto listen in.



Left to Right, Matt Hemly, Congressman Bera, Virginia Hemly Chhabra, Cathy Hemly and Doug Hemly.



Tim Neuharth (left) and Congressman Bera discuss the impacts of the Governor's proposed twin tunnels, looking on are Zach Yeates with Congressman Bera's office, Ken Oneto and Walt Hardetsy.

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the fifth and sixth generation Hemly's, Doug and Cathy (fifth generation) and children Matthew Hemly and Virginia Hemly Chhabra (sixth generation).

"We hope we gave the Congressman a glimpse of what we do as farmers and ranchers and the challenges that we face every day with regulations," said President Walt Hardesty.

New Federal Air Quality Regulations for stationary engines

On March 9, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted a National Emission Standard

(NESHAP) for reciprocating internal combustion engines (Subpart ZZZZ). EPA has made some changes and/or exemptions to the regulation since our first Advisory on the subject distributed in December 2011.

This federal regulation is subject to Stationary Engines and not portable equipment such as tractors and transportable pumps. Compression ignition engines installed before June 12, 2006 will need to comply by May 3, 2013 with lower emission standards and other additional requirements. Please see the table at www.sacfarmbureau.org to identify which standards your engine(s) is subject to.

California

AB 31 (Pan-Sacramento) Stabilization and marketing plan for market milk.

This bill would provide a specific formula that the secretary would be required to use to establish the price for class 4b market milk that includes a dry whey value factor that is no less than 80 percent of the dry whey value used in federal milk marketing orders in establishing minimum producer prices.

The bill would authorize each handler's milk plant that purchases class 4b market milk to deduct a dry whey credit, as specified.

Delisting of endangered species is ignored by federation agency.

The Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), on behalf of California Farm Bureau Federation, California Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, filed a lawsuit in the Eastern District Court of California in an effort to seek an injunction requiring the federal government to respond to the request to delist or "downlist" a number of endangered species.

A bill was amended recently in the Assembly to end the **partial sales and use tax** (sales tax) exemption for farm equipment and diesel fuel used in agriculture and in food processing for transportation from the field to the first point of processing.

AB 769 (Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley) would repeal this 12-year-old exemption on the state portion of the sales tax, currently at 5.5 percent effective June 20, 2017. It would also sunset the full sales tax exemption for feed, seed and fertilizer used to produce food for human consumption on same date.

Farm Bureau and a broad coalition of agricultural and food processor organizations are opposed to this very regressive tax measure.

Federal

FDA extends Produce Rule comment period & CFBF Food Safety Committee

After the American Farm Bureau led an effort to extend the comment period for the Produce Safety and Preventive Controls for Human Food rules, the FDA published notice of a 120-day extension of the current comment periods to Sept. 16, 2013. This extension will ensure that we have more time to fully represent our growers when we comment on the rules.

Currently, Farm Bureau is organizing a Food Safety committee to advise in the development of Farm Bureau's official comment.

Immigration Reform

House Judiciary Committee, Chair Goodlatte introduces Immigration Bill (H.R. 1773) to create an immigration program. Farm Bureau is reviewing the bill before commenting in detail on the bill.

The Senate Gang of 8 also introduced their comprehensive immigration reform bill. The bill includes an agriculture immigration program which provides a way for those currently working in agriculture who are not properly documented to continue working in agriculture; and creates a visa programs that allows foreign workers to enter the U.S. to work in agriculture.

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Ag Foundation Contributors

March/April (3/2/13) to Present (4/25/13)

A special thank you to the following SCFB members who have contributed so generously to our Ag Education & Scholarship Fund. We truly appreciate your support. Your donation reinforces the importance of agricultural education for our future young farmer and ranchers. Thank you for this special support!

Owen Autry
Clifford Carnes
Kevin Fonseca
Bob Huevel
Perry Kiwi
Richard T. Meier
James C. Mesick
Hugh T. Mooney

New Hope Dairy
Lesley Ostman
Partridge Ag Service
Bill J. Robinson
Frank Skover
Laura T. Smith
Kelly A. Whitaker
Eric Zierke

The primary purpose of the foundation is to provide scholastic financial assistance to students pursuing or planning to pursue an education in an agricultural field. Additionally, it is our goal to improve and enhance the agricultural education programs at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels by training teachers to present agricultural lessons in the classroom, providing students with direct contact with farm animals and representatives of agriculture and promoting student understanding of the role of agriculture in California. The Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) entity for tax deduction purposes. Visit our website at www.sacfarmbureau.org/donate.



Bounty of The County

Black Forest Ice Cream Cake

Contributed by: California Bountiful

Ingredients

- 2 cups ground chocolate cookie crumbs, such as Nabisco Famous Chocolate Wafers
- 3 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
- 1 1/2 quarts chocolate chip ice cream
- 1 1/2 lb. cherries, stemmed and pitted
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tbsp. cornstarch



Preparation:

In a bowl, stir together cookie crumbs and melted butter. Press firmly into the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan. Freeze for 30 minutes.

Let ice cream sit at room temperature for about 20 minutes to soften slightly (less time if it is hot out). Put ice cream in springform pan. Firmly press ice cream on top of crust. Wrap in plastic wrap and freeze cake for several hours until firm. (Can be made several days ahead.)

While cake is freezing, combine cherries, water, sugar and cornstarch in a medium pot. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until cherries have given off juice and have thickened. Refrigerate until cold. Just before serving, unmold cake. Place cherries on top of cake. Slice and serve.

Serves 8 to 10



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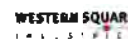
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OF THE BULLETIN

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CALSTAR Membership Program Traumatic injury or illness can strike anyone at any time, and air medical transports can leave patients with thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses. CALSTAR is pleased to offer group membership coverage to Farm Bureau members and their families for \$30 per year, a 33% discount. For more information on how to enroll as a Farm Bureau group member, please contact (888) 207-LIFE (5433) or info@calstar.org. For general information on CALSTAR's mission and services, please visit www.calstar.org.

Life Line Screenings The California Farm Bureau Rural Health Department is joining forces with Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive screenings, to provide health screening services to Farm Bureau members. Stroke affects nearly 800,000 Americans every year. Abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral vascular disease and atrial fibrillation, as well as high blood pressure, are silent conditions. You often do not know you have them until it is too late. If you are age 50 and over, consider these screenings to help keep you on top of your health. Farm Bureau members should call (800) 909-4785 to make an appointment. Four screenings are available for only \$135 per member.

Vehicle Discounts

General Motors Farm Bureau members qualify for exclusive discounts on General Motors vehicles. The discounts include a \$500 manufacturer incentive on a purchase or lease at participating dealers. Fleet vehicles also qualify for the \$500 incentive. The partnership features Chevrolet cars and trucks, GMC trucks and Buick cars as part of the GM Vehicle Incentive Program. There is no limit to the number of vehicles that may be bought or leased using the incentive. To be eligible for the discount, customers must have been members of a county Farm Bureau in California for a minimum of 60 days, based on the delivery date of the vehicle. Upon purchasing the vehicle, members must present the appropriate GM certificate to their respective GM dealer prior to the purchase of the vehicle. Follow the link www.fbverify.com to download your GM certificate.

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Wyndham Hotels To take advantage of the member services hotel discount program, California Farm Bureau Federation members must use ID number 66544 when making advance reservations by phone. Discount is subject to availability at participating hotels. Toll-free Reservation 877-670-7088, ID number 66544, Discount 20% off best available rate Book Online Wyndham Hotels and Resorts: www.wyndham.com All others: wyndhamrewards.com

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Amusement Parks Stretch your entertainment dollars at major amusement parks and attractions with a variety of discounts. Contact your county Farm Bureau office to obtain coupons or call the help desk at (800) 698-FARM for discount information on Aquarium of the Pacific, Great America, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, San Diego Zoo, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Hurricane Harbor, Santa Cruz Boardwalk, Sea World and Universal Studios



Fair

Continued from page 1

its popular free school tour program hosting over 10,000 local students, educators and chaperones.

School tours are an educational program designed to give a real-life lesson in agriculture that takes learning out of the classroom and onto the farm. These students reap the rewards

of this fun-filled and educational trip to participate in over 10 agricultural education stations.

Numerous volunteers, commodity groups, 4-H & FFA members and Fair vendors come together to assist in educating local students on the positive benefits of agriculture. This is an excellent opportunity for agricultural groups to come together and educate students on the benefits of agriculture, while teaching them how to grow their own food. School tours will take place on Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. during the fair.

In addition to free school tours, the County Fair provides a fully-funded wheelbarrow garden program to over 85 classrooms. The 'Farm Garden in a Wheelbarrow' is an educational program designed to educate young children, grades K-6 about the importance of agriculture, where their food comes from and how it grows. It's a fun, interactive hands-on learning environment that meets state classroom standards. This program has seen substantial growth in recent years and provides a hands-on learning project for students throughout the spring.

In February schools receive a wheelbarrow, seeds for a salad, soil, teaching materials and curriculum. Students plant, care for, decorate and produce a tri-fold display of their experiences. Students bring their wheelbarrows to the Fair where they are judged and displayed throughout the Fair.

Following the Fair, teachers return the wheelbarrows to the classes where the students harvest and eat the salads they have produced. This is an excellent program that gives children, mostly urban, an opportunity to gain knowledge of hands-on agriculture in a fun and practical way.

In order to keep all of these programs successful, the Sacramento County Fair Board of Directors created a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation in 2011. The Sacramento County Fair Foundation assists the Fair in generating funds for educational and competitive programs.

The Foundation is seeking support from community members and local businesses to continue their mission of educating our community about hands-on agriculture. All funds donated to the Foundation are tax deductible. If you enjoy the Fair, we encourage you to consider joining the Foundation.

Challenging times are not always bad. Together with sponsors, donors, exhibitors and attendees the opportunity to become a self-sustaining organization can be a reality.

If you would like further information on how to help the Sacramento County Fair and the Foundation, please contact the Fair office at (916) 263-2975 or visit their website at www.sacfair.com.



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Health and Safety Fair offered to farm employees

Sacramento County Farm Bureau along with First 5 of Sacramento and over 20 area organizations provided health and safety services to farm employees and their families in the Sacramento Delta area. This year the Health & Safety Fair was held on Saturday, April 20, and it was a fun, family event for all.

In addition, Congressman Ami Bera participated in the health fair and learned about issues affecting Delta agriculture and employees in the area.

Health services included screenings for vision, hearing, dental, general health, and cholesterol among others. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department provided child identification services and the Walnut Grove Fire Department provided fire safety demonstrations. The fair provided much needed health, safety, and nutritional services to over 150 attendees.

This event could not be offered free

of charge without the participation of the Walnut Grove Elementary School's First 5 School Readiness program and organizations such as those listed above along with the Delta Lions, Smile Keepers Dental Van, Woodland Healthcare, K12 Health and the many other volunteers that donated their time.

Supporting organizations included CalVans, UC Davis California AgriAbility, Cover the Kids, Sacramento County Voter Registration, Sierra Donor Services, Sacramento County SmileKeepers Dental Health program, Dignity Health - Woodland Healthcare clinic, Sacramento Public Library, Delta Lions Club, Sacramento County Sheriff, First 5 Sacramento, Sacramento - Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control, Health Education Council, Dairy Council of California, Community Resource Program, SMUD-Residential Assistance Program, Department of Pesticide Regulation and K12 Health.



Photos by Kevin Swartzendruber

Congressman Ami Bera learns about dental health (above) and vision (below) services provided at the Health & Safety Fair.



(Above) The Walnut Grove Fire Department provided a truck for the kids to enjoy at the event; (Below) Congressman Ami Bera talks to one of several volunteers at the Health & Safety Fair.



Many Safety Fair participants received free dental services.

Farm Safety Seminar continues its success

More than 150 farm workers and 20 managers, owners, supervisors from the county attended Sacramento County Farm Bureau's Annual Farm Safety Seminar on March 15 in Walnut Grove. For over 30 years Sacramento County Farm Bureau has been providing the Farm Safety Seminar free of charge to its members who employ workers on their agricultural operations.

Farmers and farm workers must deal with potential hazards on the farm on a daily basis and Farm Bureau understands the importance of safety as it relates to business. Educational presentations for the workers were provided in English and Spanish during the morning session. Topics included heat illness prevention, confined space awareness, electrical safety, traffic and vehicle safety and back and ladder safety.

The afternoon employer session included topics about changes to implementations of husbandry vehicle code, an update on the long term irrigated lands program, heat illness and confined space awareness, and employee vanpool options. Each participating operation



(Above) Officer Avila addresses farm employees about traffic and vehicle safety; (Right) SMUD demonstrates electrical hazards with their simulated city demonstration



received a certificate listing the number of workers that attended the event for their company records.

Funds for the Farm Safety Seminar

are raised through several events held throughout the year such as our Annual Member's Dinner and our Golf Classic. Resources were provided by

the California Farm Bureau Federation, State Compensation Insurance Fund and the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District.

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Who's Who in the Field... Member Spotlight

Name: Rich Johnson, Associate Broker, United Country Sacramento Valley Real Estate

Rich Johnson works with United Country Sacramento Valley Real Estate, which specializes in real estate in smaller communities and rural properties. In many ways, the agricultural real estate market has weathered the economic downturn of recent years better than other segments of the real estate industry, leaving Johnson and the company poised for growth as the area economy begins to rebound.

Age: 42

Education: Bachelor's in business management at Sonoma State University

Personal: Has lived in Sacramento for the past 20 years with his wife, Joyce Wenger-Johnson, and their three children – son Callan, 13; daughter Makenna, 9; and son Cameron, 6.

One thing people may not know about you: I help coach my son's middle

school track and field team. I have a background in shotput and discus in high school (Humboldt County). People don't really think too much about the throwing sports in track and field.

How did you become active in the Sacramento County Farm Bureau? I grew up in a rural part of California. I raised cattle, we had a small ranch on the coast, so I've always been involved in agricultural issues. Through the course of my career, I started getting involved in planning and permitting of various types of projects, and I dealt a lot with local farmers and ranchers on these projects. Working with farmers and ranchers was what I wanted to do. The issues that they cared about are the issues that I care about. So I decided to join Farm Bureau for that reason, to support local growers, to impact issues that mattered to them, and lend whatever support I could. Through the Farm Bureau, I'm able to do that. It's an organization that I believe in. I do believe it represents our farmers and ranchers



very well on the important issues. Not only issues related to political issues, but to have the opportunity in my business to network with people who have those common interests, those common values on big questions in California, on water policy and land-use issues, I want to make sure I support the traditional agricultural practices here in California and that lifestyle. It has been important to me to support the farm bureau and our California farmers and ranchers.

What are some of the key agricultural issues facing farmers and ranchers, issues that are important in your industry? The biggest issue throughout California is water. Our water resources are stretched thin. We have competing interests – agriculture in the valley, the north and the south, the urban

areas along the coast and in Southern California. So obviously land prices are impacted by the availability of water. So that's an issue that I'm watching very closely. The Delta farmers, the landowners, understand the needs of farmers and ranchers in the San Joaquin Valley, but they're afraid that by moving that water from the Delta, it's going to destroy the Delta.

Another big issue for me is, and I think for farmers and ranchers, is land use, with local and state governments and how their policies and regulations impact the use of the land and restrict the use of the land. We see this multitude of government layers and jurisdictions that are just making it more and more difficult for farmers to make a living – the costs, the controls and the restrictions on what they do. All these layers of regulation and bureaucracy are really a detriment to agriculture. It's hard enough to make a living on a small piece of ground, but when you add in all of these regulations that these small producers have to deal with, it just squeezes them from the market completely.

What are your plans for the future? My plan is to continue to grow my business. Right now, we have an office in Lincoln, we have an office in Yuba City, and I'm in Sacramento. I'm searching for an office in the Elk Grove area. I'm really focusing on growing our physical presence in Sacramento County and throughout the Delta and in attracting competent, talented agents to work with me. United Country is a large national firm – we have a great product, a great service that we provide to our clients with an international marketing reach. That's what I'm concentrating on – bringing in talented local agents who understand the land business, who understand the needs of farmers and ranchers, who can provide our clients with the best service possible.

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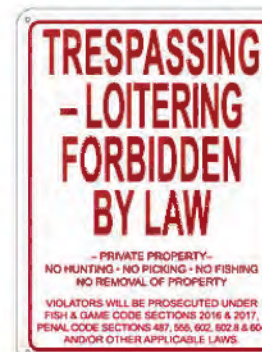
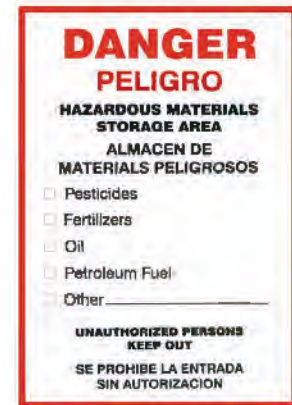
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Mayor Johnson headlines Perspectives on Ag program

Agriculture is an industry long associated with Sacramento's identity, but often because of its sheer geographic imprint on the region rather than the economic impact to it. The Sacramento Metro Chamber will connect the dots in its Perspectives on Agriculture: The Intersection of Mayor Johnson's Year of Food & Our Region's Ag Economy.

In his State of the City address, Mayor Kevin Johnson proclaimed 2013 as Sacramento's Year of Food, showcasing the agricultural heritage of our region. Johnson will headline the Perspectives on Agriculture program, which brings together not only the cultural and social aspects associated with the Valley's food, but also examines how agriculture as an economic driver affects the Sacramento region. Our region's Next Economy economic development plan has identified Agriculture as one of our major economic clusters.

"Connecting the Farm to Fork movement and Sacramento's Year of Food with the business of agriculture will help people better understand how Ag not only fits into but is a primary component of our region's economy," said Roger Niello, Metro Chamber president and CEO. "It may be obvious to the people who live and work in agriculture-dominated areas, but I believe it's an underappreciated notion to many outside those areas," he said.

In addition to Mayor Johnson, the luncheon program includes a panel of experts across various aspects of agriculture:

- Bryce Lundberg, VP of agriculture, Lundberg Family Farms, will discuss ag production.
- Frank Muller, Joe Muller & Sons, Yolo Vineyards and chair of Pacific Coast Producers; and Mark Jansen,

CEO, Blue Diamond Growers, will examine the history and future of Ag processing.

- Tim Johnson, president & CEO, California Rice Commission, will talk about the importance of the ag export market.
- Patrick Mulvaney, owner, Mul-

vaney's B&L Restaurant, will look at the edible benefits of Farm to Fork.

Technology that allows 21st century agriculture to be so productive will be presented by a to-be-named panelist.

"Mayor Johnson and each of the panelists have a unique and discrete interest in this issue," Niello said. "Perspectives

on Agriculture will paint a more complete picture of how Ag works in our region and keeps our region working."

The event will be May 15th from 11:30-1:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, including how to register for the program, contact Renee Siden at rsiden@metrochamber.org.



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