



Action Alert! Weigh-in on the State Water Board proposed regulations targeting septic systems.

Use our easy Farm Team Action Alert program to comment on burdensome & costly state regulations on septic systems. At minimum, property owners with existing systems will be required to: inspect septic systems (\$325 estimated cost) every five years, sample & analyze groundwater from on-site domestic wells every five years, retrofit tanks if found to be causing pollution (\$45,000 estimated cost). To send a letter through Farm Team go to <http://capwiz.com/cfbf/state/main/?state=CA>

Update on Vine Trail

Last year, Farm Bureau joined the Board of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition (NVVTC) with the following purpose: 1) participate in exploring options to enhance recreational trails and alternative transportation in Napa County 2) voice and protect ag's interest and assure Right to Farm 3) assure voluntary participation by landowners and no use of eminent domain 4) maintain the integrity of the Ag Preserve 5) facilitate timely info to our members about the trail opportunities, progress, options and impacts.

The NVVTC Board is still in the exploratory phase on many issues, including trail alignment, funding, impacts to ag and zoning issues. It was never the intent of the vine trail leaders to use condemnation procedures. To clearly allay those fears, the NVVTC Board made a firm statement by unanimous voting at the January meeting to not allow eminent domain in creating new trails. We will host a members' forum on the vine trail in the spring. Meanwhile for more info go to www.napavalleyvinetrail.org or call the FB office.

Stop conversion of ag land to golf course in Pope Valley!

Farm Bureau opposes the pending Lake Luciana development plan that proposes to convert agricultural lands in Pope Valley to a private golf course. The developers claim the parcels are not suitable for ag. Knowing the history of the parcel and viticultural operations with soil profiles similar to the project site, FB Directors Peter Nissen, Manuel Rios and Steve Matthiasson, all submitted testimony at the

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Help protect rural Angwin!

On Jan. 27th, County Supervisors deadlocked in a 2-2 vote on protecting rural Angwin and amending the land use to prevent inappropriate development in this rural ag area of the county. The General Plan amendment proposal stems from years of planning work for the county General Plan update. Farm Bureau has been working to amend the county's 12 "urban bubbles" and protect farmland and the county's rural character since the winter of 2005. We succeeded partially last December, when the Supes voted to redesignate and protect almost 1,900 acres of ag land from the 12 "urban bubbles". For the Angwin "bubble", the Supervisors needed more time to study the issue and deferred further changes to January 27th.

The Angwin land use designation changes are controversial, as Pacific Union College (PUC), despite full knowledge of the pending General Plan review process, submitted an application in July 2007 for a master-planned "Eco-Village" subdivision. FB supports PUC, but opposes this unsustainable and ill-suited development.

The Supervisor's decision is now scheduled for Feb. 24th, when Supervisor Mark Luce will be able to participate and break the tie. Please help by letting your Supervisor know that you support the land use changes to protect the rural and agricultural integrity of the Angwin area. For more info call the FB office or go to www.saveruralangwin.org.

Crop Disaster Aid deadline- February 27

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

The ending date of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county Farm Service Agency office.

Napa county producers should call the FSA office at 944-0622. More information is available on our website at <http://www.napafarmbureau.org/aboutncfb/currentissues.html>

Farm Safety Seminar | March 13, 2009 | 8:00 am - 12 pm | English and Spanish | Napa Expo - Cabernet Hall

Farmers and farmworkers routinely must deal with potential hazards such as equipment, tractor, ATV, chemicals, and the weather.

The Farm Safety seminar will educate farmers, employees about the importance of farm safety as well as remind them of the latest safety regulation.

Classes will be presented in Spanish and English and attendees will receive a certificate of participation for their records. Visit napafarmbureau.org for more information and download a registration form.

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Planning Commission meeting on Jan. 21 stating that “*there is no basis to suggest that the Lake Luciana site is anything other than a viable and suitable agricultural parcel.*”

The golf course can only be approved on this ag watershed zoned property if it meets 7 county requirements. FB will continue to make a strong case that the project doesn't comply with the necessary requirements, including 1) demonstrated need 2) appropriately located 3) no conflict with onsite or adjacent ag 4) use serves local need. The Planning Commission resumes deliberations on Feb. 4th. Please call the FB office for more info and help by submitting your comments to the Planning Commission or attending the Feb. 4th hearing.

Habitat Restoration on Vineyards, Ag Lands & Beyond | Wed. Feb.18, 2009, 9AM -2:30pm

Napa-Solano Audubon, in partnership with Katey Taylor, Viticulturist for Icon Estates, presents a seminar with a focus on: Design & Planting of Hedgerows, Wildlife corridors & pond edges, Native plant selection & sources, Invasive weed species and their control, bird and wildlife identification & habitat needs, available funding, support and more.

Please visit www.napasolanoaudubon.com for more information and register or email: nsas_tg@yahoo.com

Represent FB at Napa County Weed Management Area's Committee

Please contact NCFB if you would like to serve as Farm Bureau's representative on the Napa County Weed Management Area committee. The Ag Commissioner's office runs the program and they meet several times a year.

2009 Official Labor Notices

FELS has developed laminated posters to assist agricultural and non-agricultural employers in complying with state and federal posting requirements. Download an order form at: <http://www.napafarmbureau.org/aboutncfb/currentissues.html>

Heat Illness Prevention Workshop

Thursday, April 23, 2009 | Napa City-County Library, 580 Coombs Street, Napa, Ca. | 8:30am Spanish & 10:30am English presentation

To reduce the problems of heat stress injuries in California, State Compensation Insurance Fund and Napa County Farm Bureau are sponsoring a workshop “Heat Illness Prevention in Agriculture for Supervisors.” This program will focus on the dangers of heat-related injuries and will train supervisors to prevent them. At the completion of the program, attendees will receive a certificate of attendance.

\$25 for NCFB, NVG or NVV members, \$35 for non-members. Registration necessary by April 17, 2009: 707.224.5403

NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit napafarmbureau.org for a complete list and more information

February

- 3 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting 6 pm, 224-5403
- 4 Natural Resources meeting 4pm at FB, 224-5403
- 9 Tax, Land Use meeting 4pm at FB, 224-5403
- 10 Community & Member Outreach 12pm at FB, 224-5403
- 13 Organic Farming Group 12 pm at FB, 224-5403
- 18 Board of Directors Meeting** 7 pm at FB, 224-5403
- 19 AITC meeting 224-5403 4 pm at FB, 224-5403
- 23-25 CFBF Commodity Mtgs & Leadership Conference 224-5403
- 25 Teacher Appreciation Day** at Clos Du Val 224-5403

March

- 4 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting 224-5403
- 4 Natural Resources meeting 4pm at FB, 224-5403
- 9 Tax, Land Use meeting 4pm at FB, 224-5403
- 10 Community & Member Outreach 12pm at FB, 224-5403
- 13 Farm Safety Seminar**, Napa Expo, 224-5403
- 18 Board of Directors Meeting** 7 pm at FB, 224-5403
- 19 AITC meeting 4 pm at FB, 224-5403
- 20 AITC – Day at the Farm** Napa Expo, 224-5403
- 28 Livestock Commodity Group meeting 12pm at McQueeney Ranch 224-5403

Save the date!

April 23 – Heat Illness Seminar

May 8 – Meadow Muffin Ag Education Classic

July 17 – 96th Annual Meeting

Drought Management Workshops

The National Drought Mitigation Center, United States Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency, and the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Davis) are presenting a listening session and workshop to help California reduce vulnerability to drought. The workshops are scheduled for:

Feb. 24 - Harris Ranch in Coalinga, CA

Feb. 26 - Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland, CA.

Presentations will focus on California's drought experiences and on the drought management tools that the NDMC is developing. All are welcome, but sign up soon because space is limited. Please register online at: <http://drought.unl.edu/registration/CA2009/caregistration2009.html>

NCFB presents First Aid & CPR training

American Red Cross certification | March 13, 16, 17, 18 or 19

The California Code of Regulations requires that “In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace, which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid.” Please visit napafarmbureau.org for more information or to register.