



## **Napa County Water Forum**

***Everything you need to know about ag water issues!***

**March 9** – 8 am to Noon, Native Sons Hall  
1313 Spring St, St. Helena

Join us at the Water Forum to hear important new information on the county's groundwater monitoring efforts, how to avoid trouble with the new enforcement actions by the State Water Board, learn about the new Surface Water reporting requirements, Best Management Practices for farming in a healthy watershed and updates on the Napa River Sediment & Pathogen TMDL water quality compliance programs. Register at [napafarmbureau.org](http://napafarmbureau.org) or call 224-5403 to sign up.

## **Free! Revisions to the Ag Diesel Truck and Bus Rule Workshop**

**Wednesday February 9, 2011, 9am-11am**

UCCE Conference Room, 1710 Soscol Ave, Suite 4, Napa. Last year, Farm Bureau successfully advocated for a reasonable "low mileage" ag truck exemption with the California Air Resources. The rules are complex and are now undergoing revisions. NCFB has arranged this workshop with the Air Board to explain the ag and non-ag amendments to the truck rule and allow you to understand the new options before you decide how to proceed with compliance. RSVP 707.224.5403 or [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org)

## **Livestock Commodity Group meeting featuring a "Beef Quality Assurance Program"**

**March 12, 2011 | 9:30am-3pm**, Barbeque and refreshments at noon, Pope Valley Farm Center.

Jim Oltjen, UC Davis Cooperative Extension animal scientist, will be our guest to present the Beef Quality Assurance Program. Jim specializes in management issues affecting the beef industry. The event is sponsored by the Napa County Farm Bureau and the Napa-Solano Cattlemen's Association. Lunch and refreshments will be provided and terrific door prizes raffled. Don't miss the fun. Please RSVP by March 5, 2011 to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) or 707.224.5403

## **Supplemental revenue assistance payments for 2009 losses – Deadline is July 29, 2011**

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program has opened. SURE is one of five disaster programs included in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before July 29, 2011.

For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>

## **European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) Grower Meetings**

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office has scheduled three grower meetings in early February to update growers on European Grapevine Moth in Napa County. Continuing Education Credits have been applied for. The meeting will include updates on biology, damage & monitoring, the Technical Working Group recommendations and the 2011 trapping & control program. Please attend one of these sessions to help continue the successful control program for EGVM!

- **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 2 pm – 4 pm, Rutherford Grange, 8550 St. Helena Highway, Rutherford.

- **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, 2 pm – 4 pm, Tucker Hall, Napa County Fairgrounds, 2025 Grant Street, Calistoga.

- **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 9:30 am – 11:30am, Cabernet Hall, Napa Valley Expo, 575 Third Street, Napa.

## **"Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities"**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**, UCCE Conference Room, 1710 Soscol Ave., Suite 4, Napa.

USDA Rural Development and Napa County invite you to an open forum discussing economic development issues in your county.

This forum will focus on activities and initiatives that have resulted from USDA Rural Development's *Jobs, Economic Development and Sustainable Communities* report. This report was compiled based on input provided by community leaders, citizens, business owners and organizations from throughout rural California.

A copy of USDA Rural Development's report can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Reports/CA-JobsReport-Feb10.pdf>

## **Free! Estate Planning Workshops**

Protect your estate and learn about the new estate tax laws passed in December 2010. These workshops are free to our members and will be held at the NCFB office from 9 am to 11 am.

**Feb. 23** – Robert Green, Estate Planning Advisor – LPL Financial and John Carr, Attorney

**Mar. 22** – Robert Green, Estate Planning Advisor – LPL Financial and Mike Manfred, Attorney – Gaw Van Male  
RSVP to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) or 224-5403.



## **Don't forget to visit the new Napa Ag Exchange!**

NCFB's Ag Exchange is a free service for Napa County Farm Bureau members to sell and

trade barrels, racks compost, hay, grapes, equipment, livestock, and much more.

NCFB's Ag Exchange allows buyers and sellers to complete business without a commission or a third party being involved. [www.napafarmbureau.org/ncfbagexchange.html](http://www.napafarmbureau.org/ncfbagexchange.html)

## Protest Form for FY 2010-11 Water Rights "Fee"

California Farm Bureau Federation is challenging in court as an unconstitutional tax the annual state "fee" imposed on water rights permits and licenses. On December 6, the state Board of Equalization (BoE) mailed "fee" bills (technically, a "Notice of Determination") for fiscal year 2010-11 to the holders of water rights permits and licenses. As Farm Bureau has recommended in prior years, a bill recipient should file with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) a protest (technically, a "Petition for Reconsideration"). Doing so might enhance the "fee" payer's ability to get a refund of "fees" paid if they are ultimately declared invalid. A protest form can be accessed at: <http://www.cfbf.com/protestform.cfm>

## Partial Sales Tax Exemption Benefits Family Farmers and Ranchers

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the partial sales and use tax exemption for farm equipment, machinery, diesel fuel used in farming and food processing, off-road timber harvesting equipment and machinery, and race horse breeding stock. Assembly Bill 426 took effect on Sept. 1, 2001, and provided needed tax equity for California farmers and ranchers. This measure, easily the most significant tax change for the agricultural community since the Williamson Act farmland conservation program, also provided a full sales and use tax exemption for certain uses of liquefied petroleum gas or propane. For more information, see the California Farm Bureau website at [www.cfbf.com/issues/economy/tax.cfm](http://www.cfbf.com/issues/economy/tax.cfm).

## Volunteer, join the fun and make a difference!

Help us plan the fun fundraising events Napa County Farm Bureau will host in 2011! Meet other dynamic volunteers and add your talent and energy to promoting and protecting Napa ag. Golfers are invited to help organize our annual golf tournament fundraiser for Ag In The Classroom. Please contact Sylvie Petitarmand at [sylvie@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:sylvie@napafarmbureau.org) if you'd like to be involved.

## 2010 agricultural posters available at fels.org

FELS (Farm Employers Labor Service) has developed laminated posters to assist agricultural and non-agricultural employers in complying with state and federal posting requirements. FELS subscribers receive a 20% discount. Purchase online at: <http://www.fels.org/Catalog/Posters.htm#Posters>

## Open position on the Napa County Housing Commission

An opening for a volunteer on the Napa County Housing Commission exists for a person with strong financial knowledge in the wine industry. The Commission provides oversight and advice for the operation of 3 Farmworker Housing Centers. Download an application at [www.countyofnapa.org](http://www.countyofnapa.org) or contact Nancy Johnson at 707-299-1352 for more information.

## Sign up for CalAgX 2011 Export Training at NCFB's office March 3 - May 12.

The CalAgX training program will give you the knowledge, skills, and the connections to become a successful exporter. The six-classes will be held in March, April and May from 9am to 1pm. For more information on how you can be a part of this statewide training program at the Napa County Farm Bureau, visit [www.fresnocitd.org/calagx](http://www.fresnocitd.org/calagx) or contact Frank Nunez, Center for International Trade Development at (888) 638-7888 to enroll.

## NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [napafarmbureau.org](http://napafarmbureau.org) for a complete list and more information

### February

- 2 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 2 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting, 6pm Filippis, [megan\\_ma@hotmail.com](mailto:megan_ma@hotmail.com)
- 2 European Grapevine Moth, 2pm-4pm, Rutherford Grange
- 3 Teacher Appreciation Wine Dinner at Silverado Vyds, RSVP 224-5403
- 3 European Grapevine Moth, 9:30am-11:30am, Cabernet Hall, Napa
- 4 European Grapevine Moth, 2pm-4pm, Tucker Hall, Calistoga
- 8 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 9 Revisions to the Diesel Truck and Bus Rule workshop at UC Cooperative Extension room, RSVP 224-5403
- 10 Napa County Pruning Contest, NV Grapegrowers, Beringer Vyds Ranch, 944-8311
- 11 Organic Group meeting noon at FB 224-5403
- 14 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 16 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 17 California Ag/Wine Export Training Program at FB [www.fresnocitd.org/calagx](http://www.fresnocitd.org/calagx)
- 23 Estate Planning Workshop, 9-11am, NCFB's office 224-5403

### March

- 2 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 3 California Ag/Wine Export Training Program at FB [www.fresnocitd.org/calagx](http://www.fresnocitd.org/calagx)
- 6-8 California Small Farm Conference, San Jose [www.californiafarmconference.com/](http://www.californiafarmconference.com/)
- 8 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 9 Water Forum in St. Helena, RSVP 224-5403
- 11 Organic Group meeting noon at FB 224-5403
- 12 Livestock Commodity Group meeting, Pope Valley Ranch, 9:30am, 224-5403
- 14 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 16 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 17 California Ag/Wine Export Training Program at FB [www.fresnocitd.org/calagx](http://www.fresnocitd.org/calagx)
- 18 Ag Day at Napa Valley Expo, 224-5403 x 104
- 20 National Ag Week
- 22 Estate Planning Workshop, 9-11am, NCFB's office 224-5403
- 30 Ag Safety & Health Seminar, Upper Valley Campus, 8am-5pm, 224-5403
- 31 California Ag/Wine Export Training Program at FB [www.fresnocitd.org/calagx](http://www.fresnocitd.org/calagx)

### Save the Dates!

- April 5<sup>th</sup> – Wildfire Prevention Workshop
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Farm Supervisor Training in Spanish
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Meadow Muffin Ag Education Golf tournament
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – Forklift certification
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – 98<sup>th</sup> NCFB Annual Dinner Meeting



NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

[www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org) | P. 707.224.5403 | F. 707.224.7836  
811 Jefferson St., Napa, CA 94559

## Participate in "Reducing our Footprint" study!

Drs. Steenwerth, O'Geen, and Jackson of USDA/ARS and UC Davis are looking for grower-cooperators in a study of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in vineyards. This study will occur in the Napa and Lodi winegrowing regions between January 2011 and June 2012. To volunteer or for more info contact Rachel Greenhut at [rfgreenhut@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rfgreenhut@ucdavis.edu), 530.574.3135 or visit [http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/newsletters/Vineyard\\_Views29334.pdf](http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/newsletters/Vineyard_Views29334.pdf)