



## **Outcry prompts revisions to draft septic systems regulations**

Farm Bureau's Farm Team Action Alert system prompted massive protests to the State Water Board's draft rules on septic system regulations. The well founded criticism resulted in the State Water Board saying that it will rewrite the rule. They have not said how it would be rewritten or when.

The pending law would require costly and unnecessary regulations on all residential and commercial septic systems. Landowners would have to file a report of discharge with the state or have a system inspected every five years by a qualified service provider. The estimated cost is \$325 for the inspection. If you have a well on your property, you would also have to inspect the well at an extra \$325. Owners within 600 feet of a surface water body would be subject to additional regulation. A system retrofit could be ordered (estimated at \$45,000).

Farm Bureau will continue to work with the Water Board, to make sure the eventual regulations safeguard water quality without putting undue burdens on people who live in rural communities.

## **Livestock Commodity Group meeting**

NCFB Director Dan McQueeney is hosting a Livestock Commodity Group meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 pm at McQueeney's Ranch, 3400 Wooden Valley Road, Napa.

Guest speaker Jim Warren, owner operator of 101 Livestock Market Inc. at Los Aromas, Ca., will go over the marketing issues that will impact cattlemen and women who market in June and July, including Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), Electronic Identification Device (EID) Program and Quality Assurance Information.

Additionally Honda ATVs and electric fence products will be on site for a demonstration.

Refreshments and barbeque will follow discussion.

Please RSVP by March 13, 2009 to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) or 707.224.5403

## **Planning Commission upholds farmland protection and rejects Pope Valley golf course**

On Feb.18<sup>th</sup>, the county Planning Commission voted to reject the Lake Luciana development proposal for a private golf course and luxury estate subdivision in Pope Valley. In denying the project, Planning Commission's Bob Fiddaman, Heather Phillips and Matt Pope found the recreational golf project inconsistent with the Ag Watershed zoning of the parcels and contrary to the guiding philosophy of agricultural preservation in the County's General Plan.

FB thanks the commissions for their vote and will continue to testify on this issue if the developer appeals the decision to the Board of Supervisors.

## **Free Legal Aid for Winery Workers**

**March 6, 2009 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Wine Business Center, 899 Adams Street, St. Helena**

The Napa Valley Vintners, in partnership with Legal Aid of Napa Valley, have invited NCFB members to a free workshop on topics including:

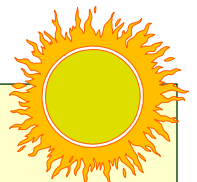
Overview of free legal services offered to workers in Napa Valley: who qualifies and how they can receive assistance.  
Issues affecting winery workers related to the economic downturn.

Solutions available when facing legal challenges.

To RSVP, contact the NVV at (707) 968-4207

## **New I-9 forms delayed until April 3, 2009**

Employers will have to begin using new I-9 forms beginning April 3 (the date was extended from February 2) The form should be available at: <http://www.uscis.gov> before that date. Employers who use the wrong forms could be subject to fines.



## **Heat Illness Prevention Workshop**

**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

**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](http://napafarmbureau.org) for more information and download a registration form.

**2009 Aldo Delfino scholarship applications now available**

Napa County Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom program awards Aldo Delfino scholarships to qualified high school seniors planning on studying agriculture or a related field at a college or junior-college level. In order to qualify, completed scholarship applications must be received by **April 15, 2009** at the Napa County Farm Bureau's office. Applications can be downloaded at: <http://www.napafarmbureau.org/programscommittees/scholarshipfoundation.html> or can be obtained from high school counselors.

**NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**March**

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

**April**

- 1 Natural Resources meeting 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 8 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting 224-5403
- 10 Organic Farming Group 12pm 224-5403
- 13 Tax, Land use meeting 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 14 Community & Member outreach 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 15 Board of Directors Meeting** 7pm at FB 224-5403
- 16 AITC meeting 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 23 Heat Illness Seminar** at Napa Library 224-5403

**Save the date!**

- May 8 – Meadow Muffin Ag Education Classic**
- July 17 – 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Charles Krug**

**Wine exports exceed \$1 billion**

For the first time, U.S. wine exports exceeded \$1 billion, according to the Wine Institute. They report a 6 percent increase in 2008, and 90 percent of the exports came from California wineries. The institute says exports have increased five-fold since 1994 and the outlook is for continued growth, even in tough economic times.



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You may send us an email indicating your name and/or the name of your company or ranch to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) or return this form by fax to 707.224.7836

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_