



### **Water Rights - Instream Flow Guidelines Update**

All members with pending water rights applications should attend FB's May 6<sup>th</sup> Natural Resources Committee meeting at 4 p.m. to review the newly proposed alternative rules for approving water rights applications. This alternate proposal was submitted to the the Division of Water Rights by a joint group of stakeholders who worked for 9 months to create these technical recommendations to the State's Instream Flow (AB 2121) draft policy. Engineering and legal consultants for the applicants (Wagner and Bonsignore, and Ellison, Schneider and Harris) collaborated with Trout Unlimited on this alternative.

The proposed policy will affect water diversions in coastal streams in portions of Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Humboldt Counties. Farm Bureau opposed the state's original proposal and is working to amend the policy to sustain both farms and fish. More information on the AB 2121 Policy can be found at the following address: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/instream\\_flows/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/index.shtml)

### **Step up & apply to serve on the NCFB Board!**

Applications for 2009/10 NCFB Board of Director positions are now available. Consider joining our 18 member board to have a meaningful influence on agricultural policy in Napa County. Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The nomination process continues into May and the election will be held at the Annual Meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>. For further info, or to arrange to talk to a current board member, please call the FB office at 224-5403.

### **USDA Extending Buy-In Waiver for Those Impacted by Natural Disasters who missed the September 16, 2008 deadline. Deadline is May 18, 2009**

The recently approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allows producers to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill even if they did not previously obtain otherwise statutorily required crop insurance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 by now paying a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009. Visit <http://www.napafarmbureau.org/newsroom/assistance.html> for more information

### **Carl Moyer Grant**

Up to 20 million dollars in grant funds are available through the Carl Moyer Program to reduce emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines. Info & forms are available at [www.baaqmd.gov/moyer](http://www.baaqmd.gov/moyer)

### **Agricultural Cargo Securement Exemption Extended to April 30, 2010**

The agricultural intrastate cargo securement exemption has been extended for another year, to April 30, 2010 (or until the federal regulations are adopted). The exemption is for intrastate transportation of perishable agriculture products transported in bins, tubs, and boxes, from the field to the first point of processing or packing. Under the exemption, the same load securement methods will be used to ensure cargo will not shift or spill. This exemption does not apply to the transportation of hay. Motor carriers who have already applied for and received the exemption will automatically receive the extension through April 30, 2010 provided they maintain their monthly reporting requirements to the CHP. Motor Carriers who would like to apply for the exemption are required to fill out the appropriate forms and fax them to the CHP Commercial Vehicle Section attention Officer Ron Leimer at (916) 445-1865. For more information visit [www.cfbf.org/tiedown/](http://www.cfbf.org/tiedown/)

### **USDA Funds Energy Audits for Farms, Ranches, and Rural Small Businesses - Deadline is June 9, 2009**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) now provides grants to support energy audits at farms, ranches, and rural small businesses through its Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The energy audit funds, which were authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, will be awarded to governments and organizations that can conduct the audits, including state, tribal, and local governments; land grant colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning; and electric cooperatives and public power companies. Governments and organizations seeking the funds must apply by **June 9**. In addition to energy audits, the REAP grants can support programs that provide information about energy efficiency and renewable energy to farms, ranches, and rural small businesses, and they can also fund technical support efforts for the development of small hydropower projects. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available.

### **Annual Dinner Meeting July 17th**

NCFB would like to thank the following companies who have committed a sponsorship to our 96th Annual Dinner Meeting.

Balthazar: Farella, Braun & Martel

State Compensation Insurance Fund

Imperial: Keenan Winery, Michael J Neal Viticultural Services

Methuselah: California Grower Foundation, Michael Wolf Vineyard Services, Taddei Vineyards

Look for more sponsors to be added to this list. Sponsorship deadline is May 15th to be recognized in all promotional event communication. Sponsorship form is available at [napafarmbureau.org](http://napafarmbureau.org). Invitations to the event will be mailed in June.

### **Agricultural Pumping Efficiency Program | May 21, 2009**

**Sponsored by PG&E, Napa County Farm Bureau and Napa Chamber of Commerce Green Business Committee**

**Napa Valley College Upper Valley Campus, 1088 College Ave, Saint Helena, CA**

Time: noon FREE lunch for All Program Attendees | 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, PG&E's Agricultural Pumping Efficiency Program

Find out about incentives to replace or retrofit inefficient pumps

APEP/PG&E subsidized pump tests (25+ HP pumps), APEP/PG&E incentives for pump retrofit/replace (all sizes)

Variable frequency drives (VFD's) and other PG&E Energy Efficiency Programs for agricultural customers

**Space is limited; please RSVP to NCFB 707.224.5403 or [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org)**

**Green  
Business  
Event!**

## Vine Mealy Bug Update From Ag Commissioner's Office

For growers who have a Vine Mealybug (VMB) infestation, it's time to consider treatment options. Though eradication may not be possible in all areas, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to work with growers through the VMB Compliance Agreement, and expects growers to implement and maintain programs that will keep VMB populations low enough to prevent spreading to other vineyards.

Ant control is important to any VMB control program, and ant baits are effective if ants are a problem in the vineyard. The best time to begin ant baiting is in early spring, but it's not too late to start your program now.

Several effective tools exist for managing VMB populations. When populations are low to moderate, they may be kept under control by using mating disruption, biocontrol, and pesticide applications.

Mating disruption materials are limited to Checkmate® VMB pheromone dispensers at this time. Growers will need to get a permit from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office for this Section 18 Emergency Exemption material. Mating disruption should start in late April or May.

Parasitic wasps for biocontrol are commercially available, and the suppliers can give you information on numbers to be released and timing.

The insect growth regulator, Applaud®, has been shown to be an effective control measure when the time of application coincides with high crawler activity. This usually happens in June, but field observations and consultation with UC's Cooperative Extension Viticulture Farm Advisor, Monica Cooper, are suggested for more precise timing.

Some other effective control measures include the new product Movento®, which has given good control of VMB in trials. It is a systemic, foliar-applied insecticide that should be applied around bloom time. Growers can use other insecticides such as Assail®, Venom®, and Lorsban® that are listed on the VMB Compliance Agreement.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will continue to trap for VMB and look for infestations, and work with growers on control options when new infestations are found.

## Carneros Heritage Fest – May 30<sup>th</sup>

The NCFB BBQ Team will once again partner with the Carneros Wine Alliance (CWA) for the 4th Annual Carneros Heritage Festival at Donum Estate on May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 pm. Hosted by the Carneros Wine Alliance, the Festival is one of the nation's only family-friendly wine and food festivals. Proceeds of the Fest benefit the Carneros Land Stewardship Foundation dedicated to the conservation and preservation of habitat and wetlands in the San Pablo Bay adjacent to the Carneros region. CWA also makes a generous donation to our Ag in the Classroom program as a thank you for the FB's BBQ Team's help with the sumptuous lamb barbeque.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meadow Muffin Golf Classic – May 9<sup>th</sup>

Join the fun at our Annual Meadow Muffin Golf Classic on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Vines Golf Course. Proceeds benefit our Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program. The tournament features 3 hole-in-one contests and chances to win a new Ford or Chevy truck, John Deere Gator or Kubota Tractor. Sign up at [www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org) or call the FB office.

## NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### May

- 6 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting, 224-5403
- 6 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 8 Organic Farming Group, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 8 **Meadow Muffin Ag Education Classic**, 224-5403
- 11 Tax, Land Use meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 12 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 14 Enhancing and Managing Pollinator Habitat Workshop, 310-0394
- 20 **Board of Directors Meeting**, 3pm 224-5403
- 21 **Ag Pumping Efficiency Workshop**, noon 224-5403
- 21 Ag In The Classroom meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 30 Carneros Heritage Festival, noon 253-2678

### June

- 3 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 3 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting, 224-5403
- 4-6 Auction Napa Valley
- 8 Tax, Land Use meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 9 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 11 **VIP Reception**, 5:00pm at Etude 224-5403
- 12 Organic Farming Group, 12pm 224-5403
- 17 **Board of Directors Meeting**, 7pm at FB 224-5403
- 26 **Napa Uncovered Release Party**, 224-5403

### Save the date!

**July 17** – 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Charles Krug

**Nov. 7** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Barn Dance (tentative date)

**Nov. 13** – Sexual Harassment Training

**Dec. 3** – Holiday Party

## Special 30-Day Window for Drought Assistance

Farmers and ranchers in designated counties with extreme or severe drought conditions may apply for assistance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service until May 8, 2009. During the special 30-day sign up, NRCS will take applications for \$2 million available for practices designed to protect soil and air quality in areas of fallowed fields, keep orchard trees alive, and protect natural resources on ranch and pasture land.

The \$2 million is being made available in 44 counties including Napa. Practices being offered through the program include establishing vegetative cover, soil surface roughening, incorporation of soil-stabilizing organic matter, silt fencing adjacent to highways, irrigation water management, pruning to keep trees alive, livestock watering facilities, maintaining standing stubble and more. More information on the drought, conservation practices that may mitigate drought-related problems and payment rates for the current drought initiative are available at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/features/cadrought.html) or by contacting Napa's NRCS office at 252-4189.

## Nominations for Agriculturist of the Year Award

Nominations for the 2009 Agriculturist of the Year will be accepted until May 31<sup>st</sup>. For a nomination form, go to [www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org), or call our office.

## Volunteer Opportunities with NCFB

- Help us plan a successful 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Barn Dance for next fall! Please contact us at [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) if you would like to volunteer or join the next planning meeting on Wed. May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at NCFB's office.

- NCFB is seeking a volunteer to serve on the Napa County Weed Management Agency. The WMA meets several times per year and is managed by the Ag Commissioner's office.