



## **Instream Flow Policy Update**

~ *Farm Bureau continues efforts for a sustainable policy for water rights & fish habitat*

A mix of good news and bad news surfaced at an all day hearing on April 27<sup>th</sup>, as the State Water Board fumbled through near final edits to the Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Streams. We succeeded (after 3 years of working on the policy), in amending the document with the "2009 Joint Recommendations". Unfortunately, there remain unresolved issues on a small project rule and language on applicability to ALL permits and licenses, not just pending applications.

Final resolution is expected at the next scheduled hearing on May 4<sup>th</sup>, giving stakeholders very little time to digest the extensive changes and submit comments by noon on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We will continue working with California Farm Bureau, Sonoma & Mendocino County Farm Bureaus and we jointly agreed to fund Peter Kiel, a legal consultant with Ellison, Schneider & Harrison, to seek additional changes to sustain our farms as well as fish habitat.

As a short recap, the policy stems from AB 2121, state legislation passed in 2004 directing the Water Board to devise a rule to 1) expedite the logjam of pending water rights and 2) establish a policy to preserve stream flows and protect fisheries. After a long delay, the Water Board published a 2007 Draft Instream Flow Policy and thousands of pages of documentation. The 2007 policy was criticized by both farming and environmental groups and we succeeded in getting that policy rejected.

Next, with the blessing of the Water Board, a collaborative effort by environmental and farming interests worked on and presented "Joint Recommendations" in 2009. Trout Unlimited worked with consultants for the ag industry, the engineering firm of Wagner, Bonsignore and the legal firm of Ellison, Schneider & Harrison. After another long delay, the Water Board released a revised policy in February 2010, and to everyone's astonishment, largely ignored the "Joint Recommendations".

Extensive efforts led to another round of critical comments on the 2010 February Draft Policy and a call for more time to reassess and understand the complex rules. The continuance was denied, and the stakeholders worked furiously to present a "blended version" of the Joint Recommendations and February Draft Policy. As stated above, this blended approach has for the most part been accepted, except for key elements to be agreed upon at the May 4 State Water Board hearing.

Jim Lincoln, NCFB President & Natural Resources Chairman, testified at the hearing and was eloquent in speaking to the needs of farmers, the current inadequacies of process water rights applications and to our commitment to "fish friendly farming". Our local Resource Conservation

District has assisted us in running the new complex formulas and preliminarily assessing that the Joint Recommendations will protect fish and calculate reasonable water diversions. But there are many uncertainties, so we will push for periodic reviews (the first after 3 years) and adaptive management.

It's ironic that after 6 years of a lethargic pace to develop the rule, the Water Board is now rushing these final amendments. Your Farm Bureau continues to work for your best interest and we will stay engaged. To read the policy changes and stakeholder comments go to: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/instream\\_flows/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/).

## **Nomination for Napa County Agriculturist of the year due by May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Please send your nomination to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) and explain why you believe the nominee should be chosen. Prior year nominees were: George Gamble in 2009 and Volker Eisele in 2008.

## **Keep informed about the European Grapevine Moth**

Stay informed about the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) by subscribing to UC Cooperative Extension's EGVM newsletter for Napa County. This is the place for updates on biology, trapping, monitoring, damage, and treatment programs for the European Grapevine Moth, *Lobesia botrana*, in Napa Valley. **SUBSCRIBE NOW:** <http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter2084.htm>

## **Tie-down exemption for the 2010 harvest season has been extended for another year!**

The exemption has been extended to April 30, 2011 by the California Highway Patrol or upon the implementation of the federal load securement regulations. The exemption applies to those who haul perishable agricultural commodities in bins, boxes and tubs from the field to the first point of processing or packing. The data gathered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) during comprehensive testing conducted in California in the fall of 2007 is still being reviewed by the FMCSA. The exemption must be applied for unless you have applied in the previous years. Information regarding the specific guidelines required by the CHP and all of the necessary forms are available on the Farm Bureau website at <http://www.cfbf.com/tiedown/> or by contacting Andrea Fox at [afox@cfbf.com](mailto:afox@cfbf.com) or 916-446-4647.

## Vote for Wagenknecht and Dillon on June 8<sup>th</sup>

Farm Bureau endorses the re-election of Brad Wagenknecht in the 1<sup>st</sup> District and Diane Dillon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Both supervisors exhibit extraordinary leadership skills and prudent fiscal management of county funds. The last day to register for the June 8, 2010 Statewide Direct Primary Election is Monday May 24.

## Serve on the 2010/2011 CFBF Rural Health & Safety Committee

We are seeking a member to serve on CFBF's Rural Health & Safety Committee, which meets twice per year in Sacramento. Call the Napa County Farm Bureau office at 224-5403 to receive a nomination form. Signed nomination forms need to be returned by May 13, 2010. From these nominees a ten member committee will be appointed to serve a two year term.

If you have any questions, please call Program Director Danielle Rau at 916-561-5598 or NCFB's office at 224-5403.

### Stay informed, send us your email address!

Save paper & postage by signing up to receive FB news electronically. If you haven't already done so, please send us your email info to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) for the most up-to-date information on pertinent issues and events.

## Now available in Napa County Farm Bureau's DVD library:

- In Control: ATV and Farm Utility Vehicle Safety
- Safety in the Nursery Industry
- Tractor Safety: A three part series (English & Spanish)
- Comprehensive Vineyard Safety (Spanish version)

Call or come by our office to borrow these excellent safety training DVDs.

## Required Ag Truck Labels available at Napa County Farm Bureau's office

Napa County Farm Bureau provides stickers for members who need to be in compliance with the California Air Resources Board's Truck and Bus Rule. The stickers are for limited mileage and specialty vehicles. Under the rule, trucks that are identified on the reporting forms as being exempt agricultural vehicles, must affix or paint an ID label. Visit: <http://www.cfbf.com/issues/truckbus.cfm> for more information.

## NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### May

- 5 Young Farmers and Ranchers meeting at Calistoga Inn 6pm [gina@xwinery.com](mailto:gina@xwinery.com)
- 5 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 6 Transformation Napa In the Midst, 6pm, Fagiani Building, 258-9286
- 8 Livestock Commodity Group meeting, 10am, McQueeney Ranch, 224-5403
- 10 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 11 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 11 Napa Sustainable Winegrowing group meeting, 9am, Walsh Management 252-4188 x 120
- 12 Vintner & Grower Marketing Workshop, 9am Sonoma Fairmont, [communications@wineinstitute.org](mailto:communications@wineinstitute.org)
- 13 "Contracting between growers and wineries, remedies and practical solutions" 8:30 am, Villagio Inn, 415.954.4916
- 14 Organic Farming Group, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 14 Ag In the Classroom 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament Education Classic, 224-5403
- 19 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403

### June

- 2 Young Farmers and Ranchers Bocce competition 6pm [gina@xwinery.com](mailto:gina@xwinery.com)
- 2 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 3-6 Auction Napa Valley
- 8 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 8 Statewide Direct Primary Election
- 11 Organic Farming Group, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 14 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 16 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 21 Farm Labor Contractor Workshop, 9am at FB 224-5403

### Save the date!

July 12<sup>th</sup>, Forklift certification

July 16, 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Rutherford House

August 29<sup>th</sup>, Second Annual Barn Tour 258-9286



## Promoting a Sustainable Food System

Enthusiasm ran high at the 1st Annual Napa Local Foods conference at the Napa Expo on April 28th. NCFB collaborated with the Ag Commissioners office, local producers, health & community advocates on this day long event of idea sharing, vision & action steps to create a stronger local food system. Check our website [www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org) for more information and to join the efforts.



## Forklift Certification workshop, July 12th

**Improve workplace safety and offer valuable training for your employees!**  
9:30 am-11:30am Certification in Spanish | 12:30pm—2:30pm Certification in English.

Registration starts 30 minutes before class

**Napa City-County Library, 580 Coombs Street, Napa, CA 94559**

Forklift Certification Program OSHA’s standard 29 CFR 1910.178 requires employers to establish and implement a forklift training and certification program. Employers must ensure that all designated forklift operators are trained and certified prior to operating any powered industrial truck in the workplace. Additionally, employers are required to review each operator’s performance and provide refresher training at least every three years.

This class will provide each employee with the written certification and will prepare them for the forklift operating check-off which must be done on their own forklift in front of their supervisors.

**Register today. Space is limited! \$40 for Napa County Farm Bureau members**

Number of attendee(s) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: check enclosed, please bill my credit card: Visa, MC or Amex

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to NCFB 811 Jefferson Street, Napa, CA 94559, p. 707.224.5403 f. 707.224.7836, [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org)

### Livestock Commodity Meeting & Field Day

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 4 pm

*McQueeney Ranch, 3240 Wooden Valley Road, Napa*

Speakers include Fish Friendly Farming, Napa County Resource Conservation District and the California Cattlemen and Cattlewomen.

Subject matter will be water quality, erosion control and livestock exclusion systems.

Fairfield Cycle Center will provide demonstrations on ATV's and ATV accessories. Randy Bailey with Gallagher Electric Fence Company will provide training for placement of permanent and portable electric fence systems.

Please RSVP to [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org) or 707.224.5403

### James Stamp will be the guest speaker at the Organic Farming Group meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>, noon.

James Stamp advises vineyards throughout the state on issues related to grapevine nursery stock, including proper rootstock selection, quality assurance, handling, and troubleshooting; he is an authority on identifying and preventing problems with new plantings. This is a brown bag lunch.

RSVP 707.224.5403 or [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org)

### Amateur chef team supports Ag in the Classroom at the First Annual Hall Cabernet Cookoff!

Sunday May 16th, 12-4pm at HALL Winery St. Helena. Gary Exner & the Cyber Chefs will compete in this fun cooking contest at Hall Winery and has chosen our Ag In the Classroom program as their designated charity. Please attend this fun event to support our team & AITC! More information and tickets: <http://www.hallwines.com/cabernetcookoff>

### Farm Labor Contractor’s Workshop Who needs to be one & how to become one

June 21, 9-11 am, Farm Bureau’s office

Learn about Division of Labor Standards enforcement actions. Presented by Paul Garvey, Peter Nissen and CFBF attorney Carl Borden.

Please RSVP 707.224.5403 or [info@napafarmbureau.org](mailto:info@napafarmbureau.org)

**Transformation: Napa In the Midst** Who is Napa and what will this town become? Presented by Preservation Napa Valley . May 6 at 6pm Fagiani Building. Free event, all are welcome.