



Important Ag Water Quality Compliance Rule Updates

NCFB has been busy tracking three sets of ag water compliance rules – two for the Napa River Watershed and one for the Putah Creek Watershed. All involve development of “conditional ag waivers.” We continue to advocate for streamlined programs that sustain the resource, without undue costs or burden for farmers and ranchers. Here’s a brief recap of the 3 pending rules.

Napa River Sediment TMDL Vineyard Ag Waiver – The Conditional Vineyard Waiver will require growers to 1) submit a Notice of Intent to comply with the waiver 2) prepare a farm water quality control plan (which stays onsite) 3) submit annual certification info. Certification with the Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming program will automatically convey compliance with the rule. Review and changes to the proposed rule will take place over the next year with input from the Technical Advisory and Stakeholder Advisory Committees.

Napa River Pathogen TMDL Grazing Waiver – In March, the S.F. Regional Water Board presented a draft rule to reduce pathogens in the watershed. Similarly, the Conditional Grazing Waiver will require ranchers to 1) submit a Notice of Intent to comply with the waiver 2) prepare a farm water quality control plan (which stays onsite) 3) submit annual certification info. This waiver will also require the farm plan to include sediment reduction practices. Rule review, changes and implementation are expected by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

Putah Creek Watershed Irrigated Lands Ag Waiver – Growers with irrigated lands in the eastern part of Napa County have been complying with an ag waiver program through the Central Valley Regional Water Board since 2004. NCFB now coordinates a cost-effective compliance “Pilot Plan” for approximately 65 growers. But a new rule, the *Long-Term Irrigated Lands Program*, has been under development for 3 years. On April 7th, an 11 hour meeting was held by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on the Long-Term Irrigated Lands Plan which will establish new groundwater and surface water regulations. The board did not vote on the regulation, but did approve the Environmental Impact Report.

In each case, Farm Bureau continues to wade through volumes of complex documents to advocate for growers. We also acknowledge and thank our local Resource Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ag Commissioner for their help and involvement! If you’d like to help, join our Natural Resources Committee. Otherwise, we will keep you informed as the development of these rules progresses.

Stay informed - send us your email address!

Save paper & postage by signing up to receive FB news electronically. Please send your email address to info@napafarmbureau.org for the most up-to-date information on pertinent issues and events.

Annual Dinner Meeting July 15^h

Save the date for the NCFB Annual Meeting on July 15th at Raymond Winery! Note the change in venue from Black Stallion Winery, due to space limitations.

This year’s keynote speaker is Karen Ross, our new and dynamic Secretary of the California Department of Agriculture. Invitations will be mailed this month. Contact us at 224-5403 if you’d like to sponsor this premiere event!

Ag Trunk Launch at the Napa Valley Museum

May 14, 2—4pm

Bring your family to celebrate the bounty of California Agriculture and see the newest trunk from the Napa Valley Museum and AITC. This Ag Trunk will be available to Napa schools to teach about California Agriculture, sustainable farming, water resources, the Napa Ag Preserve, and more. Wine and appetizers will be served.

FFA students will be at the museum with small animals.

2nd EQIP Organic Funding Opportunity

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced a **second opportunity to apply** for its Organic Initiative during fiscal year 2011. To be considered, eligible certified organic growers or those producers who are transitioning to organic production must submit a complete application by **Friday, May 20, 2011**. Interested producers should contact the Napa USDA office at 252-4189.

Agricultural Cargo Securement Exemption Extended to April 30, 2012

The agricultural intrastate cargo securement exemption has been extended for another year by the California Highway Patrol commissioner, **until April 30, 2012**, or until federal regulations are adopted.

Carriers who do not have an exemption letter from the CHP must apply using the forms on the CFBF website at <http://www.cbf.com/tiedown/>.

Those who have already applied for and received the exemption letter in previous years will automatically receive another extension **through April 30, 2012**, provided they carry a copy of the letter they received from the CHP in their vehicle and continue with their monthly reporting requirements.

Sign up now for the Forklift Certification workshop on July 11th

Improve workplace safety and offer valuable training for your employees!

Spanish and English at the Napa City-County Library Forklift Certification Program OSHA’s standard 29 CFR 1910.178 requires employers to establish and implement a forklift training and certification program.

Call 224-5403 or visit napafarmbureau.org to register.

Surprise Inspection—Are You Prepared? Free Workshop

May 19, 2011 9am - 12pm State Fund Santa Rosa Office
Surprise inspections by regulatory agencies can bring costly fines if your business is not prepared. To help you be prepared, State Fund has partnered with the Economic and Employment Enforcement Coalition (EEEC) to provide current information about laws and regulations in the Agriculture industry. RSVP State Fund, 573-6358

Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming Certification!

Participate in Napa Green, the wine industry's most comprehensive green best-practices program for farming and wine production. The next workshop on how to begin is May 11 and will be held at PEJU Winery. Napa Green Certified Land and Napa Green Certified Winery provide a custom-built plan for improving your land use; resource management; water, energy and waste reduction; and more. You'll meet and exceed local, state and federal regulations, and gain third-party certification and recognition for your efforts. For more details or to RSVP, contact NVV, Anne Steinhauer at 968-4206.

Serve on the Winegrape Pest & Disease Control Board

Applications are being accepted for a volunteer position on the Napa County Winegrape Pest & Disease Control Board. The Board meets quarterly to provide oversight and direction for funding for the inspection, detection, prevention and education of Pierce's disease spread by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, and to deal with other winegrape pests and diseases. The position will represent Napa County Farm Bureau and serve as a liaison between the Farm Bureau and the Winegrape Pest & Disease Control Board. Applicants must own lands included in the District that are devoted, in whole or in part, to the growing of winegrapes; and must have demonstrated an interest in the control of winegrape pests and diseases. Applications can be found at www.countyofnapa.org and should be submitted to the County Executive Office, 1195 Third Street, Room 310, Napa, 94559, phone 253-4421.

Join the fun on June 25th at the First Annual Wine Country Tractor Pull Napa Valley Expo

Secure your tickets today before we sell out at: www.napafarmbureau.org.



NAPA COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

President's Circle member



President's Club members

Beckstoffer Vineyards
Clos Du Val Winery
Farella, Braun and Martel
Gamble Family Vineyards
Garvey Vineyard Management
Gaw Van Male
Michael J Neal Viticultural Services
Nissen Vineyard Services
Raymond Vineyards & Cellar
Salvestrin Wine Company
Sunridge Nurseries
Valley Gate Vineyards

NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit napafarmbureau.org for a complete list and more information

May

- 4 Young Farmers & Ranchers Meeting, 6pm at Calistoga Inn
- 4 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 6 Drip Irrigation Hose Collection Day, 9am-2pm, 963-7988
- 7 Afternoon in the Vineyards, 2pm-4:30pm, 944-8311
- 9 Tax, Land Use Committee Meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 10 Community & Member Outreach Committee Meeting, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 11 Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming Certification, Peju Rutherford, RSVP 968-4206
- 13 Meadow Muffin Ag Education Golf Tournament, 224-5403
- 13 Organic Group meeting 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 15 AITC's Ag Trunk Presentation, NV Museum 2-4pm
- 18 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 19 Free Surprise Inspection Workshop, 9am, Santa Rosa 573-6358
- 19 Watershed Symposium, 9am, Yountville, napawatersheds.org

June

- 1 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 1 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting, 6pm 224-5403
- 2-5 Auction Napa Valley
- 10 Organic Group meeting, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 13 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 14 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 15 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 25 Tractor Pull at the NV Expo, 224-5403

Save the Date!

July 15th 98th Annual Dinner Meeting at Raymond Vineyards

Plant a Row for the Hungry

As you start planning your backyard or community garden plot, consider planting an extra row of vegetable plants to donate your harvest to the Napa Food Bank. Plant a Row for the Hungry is a group working on food equity issues by encouraging donations to food banks. Anyone can participate. <http://www.gardenwriters.org/gwa.php?p=par/index.html>

Order a Cal Ag License Plate and support ag education and awareness!

The State of California and the DMV are issuing **California Agriculture Special License Plates!** This is wonderful news for Ag Education in California, as well as the Ag Industry as a whole! The sale of these special plates will benefit agricultural education initiatives in California, as well as Agriculture Career Awareness, Agriculture Career Training, and Youth Leadership Development. Order today at: www.calagplate.com.

Cost Share Funds Available for Organic Certification

Funding from USDA & CDFA is available to operations that have been certified organic by a USDA accredited organic certifier. Cost share funds will refund up to 75% of organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750 per year. Eligible U.S. wineries must have received organic certification on or between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011 in order to apply for reimbursement. Application deadline is November 30, 2011. Contact Sharon Parsons at (916) 445-2180, ext. 3472 or sparsons@cdfa.ca.gov.