

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S

FARMER & RANCHER



MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2009



Meet Edna Valley and Other Farm Centers...pages 8-9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Richard Gonzales, President
SLO County Farm Bureau



Farm Bureau members and friends,
It is a great honor to be able to serve you as President of San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau. Serving on the Executive Committee for the last six years has been a great learning experience.

Thank you, Paul Clark for your 10 years of service to the Farm Bureau. Though we may have not agreed on every issue, we always got honest and thoughtful discussion from Paul. I value the time serving with him and look forward to having him continue on the board of directors.

Also, thank you to Mark Moore on his Presidency. With challenging economic times and the loss of our former tenant, Quinn Rentals, Mark has had his hands full. I am happy to report that we have a new tenant under contract and more exciting news to come. Thank you again, Mark; Farm Bureau is in a great position due to your efforts.

Moving up the ranks are Bernard Olsen and Carlos Casteneda, two of the sharpest guys on the board. They are enthusiastic and bring great dialog and work ethic with them. Thank

you both for your service to Farm Bureau.

It is also a pleasure to welcome Dan Sutton to the Executive Committee. Dan is from South County and is General Manager for Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange. I look forward to his participation.

Again, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President. I also would like to thank the entire board of directors, the staff and especially the people who participate at the county farm centers for all of your efforts. Farm Bureau is the ultimate grass roots organization.

Please feel free to contact me concerning any of your interests or concerns.

—Rich Gonzales

San Luis Obispo County Farmer & Rancher is published monthly. The subscription price to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau members is included in the membership dues (as of February 1, 2009) of \$400 for business members, \$400 for President's Club members, \$160 for voting members or \$72 for sustaining members; to non-members, \$1 per single copy.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 651 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo CA 93401.

For advertising information, call the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 805/543-3654; or Joni Hunt, 805/545-9547; jonihunt@att.net.

©2009 San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau retains all rights to text, photos and graphics. San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in the SLO County Farmer & Rancher, nor does the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer, director or staff member of the SLO County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S FARMER & RANCHER MAGAZINE

October 2009
Volume 38, Issue 10
One Dollar Monthly

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau
651 Tank Farm Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7062
Phone: 805/543-3654 • Fax: 805/543-3697
Website: www.slofarmbureau.org

The purpose of this magazine is to inform the membership and the community about the matters of importance to agriculture at a local, state and national level.

2009–2010 Board of Directors

President – Richard Gonzales
Vice President – Bernard Olsen
Secretary – Carlos Casteneda
Treasurer – Dan Sutton
Immediate Past President – Mark Moore

Directors

Janet Andrews	Steve Arnold
Steven Beck	Jo Bello
Megan Brownell	Jeff Buckingham
Steve Carter	Paul Clark
Don Clark	Blanche Comino
Chris Darway	Dawn Dunlap
Oliva Gonzales	Tom Ikeda
Dee Lacey	Kate Loftus
Kate Magnuson	Katy Marquart
Robert Nadeau	Anna Negranti
Walt Nielsen	Hugh Pitts
Robbie Rowlett	Bill Struble
Don Warden	Clay White
Charlie Whitney	Raymond Wiebe
Brandon Wiebe	

Emeritus

Joe Guidetti	Ernest Righetti
Gary Ketcham	Charles Mehlschau

Staff

Executive Director – Jackie Crabb
Office Manager – Mary Silveira
Legislative Analyst – Joy Fitzhugh
Outreach Coordinator – Annalisa Clarke
CFBF District Director – Benny Jefferson
Region II Field Rep. – Elizabeth Giannini
Magazine photos by staff, unless credited.



COVER PHOTO

Edna Valley Farm Center members meet monthly throughout the year.
Photo by Joe Sabol.

Walt Nielsen Receives Freddy of the Year Award

Educator, rancher, community leader, Paso Robles cattlemen and farmer—Walt Nielsen has been an avid supporter of agriculture for more than 30 years. In recognition of this, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau names Walt Nielsen as Freddy of the Year.

The Freddy Award is given annually in remembrance of Fred Righetti, a past Farm Bureau president and a director for more than 40 years.

Nielsen graduated with a B.S. from University of Arizona and a Masters in Secondary Education from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He taught seventh, eighth and ninth grade science and math in Las Vegas from 1969 to 1977. He and wife Pam also ran a summer boy's camp on their Nevada ranch from 1967 to 1972.

The Niensens moved to Paso Robles in 1978 and developed a state-of-the-art operation on the 250-acre Twist Ranch,

specializing in purebred Red Brangus range bulls. Walt's education background has helped him become a core figure in the formation of the SLO County Agriculture Education Committee, and he currently serves as the organization's president.



A Farm Bureau director for many years, Nielsen was chosen as Agriculturist of the Year by Farm Bureau in 1996. He is past president of SLO County Cattlemen's Association and received their highest honor as 2002 Cattleman of the Year. Walt and Pam have been active in the county 4H and FFA; and their daughters, Laura and Amber, and son, Eric, were active in the local 4H and the Mid-State Fair.

Welcome to Three New Farm Bureau Directors

Megan Brownell

Megan Brownell, a recent Cal Poly graduate, earned her degree in Agricultural Science with minors in Ag Business, Ag Communications and Spanish. She operates the Corporate Communications department for Omni Agri Trade Group, LLC, out of the Arroyo Grande office.

Omni Agri Trade Group produces and markets specialty fertilizers across the U.S., and in Canada, Mexico, Central and South America.

Brownell grew up in east Santa Maria, surrounded by row crops, vine-



yards, horses and cattle. She is involved with the Young Farmers and Ranchers and has future plans to apply for the California Ag Leadership program.

Anna Negranti

The Negranti family runs a small cow calf operation in Cayucos. Anna Negranti is a San Luis Obispo County native and a 1980 Cal Poly Ag Business graduate. She is former president of the San Luis Obispo County CattleWomen, the 2000 CattleWoman of the Year and a former Grand Jury Member. She has been a member of



SLO County Farm Bureau CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 Edna Farm Center
- 12 Farm Bureau Women
- 16 Adelaida Farm Center
- 19 North Coast Farm Center
- 27 Farm Bureau Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 5 Edna Farm Center
- 9 Farm Bureau Women
- 20 Adelaida Farm Center
- 24 Farm Bureau Board Meeting

the SLO County Agriculture Education Committee since its inception. Anna and her husband, Jon, have two sons, Nick and Wade, who are also continuing in the family business.

Dan Sutton

Dan Sutton, General Manager for Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange, earned a B.S. degree in Agribusiness with a concentration in farm and ranch management from Cal Poly. He recently has been accepted into the California Ag Leadership program.

Sutton also performs community service activities that

include coaching youth and high school baseball and serving as a volunteer firefighter for San Luis Obispo County.



AROUND CALIFORNIA

Estate Tax Reform Bill (H.R. 3524) Would Keep Farms in the Family

by Congressman Kevin McCarthy

As 2011 looms and the death tax is about to be resurrected, now is the time for action to ensure our family farms and ranches are protected from burdensome taxes that can destroy our local agriculture businesses.

That is why I cosponsored the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act (H.R. 3524), which would exclude family farms and ranches from the tax as they are passed on to the next generation.

Death of a family member should not be a green light for Washington to make decisions regarding the present and future use of our own land, and I am working to move this common-sense solution forward with the support of our local Ag community.



by California Farm Bureau Federation staff

Stressing the multiple benefits of maintaining family farms and ranches, a coalition of California farm organizations has endorsed tax-reform legislation that would exclude farm assets from federal estate tax as long as the property remains a family agricultural operation.

The Family Farm Preservation Estate Tax Act, H.R. 3524, introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Napa, and Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., would also exclude land enrolled in a qualified conservation easement from the estate tax.

"The estate tax has penalized farmers and ranchers for decades," the agricultural organizations said. "When deaths occur within a family, it is usually impossible to

continued on page 13



LICENSE # 764323 A, C-57

GENERAL ENGINEERING & HORIZONTAL WATER WELL DRILLING

SPRING DEVELOPMENT & TANK INSTALLATION

HDPE POLY PIPE INSTALLATION – RIPPED IN 12" TO 28"

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA,
MONTEREY & KERN COUNTIES**

CALL JIM HARTZELL FOR ALL OF YOUR AGRICULTURE OR DOMESTIC WATER NEEDS.

805-237-6030 OFFICE --- 805-227-2324 PAGER --- 805-674-7427 CELL

SOUTH COUNTY REP:

FRANK MELLO, JR.

805-215-2403

Report to SLO County Farm Bureau Board

by Elizabeth Giannini, CFBF Field Representative, Region II

CFBF Annual Meeting

The 2009 CFBF Annual Meeting will be held **December 6-9** at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. A registration fee beyond meals will be charged this year. Farm Bureau members receive a discounted rate of \$25; non-members are \$50.

Breakout sessions are planned for Monday afternoon addressing topics such as social networking, water, membership and pest infestations. This year also sees return of a trade show. We anticipate 35-plus exhibitors.

California for Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

The 2009 CFAITC Conference will be held **October 23-24** in Sonoma County. Preliminary registration notices went to educators; 25 exhibits are available for businesses, nonprofit organizations and education programs. Exhibitor applications are at www.cfaitec.org/conference/. Contact is Kelly Benarth, (916) 561-5637.

California Country Website Launches Farmer's Market Page

My last report announced the launch of the new California Country consumer-based website as part of the *California Country* magazine and television series. That website now features a Farmer's Market page, where people can search by city, county or region. The page link is <http://californiacountry.org/going-to-market/farmers-markets.aspx>.

Food Safety

On July 30, the House of Representatives passed its food safety bill on a 283-142 vote. The bill puts into law FDA's authority to do farm inspections and establish food safety standards. CFBF urged California's congressional delegation to vote against the measure. The American Farm Bureau took a neutral position.

The major reasons for taking the opposed position was formally allowing FDA access to farms, the failure to include an indemnification feature for farm losses, and the accompanying fee and penalty sections. CFBF will work for changes as it moves to the Senate, including an indemnification feature. CFBF contact is Josh Rolph, (916) 561-5619.

The Governor Signed SB 121

(Jeff Denham, R-Merced) Over the Legislative Recess

This bill will extend the sunset of the Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program until 2013. The program was scheduled to expire July 1, 2010.

This is an important program that allows law enforcement in Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara counties to focus on rural crimes and has improved theft-recovery rates for items stolen from farms and ranches. CFBF sponsored SB 121.

Armenta CONSTRUCTION

Always Quality Workmanship

Specializing in Metal Buildings

WE USE ONLY **QUALITY METAL BUILDINGS**,
MANUFACTURED IN CALIFORNIA.

MANY DIFFERENT USES

- ❖ Farm & Ranch ❖ Winery
- ❖ Equestrian ❖ Commercial

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS



CLEAR SPANS RANGE FROM **50 FEET TO 225 FEET**
WITH NO LIMIT ON LENGTH.

WE CAN DO IT ALL!

- ❖ Permit Assistance ❖ Excavation
 - ❖ Foundation ❖ Erecting
- COMPLETE
TURN-KEY PACKAGES



AVAILABLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF COLORS.

Call Mike Armenta
for on-site
Consultation & Free Estimate
(805) 550-5194

License No. 782045 - Fully Insured and Bonded
Serving the Central Coast

ELECTRIC ATV

- Full size, heavy duty
- 15-20 miles per charge
- Charge from any 110-volt outlet
- Clean, quiet, efficient
- 1/10th the operating costs of gas
- Made in the USA



For more information, visit or call us at

SLO eGO

2161-B Broad St., San Luis Obispo • (805) 594-0110

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Editorially speaking by Joy Fitzhugh, SLO County Farm Bureau Legislative Analyst

What Is Happening at Our State Legislature?

After pulling an "all-nighter," our State Legislators adjourned the 2009 session at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 13. With the close of this session, a number of bills that would have had a major impact on our farms and ranches had actually been halted while others we support are headed to the Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk for approval.

Some bills failed in the legislative committees (SB 381 Food Safety: antibiotics), were sent to the inactive file (SB 250: Spay and Neuter of Pets) or have been vetoed by the Governor (SB 789: Unionization in Agriculture). On the flip side, there are a number of bills we hope the governor will sign.

As I am writing this article on September 15, 2009, our state legislature and the governor are butting heads, raising concern for those bills that sit on his desk. The governor threatens a rubber-stamp veto of all bills before him unless the legislature addresses the big stuff (water, prisons, energy and appointments). The legislature, fearing the vetoes, have pulled bills off his desk and are calling for the governor to call a special session.

Graphically illustrating his word, after a "dare" from the Assembly majority leader, the governor actually vetoed one of 73 bills previously sent to him, a bill which was to set a day to honor Vietnam Veterans. Why? In the governor's words, "Our state is facing significant challenges, including the need for comprehensive changes in our policies on water, energy and corrections, and the need to take meaningful steps to stimulate the economy and rein in the rising levels of unemployment. This bill does nothing to address any of these issues."

So what does all this mean to agriculture?

We hope that our Farm Bureau-supported bills will pass the governor's signature test.

Farm Bureau-supported bills headed for the governor's signature. We need to urge the Governor to sign these bills. (See the contact information at right.)

AB 854: To support the professionalism of labor contractors, this bill would create a verification process to prove that farm labor contractors have no outstanding wage-related court judgments or fines before licensing or license renewal.

AB 1288: A much-needed bill, AB 1288 would prevent local and regional governments from requiring that businesses use the flawed federal E-Verify system to determine legal employment status.

SB 147: Helping those who need to qualify for the California State University (CSU) system, this bill would allow students to satisfy requirements for admission to CSU by completing a high school career technical education course that meets the State Board of Education requirements.

SB 448: Would create a safe-harbor agreement between the Department of Fish and Game and a voluntary landowner for threatened or endangered species where, in certain instances,

they will allow a "taking" (killing) of these species that is incidental to agricultural activity but would otherwise be illegal.

SB 2: With the hope of finding a solution, this bill would extend authorization for assessments to fund research and outreach on the Pierce's Disease that is attacking the state's grapes.

CONTACT THE GOVERNOR

Mail: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916-558-3160
E-mail: www.govmail.ca.gov

GROW WITH CONFIDENCE.



A JOHN DEERE CERTIFIED CROP INSURANCE AGENCY
VOICE: (888) 252-9797 • FAX: (866) 917-9008
WWW.GOLDENSTATECROP.COM

CA # 0B72765
GOLDEN STATE CROP & INSURANCE SERVICES IS AN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE CONTINUED

Bills we were glad to see fall by the wayside.

On the other side of the legislative equation, we are pleased to see that some of the new and resurrected bills are not headed for the governor but, we hope, to the ultimate circular file.

AB 291 and AB 226: At the top of our "thank goodness" list are these two bills that would have increased the authority of the California Coastal Commission. AB 291 could have halted any permit application if the *commission staff* claimed there was a violation on the property; and AB 226 would have given the commission authority to levy civil penalties on what they deemed were violations. Both are now in the inactive file, but they might be brought back up in the next legislative session.

AB 1000: Another ill-conceived idea was this bill that would have required employers to furnish paid sick leave to workers who had only worked for seven days. This bill died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 789: As Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee aptly stated about the governor's veto of this bill, "this bill would have eliminated a secret ballot election to certify union representation in the workplace and instead impose a 'card check' process that only requires a majority of employees to sign representation cards."

Blakeslee further clarified that he strongly opposed SB 789 because "the 'card check' would have enabled unions to identify who signed and did not sign cards. This would have denied employees the opportunity to vote privately without fear of intimidation."

SB 250: Resurrected once again, Senator Dean Florez brought forward the spay-neuter requirements for dogs and cats. Farm Bureau continues to strongly oppose this bill, which has no solid exemption for working dogs used on our farms and ranches. Luckily, this bill is in the Assembly inactive file, but it does mean it can be brought back for another go-round beginning in January.

SB 458, SB 229, SB 12, AB 49 and AB 39: Five water bills were introduced that relate to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and water. Danny Merkley, CFBF director of water resources, states that these were "hastily compiled bills" that include, "elements we believe will hinder economic and delta ecosystem recovery goals" and lack "key elements necessary for a reliable water supply to achieve those goals." He believes that the bills do not address the state's immediate water needs, "which is particularly dangerous if we continue to experience low rainfall in coming years."

These bills have been "guttled," reformed and "guttled" again. Legislative leaders are calling on the governor to convene a special legislative session to seek a workable water solution.



**CONGRATULATIONS
2009 PARTICIPANTS**

Tyler Grossini, Joe Machado, & Kyle Pickles

John Deere A - Lompoc HS

Jacob Lehar & Nick Rodrigues

John Deere B - Shandon HS

Jack Johnson

Oliver 550 - Arroyo Grande HS

Daniel Carmel

John Deere LA - San Luis Obispo HS

Chris Morgantini & Nathan Hoagland

Ford 9N - Santa Ynez HS

Tractors are Available—
Sign up now for the 2010 Competition.
For more information,
call JB Dewar at (800) 549-6457



All Types of Electrical Work

Licensed
Insured
CA State Certified

Check out the Electrical
Page on our Website at
www.PBandBinc.com



PB&B Electrical
State Lic. # 375854
(805) 481-0457

Pole Barns

PB&B Inc. offers sturdy, attractive and low-cost agricultural pole barns. Many qualify for the agriculture building permit exemption in San Luis Obispo County.

The complete package includes plans, permits and construction.

Member — Farm Bureau and SLO County and Santa Maria Valley Builder's Exchanges.



PB&B Inc. — Noel Allan, owner
State Lic. # 375854 • A Licensed Contractor Since 1979

(805) 481-0457 • www.pbandbinc.com

Farm Centers Stand at the Core of SLO County Farm Bureau

by Mary Silveira

The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau is much more than individuals paying dues and reading *Farmer & Rancher Magazine*. Farm Bureau is made up of voting members (agriculturalists); sustaining members (consumers who want to support California agriculture and benefit from the services); the President's Club (those who strongly support the mission statement); and business members (those who want to share their expertise with membership and use the Membership Directory in *Farmer & Rancher* as a marketing tool).

And, there is even more to Farm Bureau—there is family. That family comes together in the form of Farm Centers, the core of the organization's relationship with more than 2000 members throughout the county.

Each Farm Bureau member is assigned to a Farm Center, based on your zip code. Each center notifies its members of meetings, programs, potlucks, holiday gatherings and issues that solidify their common purpose. When you receive those little yellow cards in the mail, take time to read what is taking place in your center.

Opportunities to support and participate in Farm Bureau are available through these Farm Centers. Even if you cannot make meetings, you can stay informed by going to www.slofarmbureau.org to scan the highlights of issues and events and member benefits. All voting members can sign up for "Notes From Farm Bureau," sent out bimonthly from Executive Director Jackie Crabb.

If you want to be in the know about San Luis Obispo County agri-

culture, you have a variety of options because we are here to achieve the organization's mission statement: "to lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy of agriculture for the benefit of our members and the community."

This month you meet the officers and learn about Edna and North Coast Farm Centers, as well as Farm Bureau Women. In November, you'll be introduced to Adelaida and Creston Farm Centers.

For those who were camera-shy for this article, you'll be photographed for the November issue.

Edna Farm Center

- Janet Andrews – Chair
- Dan Mele – Vice Chair
- Lori Gill – Secretary/Treasurer

Among the original centers founded in 1922, Edna Farm Center has continued to be active and involved throughout the history of SLO County Farm Bureau.

In keeping with tradition, Edna Farm Center has sponsored many historical preservation events. The center sponsored the 1994 "Cattle Brand History Preservation Barbecue" at the Farm Bureau office. Guests of the event had their brands imprinted onto wooden plaques for the Farm Bureau to develop a historical collection, now displayed in the Farm Bureau conference room.

The Edna region has seen many changes in agriculture during the past 100-plus years. In early years, the region was home to many dairy and cattle ranches, dry land farming and some irrigated agriculture. The land was then intensified with new agriculture technologies to support more crops, including those that we see today: bell peppers, Napa cabbage, numerous varieties of lettuce and copious amounts of wine grapes.

Edna Farm Center meets on the first Thursday of every month, excluding summer months. Dinner is provided along with a speaker from the agriculture community.



The center is also well known for its holiday dinner, held at Madonna Inn, which attracts members from throughout the county.

Janet Andrews, in her second term as Edna Farm Center Chair, was born and raised in San Luis Obispo. Her grandparents, ranchers Annie J. Lowe and Stonewall Jackson Lowe, owned property south of Cuesta Grade. Andrews currently has a cow-calf operation.

Other family members include parents Lorraine and Pete Zuiderweg and brother Jack (Bud), children Glen and Lori and five grandchildren.

Andrews retired from Robison Electric as a purchasing agent and now works for CVS. Her community activities include Lions Club and Women's Shelter (boards), Quota and Native Sons of the Golden West (secretary), Model A clubs, Eagles, CattleWomen, Eastern Star and Daughter of the Nile.

Vice Chair **Dan Mele** was born and attended schools in Boston before he entered the Army in 1942 and served in the South Pacific. In 1945 he came to California, where he met and married Georgina Silva, a San Luis Obispo native from an agricultural family. Mele worked in local creamerys.



EDNA FARM CENTER
Members attend their annual holiday party at Madonna Inn. From left, Lorraine Zuiderweg, Chair Janet Andrews, Steve Soderstrom and Joe Sabol.
Edna Farm Center photos by Joe Sabol.

A 50-year member of the Elks Club, Mele also belongs to American Legion, Old Timers and Sunshine Boys. When he is not promoting agriculture, he enjoys all types of sports—especially golf and tennis.

Lori Gill, Secretary/Treasurer of Edna Farm Center, works as a loan officer at Rabobank. The daughter of Janet Andrews, she and husband Craig live on the family ranch near Cuesta Grade. Their daughters are Victoria, who lives with her husband in Alpine, Texas, and Catherine, who lives in Hawaii.

North Coast Farm Center

- Dawn Dunlap – Chair
- George Kendall – Vice Chair
- Joy Fitzhugh – Secretary/Treasurer

The North Coast Farm Center, organized in 1920, brings together coastal farmer/ranchers from Morro Bay to the north county line. These members continue to be engaged in a diverse range of agricultural production that includes dairying, sheep and cattle grazing, orchard production, row crops, wheat, barley and hay production and aquaculture.

North County is an active Farm Center with a large membership. Quarterly meetings start with a good dinner and continue with social and informational opportunities, discussions and ways to take action on various local, state and national agricultural issues. Members' actions have included organizing local farmer/ranchers and townspeople to quash the community services district's litigation levied against 140 North Coast farmer/ranchers, as well as successfully lobbying of the Coastal Commission for replacement of sub-standard San Simeon Creek bridges.

The center's goals for 2009-2010 are focused on ranch/farm succes-

You're Invited...
North County Farm Center Meeting
Monday, October 19
6 p.m. Potluck dinner • 6:50 p.m. Meeting
Guest speaker
Karl Bareither, Transfer Expert
Outlines successful tools & frameworks
for planning and implementing
family succession plans.
All Farm Bureau members
and your guests are welcome.
For more information, call (805) 543-3654.

sion and estate planning; succession planning for the eventual transfer of both the land and its production business, as well as future opportunities and the subsequent estate planning necessary to realize that plan.

Subsequent meetings will include presentations on State Proposition 58, IRS letter decision 20032A, Williamson Act, Rangeland Trust, federal estate taxes and other estate planning concepts and issues by local estate planning attorneys and accountants.



NORTH COAST FARM CENTER
Dawn Dunlap, Chair

Chair **Dawn Dunlap**, a Cambria native, brings a wide spectrum of experience to her office including
continued on page 10

Farm Centers continued

classical archaeology, SLO County history, ranching and practical knowledge of legal, title and land-use issues of real property. Dunlap lives on the ranch where she grew up and raises purebred Charolais cattle and Rat Terriers.

Vice Chair **George Kendall** grew up in San Diego County's citrus and avocado belt. He worked as a geologist for 25 years before taking up farming on Santa Rosa Creek Road. He and his wife, Beth, grow avocados, citrus, pumpkins and squash—all of which are sold locally through direct marketing.

Secretary/Treasurer **Joy Fitzhugh** was born to a local ranching family. Even though her grammar school teachers were skeptical, she knew and expressed proudly that she would be a rancher and continue the family tradition. Today, she and her brother, Walter, are partners on the ranch that has been in their family for more than 100 years, running a crossbred commercial cow/calf herd. Fitzhugh also works as the Legislative Analyst for the SLO County Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau Women

- Kathy Marquart – Chair
- Marilyn Britton – Vice Chair
- Lynne Schmitz – Secretary
- Elaine Eppert – Treasurer
- Ellen Schroeder – Assistant Treasurer

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Women (FBW) is an organization of women who are either members of Farm Bureau or friends and invited members. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month; locations of meetings change monthly.

Officially organized on April 13, 1923, the organization's history reaches nearly to the foundation of SLO County Farm Bureau itself—formed in 1922. Originally known as the "Farm Home Department," first-year membership totaled 350 people within 10 Farm Home Department Centers in the county. Initial projects involved school lunches, nutrition and farm home improvement.

Records indicate that by 1926, Farm Home Department Centers were organized in every active Farm Center in the county, including



FARM BUREAU WOMEN
Kathy Marquart, Chair

Arroyo Grande, Cayucos, Creston, Cambria, Estrella, Edna, Shandon, Templeton and Las Pilatas. During its 80-plus years of existence, the organization has been involved in a countless number of community outreach programs and member services.

The Farm Bureau Women scholarship program was established over 20 years ago, with the purpose of providing financial assistance to SLO County Farm Bureau agriculture members and their dependents. Scholarships are awarded based on a variety of areas that include academic performance, educational goals and financial need. Scholarships are available for the educational needs of the applicant at a university, college, professional or vocational school of their choice. Fundraising for the scholarships is done through the See's Candy holiday sales, the Country Store, the traditional Broom and Beans and, this year, the 2010 Barn Calendar.

Lynne Schmitz, Secretary of FBW since 2005, was born in Beatrice, Nebraska, then moved to California in 1946 and to San Miguel the following year. She and husband Andrew, who passed away in 2006, have two children and five grandchildren. A member of Farm Bureau, Schmitz



NORTH COAST
FARM CENTER
Secretary/
Treasurer Joy
Fitzhugh and
Vice Chair
George Kendall.

lives on a small farm and leases out the land. She has served as See's Candy chair for several years.

Elaine Eppert has been Treasurer since her retirement in 2000. She became involved with Farm Bureau through friends. A "sometime volunteer" at the front desk, Elaine calls herself a "dedicated supporter."

Assistant Treasurer **Ellen Schroeder** has lived in Shandon all her life. "We sold my grandfather's homestead in 1996," she says, the same year she joined Farm Bureau Women. Also that year, she retired as Transportation Director with Shandon Unified Schools, after 34 years.

Her husband, Milton, also worked for the school district as Head of Maintenance for 17 years, in addition to working on ranches for 25 years. Married 57 years, the cou-

ple has two children—Connie, who lives in Shandon and is a state brand inspector, and David, superintendent for Cal Trans in Bakersfield—and eight grandchildren.

Shroeder has also served as FBW secretary for two years and as membership chair since 2004.



FARM BUREAU WOMEN
Left: Vice Chair Marilyn Britton and Assistant Treasurer Ellen Schroeder. Top: Secretary Lynne Schmitz.



Time is Money

You have a small window for planting. You can't afford equipment breakdown when you have to get your crop in the field.

Don't worry. Nationwide® Agribusiness covers equipment rental, expenses to speed repairs, and also equipment breakdown to systems in your farm buildings—at no additional cost!

Farm Bureau members may receive discounts on farm insurance of 5% up to \$500 per year.

It's time to get protection from America's leading farm insurer. We know farming. Call your local Allied Insurance or Nationwide® agent today.

Save your time and your money.

100 ONE HUNDRED YEARS
— 1909-2009 —
Nationwide® Agribusiness

Nationwide.com/CFBF
Nationwide, the Nationwide framework and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. AgriChoice is a federally registered service mark of Allied Group, Inc. AFO 161661 (02/09)

Nationwide®
Agribusiness
On Your Side®

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THAT GIVES YOU A CHOICE.

Health Net offers California Farm Bureau members health care options to fit your budget and your life, including three new PPO health insurance plans offering 100% in-network coverage for covered charges after calendar year deductible is met; dental and vision plans; and the CashNet plan – a supplemental medical expense plan.

Call your authorized Health Net agent or call us and be one step closer to making a health care choice that works for you!

(800) 909-3447 (option 2)

Health Net®
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

VERIFIABILITY
FARM BUREAU

California Farm Bureau health insurance plans are underwritten by Health Net Life Insurance Company; coverage is subject to individual underwriting. Health Net Dental HMO plans are provided by Dental Benefit Providers of California, Inc. ("DBP"). Health Net Dental PPO and Indemnity plans are underwritten by Unimerica Insurance Company. Obligations of DBP and Unimerica Insurance Company are not the obligations of or guaranteed by Health Net, Inc. or its affiliates. © 2009 Health Net Life Insurance Company is a subsidiary of Health Net, Inc. Health Net® is a registered service mark of Health Net, Inc. Farm Bureau is a registered service mark of American Farm Bureau Federation used under license by Health Net. All rights reserved.

AROUND SLO COUNTY

Bird-Frightening Devices and Neighbor Relations: Avoid Potential Conflict from www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm

One of the greatest challenges facing grape growers in San Luis Obispo County is keeping birds out of vineyards preceding or during the harvest season. Growers that use bird-frightening devices such as propane cannons, shotguns for noise, or other mechanical sound-makers to frighten birds need to be aware of potential negative affects the noise has on neighbors and to be diligent in using these devices following the accepted standards.

Accepted standards for bird-frightening devices, developed by the grape industry and the County Department of Agriculture, may help growers meet requirements in the County's Right to Farm Ordinance. They are as follows.

- Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used only for starling species of bird pests.
- Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used when starlings are present and damage is expected. Devices are to be turned off when starlings are not present or threatening.
- Propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be used with on-site monitoring and in conjunction with other bird-control techniques.
- Noise devices are to be used only during daylight hours.
- The minimum frequency interval for each propane cannon is three minutes. For sites with more than one cannon, the minimum frequency is five minutes.
- When there are residences in close proximity to the vineyard, propane cannons and electronic sound devices are to be positioned a minimum of 500 feet* (line of sight) from residence(s) with the cannon barrel or speaker box pointed away from residence(s).

* May be reduced to a minimum of 300 feet with the addition of hay-bale screening.

The County Department of Agriculture would like to emphasize education and cooperation in promoting the Right to Farm Ordinance to the local agricultural community and the general public. Positive public relations on the part of growers can go a long way to remedy complaints and conflicts with neighbors and help protect the Right to Farm Ordinance.


For more information about the accepted customs and standards or the County's Right to Farm Ordinance, go to the County Department of Agriculture's website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm.

healthy farms • healthy environments • healthy communities

sustainable ag

EXPO

embassy suites
san luis obispo, california
www.sustainableagexpo.org



November 16 - 17, 2009

2009 Expo features...

Opening Remarks: **A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture**

Seminars on a wide range of relevant and timely issues including:

- Social Equity & Economics
- Ag Preservation Programs
- Crop Specific Research Updates
- Community & Media Relations
- Sustainability in the Marketplace
- Organic, Biodynamic, and Sustainable Farming Systems

Progressive **trade show** with products & services supporting sustainable farming

Continuing Education:
12 hours for PA, PCA, QAL including 1.5 hours of laws & regulations
12.5 Certified Crop Advisor hours
6 hours for the Irrigated Ag Order (Waiver)

Exhibitor space and sponsorship opportunities available.

Farms in the Family Bill continued from page 4

continue the farming operation without re-mortgaging the property or selling some or all of it to satisfy the tax settlement.”

For most family farmers and ranchers, estate value is made up mainly of land—and nowhere more so than in California and especially in farming areas near city boundaries. Estates that include agricultural land routinely exceed current tax exemptions based on estate value.

The farm groups favor maintaining exemptions at the highest possible levels and want Congress to “deal with...problems that farmers face with generational family transition.” Farmers often must sell land or other property without which the family farm will no longer be viable.

When farmlands and closely related agricultural operations remain within the family, it helps to ensure food security for the nation,

to preserve open space and to continue a strong conservation ethic. Family ownership, the groups said, retains knowledge of soil, water, wildlife habitat and other resources that assure continuity of stewardship practices.

Tax-reform legislation approved in 2001 phases out the estate tax entirely in 2010, but expires in 2011, when estate-tax rates would return to their pre-2001 level. Farm organizations say that would severely damage a farmer’s ability to pass a farm or ranch to the next generation.

To see the entire article and a list of groups supporting H.R. 3524, go to cfbf.com and look under News Releases.

**The Fourth Annual Central Coast
GREAT PUMPKIN CONTEST**

Mission Plaza • Downtown Farmers' Market • San Luis Obispo

Thursday, October 15, 2009 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Most Beautiful
Heaviest
Most Unusual
& More!**

More than \$3,000 in cash and prizes for heaviest pumpkin, heaviest 4-H pumpkin and heaviest FFA pumpkin grown on the Central Coast. Prizes also awarded for most beautiful and most unusual pumpkin.

To enter your large pumpkin or to get more information, visit www.farmsupplycompany.org or call (805) 543-3751.

MONTEREY & SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS
PRESENT 11TH ANNUAL

Central Coast Invasive Weed Symposium

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

SANTA CRUZ CO. FAIRGROUNDS, WATSONVILLE

“Fire Water Action” highlights:

- Keynote Speaker, Jon E. Keeley, Scientist, USGS Western Ecological Research Center
- “Tool Tailgate” demonstrates innovative weed-control techniques
- Saturday field trip goes to active project sites
- Continuing Education Credits available

For details, visit the website at http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/ag/Weed_Symposium_2009.htm

or contact Nora Carlton, (831) 759-7372, or CarltonN@ca.monterey.ca.us.

FARM BUREAU CLASSIFIEDS

Get the word out!

— FOR SALE OR LEASE —

Farm & Ranch

WATER SOFTENER. Model Elite 420 Series, Sears Best. Used 60 days only; like new. Best offer. 805/472-9432.

HORSE-QUALITY FORAGE MIX. \$8/bale, barn-stored heavy bales. Red Oak firewood to \$125/half cord or \$240/full cord (128 cu. ft.). You load/you haul. 805/239-2989.

HIGH-QUALITY BARLEY HAY. Large quantity available. Clean, smooth bearded. Good for cattle or horses. Paso Robles. Delivery available. \$6/bale. 805/674-8577.

2000 FOUR STAR GOOSE NECK STOCK TRAILER. 20-foot-long, movable center divider and side ramp door. \$10,000. 805/423-7663

QUALITY FORAGE MIX HAY. \$8/bale, Edna Valley. Delivery or pick up. 559/920-1991.

PICTURE FRAMES FREE FOR THE TAKING. First call. One wooden 31 ½ X 39 with glass. Two metal 23 ½ X 34 ½ with glass. Farm Bureau Office, 805/543-3654.

AKC BLACK/YELLOW LABS. Born 5/22/09, ofa, excellent, shots and wormed. Top hunting bloodlines, both parents point. Call Jim Batson at 805/463-2487.

QUALITY WHEAT HAY. \$8.50/bale. Quantity discounts/u-pick or deliver for fee. Paso Robles. 805/459-4416.

1968 JD 4020. Powershift, 3 remotes, duals. Loader w/bucket, forks, rear box scraper w/ hyd rippers. 6000 hrs. Asking \$13,900. Call Nick at 805/431-9532.

LONGHORN CATTLE. Heifers, steers, cow/calfes, bull. All ages, gentle with various colors. A magnificent breed with unique heritage. 805/801-8080.

ROUND HARROW. Strathmore 12', 3 pt. hitch. Good condition. \$750. 805/467-3389.

CAT 977 Loader \$30,000; 4-Way Bucket \$4,500; Rock Bucket \$3,000 (all 3 for \$32,500). Also Cat D6 Rippers \$5,500, 4x4 Sheepsfoot \$4,500. Call Alvin, 805/438-3278.

USED STEEL PIPE for fences, corrals, owl houses, flag poles, etc. Joints, posts, rods, wire, cable—everything for pipe projects. Panels. Competitive prices & delivery. 805/235-0133.

BOER GOATS. Bucks, young does and wethers \$65-\$80 each. 805/489-5402 or 805/235-2770 cell.

ALPACAS. Young, beautiful, grey and black. Pet fiber males. Good for sheep protection. Two for \$1,000. Call Marilyn, 805/772-1774.

VINEYARD EQUIPMENT. 3 Air-O-Fan pull- behind sulfur dusters; great shape – \$3,000/ea. '76 Chevy truck w/ stakebed; needs work – \$1,000. Patchen Weed Seeker ATV Spray Rig w/ electronic eye – \$2,500. Call Tony, 805/391-3171.

BARBADOS SHEEP AVAILABLE. Rams, ewes, wethers. Great for weed abatement, BBQ, stockdog training. 805/466-5088.

SPRING TOOTH HARROWS – Four 5-foot sections. Like new condition. \$875. 805/467-3993 or 805/674-1373.

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTINGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS!

Have something to sell, a job to fill or in need of a service? Advertise in *Farmer & Rancher* classifieds.

CLASSIFIED RATES

Farm Bureau membership includes one free 20-word listing per month. Additional words are \$5 per group of 10 words. Each additional 10-word listing is \$5 per month for members.

CLASSIFIED SUBMISSIONS

Call (805) 543-3654, fax (805) 543-3697, e-mail advertisement@slofarmbureau.org, or bring to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 651 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

YOUR DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 16.

CONTINUING YOUR LISTING

Your listing runs for three months. To cancel sooner, contact the SLO Farm Bureau office. At the end of three months you may resubmit your listing or consider a display ad.

LISTING AVAILABILITY

Listings are on a first-come, first-served basis. Farm Bureau retains the right to refuse or edit any classified listing and is not responsible for errors in text.



San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

"The mission of the SLO County Farm Bureau is to lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy of agriculture for the benefit of our members and community."

Welcome New Members!

Alicia Bartow

Harley Beem

Eagle Oak Ranch LLC

Levi Feldman

Heritage Oaks Bank

John Vineyard
Applicatons, Inc.

Rebecca Murillo

Mercedes Tomboc

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU AT 805/543-3654.

FARM BUREAU BUSINESS MEMBER DIRECTORY

Ag Box Company – Produce Containers

1400 Railroad Avenue, Oceano **489-0377**
Fax: 489-1497 Warehouse – **473-1160**
1260 W. Main Street, Santa Maria **922-9883**

Heather Billings

*Creates/Updates Farm Plans for the Regional
Water Quality Control Board*

Phone: 748-6509

Byars Thompson Buchanan Insurance

935 Riverside Avenue, Suite 7A, Paso Robles
Phone: 238-5212 Fax: 238-5215

California Meridian Insurance Services

9700 El Camino Real, Atascadero
ted@californiameridian.com
Phone: 466-3400 Fax: 466-6148

Central Coast Propane

*Local Source for Agricultural & Commercial
Propane*
6260 Monterey Road, Paso Robles
Phone: 237-1001 Fax: 467-2423

C&M Nursery

195 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo **929-1941**

C&N Tractors

2690 Ramada Drive, Paso Robles **805/237-3855**
496 Salinas Road, Watsonville **831/722-2733**

Coast National Bank

500 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo **541-0400**
1199 Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande **473-6560**
898 Morro Bay Boulevard, Morro Bay **772-6800**
1193 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos **528-6700**
2138 Spring Street, Suite A, Paso Robles
239-9520

Donovan & Donovan, Inc.

Construction, Designs, Interior
2230 Weaver Lane, Paso Robles **239-0848**

Eagle Energy, Inc. DBA Henderson Petroleum

22515 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita
543-7090
2400 Golden Hill Road, Paso Robles **239-2190**
1260 W. Main Street, Santa Maria **922-2168**
631 Avenue of the Flags, Buellton **688-1920**
719 Laurel Lane, Lompoc **736-7588**

Electricraft, Inc. Electrical Contractors

*Service, Repair, Maintenance and Trouble-
shooting, Installation and Connection of Motors,
Pumps, Solar, Generators and Electrical Controls;
24-hour Emergency Response.*
205 South Street, San Luis Obispo **544-8224**

Farm Supply Company

224 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo **543-3751**
SLO Pump Division: 224 Tank Farm Rd.
543-4355
1108 Paso Robles Street, Paso Robles **238-1177**
1079 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande **489-5514**
1920 N. Broadway, Santa Maria **922-2737**

Filipponi & Thompson Drilling Co.

Water Well Drilling, Pumps (Ag. & Domestic)
3250 El Camino Real, Atascadero **466-1271**

Ted Hamm Insurance Services

1046 Vine Street, Paso Robles **238-1818**

Heritage Oaks Bank

545 12th Street, Paso Robles **369-5203**

InWest Insurance Services

TWIIW Insurance Services
1525 E. Main Street, Santa Maria
922-7301 Fax: 925-2370

J.B. Dewar Inc. Petroleum Products

Corporate: 75 Prado Rd., San Luis Obispo
543-0180
Sales/Warehouse: 75 Prado Road **781-3578**
2403 Golden Hill Road, Paso Robles **238-0634**
1049 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles **238-0634**
1131 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande **543-0180**
933 Huber Street, Grover Beach **543-0180**
612 W. Boone Street, Santa Maria **925-4061**
2310 S. Meredith Lane, Santa Maria **925-4061**
1400 W. Laurel Avenue, Lompoc **736-8262**
Technical Services: Central Coast **440-8585**

Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard

*Law services include real estate, land use, water
and environmental law, including Williamson Act
and conservation easements.*

Contacts: Kenneth Bornholdt, Jon Goetz
1432 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo
Phone: 786-4302 Fax: 786-4319

E. C. Loomis & Son Insurance Associates

220 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande
Phone: 489-5594 Fax: 489-4183

Madonna Inn

100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo **543-3000**

Mission Community Bank

1226 Park Street, Paso Robles **237-4200**
581 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo **782-5000**
154 W. Branch Street, Arroyo Grande **994-9000**

Nick's Telecom

Home & Business Communications **441-3135**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

P.O. Box 8592, San Luis Obispo 93406
595-6340

Pacific Sun Growers, Inc.

1198 Mesa Road, Nipomo **929-1986**

Pat Phelan Construction – House & Barn Pads;

Septic Systems; Road, Reservoir and Vineyard Work.
235 Phelan Ranch Way, Arroyo Grande **929-1739**

Rabobank

2276 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo **541-5500**

Roadrunner Construction – Finish Grading,

*Driveway Materials Delivered & Applied. House
Pads, Horse Arenas, Bulldozing & Clearing.*
7210 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles **238-2500**
207 N. Main Street, Templeton **434-3816**

Roto-Rooter Plumbing, Sewer & Drain

Arroyo Grande: **489-4488** Cambria: **927-3100**
Cayucos: **995-0120** Los Osos: **528-2898**
Morro Bay: **772-3044** Nipomo: **929-1080**
Paso Robles: **239-1451** Pismo Beach: **773-1177**
San Luis Obispo: **543-9288**

Shimmin Canyon Vineyard – Producer

of Premium Wine Grapes.
11000 E. Highway 46, Paso Robles **238-2562**

South County Realty

102 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande **481-4297**

Trailer Barn, Inc.

1195 Ramada Drive, Paso Robles
trailerbarn@gmail.com
Phone: 227-4300 Fax: 227-4545

Business members listed here show support for the local agricultural industry and the SLO County Farm Bureau.

Please show your appreciation by supporting them; let them know that you're a Farm Bureau member when you do business with them.

YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD BE LISTED HERE, TOO!

**FOR DETAILS,
CALL ANNALISA CLARKE
AT 805/543-3654.**

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau



651 Tank Farm Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7062
(805) 543-3654

Presorted Standard

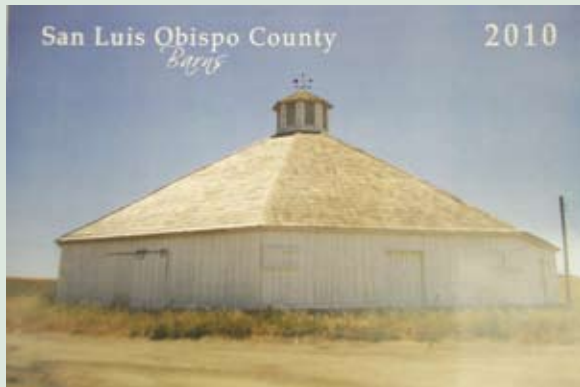
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #410

San Dimas, CA

Farm Bureau Women 2010 Calendars on Sale NOW!



\$15 each
Call Laura Rodgers at (805) 543-7146

MORE is LESS

More Money Down. Lower Interest Rate.

Ask About our *Loyal Member Reward*



*Annual Percentage Rate. Rate based on earned rate lending score and subject to credit approval. Up to 100% financing for new; 100% of high Blue Book for used vehicles. Rate subject to change without notice.

**20% DOWN
PAYMENT**
**.50% APR*
RATE
REDUCTION**

- Extended Terms Available
- Refinance Your Higher Rate Loan from Another Lender

Visit www.sesloc.org/loans
or call for details

You're eligible for a SESLOC account if you live, work,
worship or attend school in San Luis Obispo County.

Branches in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Cal Poly and Arroyo Grande

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration



543-1816 or 227-1030