



Media Release

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The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau is proud to announce Chris Darway as the 2006 Agriculturist of the Year. Farmer, father and community philanthropist Darway was selected to receive Farm Bureau's highest honor in appreciation to his unwavering support to the agriculture community. The award will be presented to Chris at Cattlemen and Farmers Day on Thursday July, 27 at the Mid-State Fair. Established in 1988, the Agriculturist of the Year award serves to honor county Farm Bureau members for their dedicated service for the betterment of agriculture.

Chris began working in agriculture with his grandfather in 1972. By 1976, Chris joined his brother, Chuck, to form Darway Brothers farming, which continues today. Together the brothers farm a diverse variety of vegetables and grains primarily located in Edna Valley. In 1984, they joined with Don Talley to form Edna Valley farming Company.

Fourth generation farmer and lifelong Edna Valley resident, Chris has been an active member of Farm Bureau since 1976. He joined the Bureau's Board of Directors in 1983 and served as president from 1997-1999. During his Farm Bureau Presidency in 1998, Darway established the SLO County Foundation for Agriculture Awareness, a non-profit organization designed to conduct an ongoing work program promoting agriculture awareness and environmental sensitivity and conscience to all community members, rural and urban alike. Together with the California Heritage Foundation, the Foundation for Agriculture Awareness provides \$1,000 scholarships for local graduating high school seniors who have participated in the Mid-State Fair.

In 2005, Darway was called on by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve a four year term with the Mid-Sate Fair board of directors. As a director Chris, serves on the Agriculture committee and Finance committee as well as participating in the general governance of the association.

Chris is no stranger to leadership, he is a class 25 graduate and region eleven district director of the California Agriculture Leadership program, a two-year educational fellowship program administered by the California Agriculture Leadership Foundation designed to develop leadership skills for people involved in the agriculture industry throughout the state. He has always been a strong supporter of the county 4-H and FFA groups and has been a Farm Supply Company director since 2000.

When asked to comment about being awarded Agriculturalist of the Year, he said, "It's an honor to be selected by Farm Bureau as the Agriculturalist of the Year. I am incredibly proud to be included with the previous recipients, all of whom are proven leaders and are invaluable to agriculture here in San Luis Obispo County."

The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau serves over 2,300 farm and ranch families in San Luis Obispo County.

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Mission Statement:

"To lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy for the benefit of our members and community"