



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting took place on November 11, 2006, at the Cascades in Palmdale, CA. This banquet facility overlooked the scenic view of the Rancho Vista Golf Course that had a beautiful waterfall splashing just outside the windows. The foreground was transformed into a plentiful harvest. Mountains of fruits and vegetables created centerpieces for each banquet table for the guests that had strolled in to greet one another.

One of the many highlights of the annual meeting this year was the **Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Dedication Awards**. The two deserving recipients (listed in alphabetical order) were Mr. Bill Barnes (left photo) and Mr. Sonny Shetler (right photo). They were presented with plaques for their years of dedication and involvement with this organization by LACFB President, Mr. Terry Munz.



Following the Awards Ceremony, our guest speaker for the evening was Judy Culbertson from CA Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. She spoke eloquently regarding the conference that had taken place in October at the Hilton in Burbank. She also thanked the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau staff and members for their involvement that helped to make "Agriculture's Lasting Connections" a successful event.

PLEASE SEE **LACFB ANNUAL MEETING / PAGE 3**



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Upcoming Events

Jan 7-10, 2007

AFBF Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah

Feb. 13-15, 2007

World Ag Expo
Heritage Complex
Tulare, CA

January/February 2007 Meeting Calendar

Exec Bd Mtg	Jan.18	6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Jan.25	6:00 p.m.
Exec Bd Mtg	Feb.15	6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Feb.22	6:00 p.m.

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Julie Kyle	P	P	*
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Richard Miner	P	P	*
Terry Munz	E	P	P
Eugene Nebeker	P	P	*
Roy Pursche	P	P	*
David Rizzo	P	E	E
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Jeff Siebert	P	E	*
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Jessie White	P	P	*

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
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 Lancaster, CA 93534
 (661) 942-9549

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
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 Lancaster, CA 93534
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Vol. 7 Issue 12 LOS ANGELES COUNTY Farm Bureau News Jan./Feb. 2007

Farm Bureau News

FARM BUREAU NEWS (ISSN number pending) is a bimonthly newsletter published by the LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 41228 12th Street West, Suite A, Palmdale, California 93551-1400, (661) 274-9709. Periodicals postage paid at Lancaster, California.

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from the

LACFB Board of Directors & LACFB Office Staff

President's Message:

I would like to thank the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Board Members that put their faith in my ability to once again run this organization. As your continuing LACFB president for 2007 and 2008, I would like to extend my gratitude for your continued trust and confidence.

As you are all aware, we are faced with many challenges. My goals for the upcoming years are: to work with my fellow board members to build a strong consensus concerning the water issue facing the Antelope Valley, to continue to improve our membership, to continue promoting agricultural education, and to retain good working relationships with local and state elected officials.



We ended our 2006 year with great success from all the hard work and dedication of our board of directors and staff. The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau placed first in the state in completing our overall membership goal at 122%. We are also number two in the state with overall membership. Our organization was recently recognized at the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting for achieving these milestones.



Remember, we need to continue these efforts. Please help membership by promoting the Farm Bureau to your family, friends, and neighbors. Please tell them to see our website at www.lacfb.org or call our office at 661-274-9709.

Terry A. Munz

California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting

The California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting took place December 3-6, 2006 at the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim, CA. The theme of this year's Meeting was the "Faces of Farm Bureau". The idea was to NOT only give farmers' a voice in agricultural issues, but to present certain individuals and their stories that speak to these topics. The four day event was a chance for all the Farm Bureaus from various counties to discuss agricultural issues as well as to socialize with one another.

This year the Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet Competition had a historical outcome. It was the first time that the deciding round consisted of four female finalists: Amy Christensen of San Joaquin County, Lesa Eidman of Sacramento County, Meghan Bowen of Monterey County, and Molly Fagundes of Merced County. Each finalist had to make it through the semifinal rounds discussing various topics. For example, one of the questions asked the contestants to discuss traditional agricultural practices versus new methods and products. Then the judges scored the contestants on predetermined criteria. Scoring high on all the previous discussions led these ladies to the final round.

After a very interesting discussion on the topic of the impact of a proposed animal identification system, Amy Christensen of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau won the Discussion Meet. Her feelings on the topic were that "It is important that we continue to consider the needs of both small and large producers." She also stated that "Farm Bureau policy asks us to actively divide the costs among government, industry, and producers and we need to figure out the best use of taxpayer and producer money." Mrs. Christensen received a \$25,000 Dodge pickup truck of her choice and \$3,600 in cash for all her hard work.

On Monday, December 4th, general session began with President Mosebar addressing the group. This was followed by opening ceremonies and the Guest Speaker Sessions. From laughter to tears,

Annual Meeting Highlights Annual Meeting Highlights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Guest Speaker:



Judy Culbertson

The evening continued with the customized comedy of Glenn Erath. His comedy involved the use of music and modified song lyrics to poke fun at certain individuals. Therefore, it came as no surprise that the main target of the night was LACFB Executive Board Director, Dennis Kilcoyne. As the guitar started strumming the song "Secret Agent Man", the audience anticipated that Mr. Kilcoyne—the detective and lilac grower—was next in line. Mr. Erath's rendition of the song *Secret Agent Man (aka Secret Lilac Man)*, has become a #1 hit song here at the Farm Bureau. The audience had laughed so hard that their faces had become red with tears streaming from their eyes.

As the laughter slowly ceased, everyone settled down and awaited the door prizes. By the end of the evening everyone had a memento, thanks to the generosity of our Board Members. The mountains of fruits and vegetables that had adorned the table tops had also become gifts for the attendees. The waterfall in the background had become a silhouette in the night sky. As the guests started leaving, they said their good-byes until the next annual meeting.

SECRET LILAC MAN
"There's a man who leads a life of
danger, hunting down gun toting
thugs and stranglers. Bad guys know
he's on their tracks when he sends
them his lilacs, the odds are they'll be
put in jail tomorrow....."



Glen Erath singing *Secret Lilac Man*

the audience felt a range of emotions in the sessions that featured farmers and motivational speakers: *Jolene Brown and **Chad Hymas.

Jolene Brown started the Speaker Session by talking about the daily aggravations and catastrophes of running family operated businesses. She had an incredible way of talking about serious subjects while adding a humorous twist.

Here is Jolene Brown's "**The Top Ten Stupid Things Families Do To Break Up Their Business**":

10. "Neglecting vital facts of successful family businesses and failing to celebrate."
9. "Having no legal and discussed estate, management transfer plan, or buy/sell agreement."

PLEASE SEE **CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION'S ANNUAL MEETING/** PAGE 5

Agricultural Commissioner System at 125 Years

The year 2006 marked the 125th anniversary of the County Agricultural Commissioner system in California. While recognizing that this topic may appear as self-praise, I would be remiss in allowing the year to close without acknowledging this significant milestone achieved by a system that is unique in our nation and has proven to be a tremendous success and a critical component in promoting, protecting, and sustaining the agricultural industry of what remains the greatest agricultural state in the Union.

The State Legislature, on March 14, 1881, passed an act to protect and promote the horticultural interests of California, providing for a Board of three Horticultural Commissioners to be appointed by each County Board of Supervisors. The Board of State Horticultural Commissioners convened a convention of fruit growers, packers, nurserymen and other interested parties in November 1881. One resolution passed at the "First Annual Horticultural Conference" regarded appointment of Commissioners in each county. On March 6, 1909, the Legislature approved a law replacing the County Boards of Horticultural Commissioners with a single Horticultural Commissioner. In 1929, a State act changed the title "Horticultural Commissioner" "Agricultural Commissioner."

Originally established to protect agriculture from pests, today California County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers of Weights and Measures, through over 1,200 trained and licensed staff biologists and inspectors, also protect the environment through pest prevention and pesticide enforcement; protect consumers through weights and measures, produce, and nursery inspections; promote a healthy agricultural industry by inspecting products to enable foreign trade; and enforce numerous Federal and State laws pertaining to a variety of agricultural programs.

The system's success was recognized in Washington DC with the following comments (excerpts) from **Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20th) to the U.S. House of Representatives:**

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California's County Agricultural Commissioners. Agriculture is California's number 1 industry. In 2004, the fertile soils of California supported over 350 different crops, which were valued at over \$37.5 billion and shipped throughout the United States and foreign countries. Weather, water and good farmers are some of the major factors contributing to California's bountiful crops. One other prime factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of California Agricultural Commissioners....."

"As prescribed by state law, the County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for the local administration of statewide enforcement programs that promote and protect the agricultural industry of the state. In addition, this commission is dedicated to protecting public health, safety and welfare. In fulfilling this responsibility, the primary objective of the County Agricultural Commissioner is to maintain a viable system of production and delivery of an abundant supply of wholesome food and fiber to domestic and export consumers....."

"One of the primary ways the commission protects agricultural resources, the environment and public health is by supporting beneficial legislation as well as preserving local determination. The Commissioner seeks to insure that all interagency and joint policies provide adequate flexibility to accommodate local concerns and resources...encourages and promotes the suppression of pests through biological, cultural, mechanical and chemical methods...adamantly enforce(s) all laws and regulations that provide for the appropriate, safe and efficient use of pesticides...The Commissioner protects both businesses and consumers. The consumers are protected from fraud and deception and are assured marketing equity among producers and among shippers in the distribution of fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs and honey by the uniform enforcement of quality standards."

Congressman Costa closed by stating:

"The work of the Agricultural Commissioners is to be commended as their presence, dedication, knowledge, professionalism and hard work has insured an adequate food supply for millions of people and a healthy economy for the State of California. Our nation's residents as well as citizens of other nations are the beneficiaries of an amazing supply of agricultural products grown throughout the year in California. California, her farmers and Agricultural Commissioners can be proud of the first 125 years of service."

We can, indeed, be proud of the agricultural heritage and the continuing success of agriculture in our state. Of course, the farmers and growers of the county and the state perform the central role in the production of our impressive, abundant, wholesome, and diverse supply of food, fiber, and plant materials. The cooperative efforts of growers, County Agricultural Commissioner staff, CDFA and USDA in ensuring the safety, integrity, and viability of the industry through adherence to quality standards, quarantine requirements, implementation of environmentally sound and effective pest control practices, and promotion of the state's agricultural bounty will bring another century of success. It is my honor to serve as the present Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner and I am proud of the work and dedication of the nearly 400 members of the L.A. County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures who perform the array of duties discussed above. With them, I look forward to 2007 as the first of the next 125 years.

From the desk of
Agricultural Commissioner

Kurt E. Floren

**Director of Weights and Measures
Los Angeles County Department of
Agricultural Commissioner
Weights and Measures**





Contact NRCS District Conservationist Jae Lee (author for this section) at (661) 945-2604 ext. 3 for more information. California state NRCS website is www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.

D U S T B U S T E R S : Learning from the past, planning for the future

Although the infamous Dustbowls of the 1930s occurred over 70-years ago across the great plains of the United States, wind erosion continues to be a force to be reckoned with in our times and throughout the nation. We here in the Antelope Valley have experienced unprecedented sand storm events, as well, devastating lives and property. However, as a community, we were not prepared to allow such forces to go unchecked. Local farmers, property owners, local organizations and agencies, state and federal government partnered together to meet this challenge.

The Dustbusters Taskforce was born.

The dedicated and committed people of **Dustbusters** fulfilled great deeds during the late 1980s through the 1990s, restoring critically eroding fields; cooperating with regulatory agencies; identifying technology gaps; and, embarking on a momentous endeavor to study, analyze, and define the nature of wind erosion and the effects of various best management Conservation Practices to control sand movement.

In the early 90s, the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, worked with the local Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District and other **Dustbusters** partner members to reseed vast acreages of a de-vegetated, eroding field. Federal funds from the Emergency Watershed Protection program were used to help pay for seed, machinery and labor. The synergy of timely rains and hard work combined to result in, what is now, a stable restored desert ecosystem.

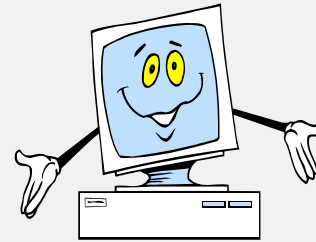
During the early phases of **Dustbusters**, there was a looming concern that the Antelope Valley portion of the air basin could be categorized as a federal non-attainment area. Dustbusters members were instrumental in forestalling a federal categorization. Currently, the valley is "Unclassified" federally.

The latter phases of **Dustbusters** to present day are marked by efforts to study erosion and come up with ideal measures to reduce soil movement. Some questions being answered are: under what circumstances do soil and sand start to move, do soils re-stabilize on their own, what are ways to encourage re-stabilization and restoration, what methods are best suited to halt sand movement, what are the pros and cons of one conservation practice over another? After the various members of the **Dustbusters Technical Committee** formulate their findings, the next step will be to compile the amassed data and recommendations into a user's guide, a **Dustbusters Handbook** containing a quick reference cookbook section on controlling erosion, a planners section for designing conservation measures, and a technical references section containing study results.

Soil erosion and reduced air quality is still a problem. It is common practice now for many Antelope Valley farmers to, for example, plant cover crops and windbreaks, doing their part in land stewardship. This is what farmers and ranchers do best, care for the land. However, there continues to be extraordinary problem sites that present uncommon challenges and call for uncommon attention. Newly emerging challenges are also coming to the forefront as land use becomes more widespread and complex. The **Dustbusters Taskforce** is well suited to facilitate outreach on lessons learned from the past and to assist land managers to make decisions for our future.

Dear Reader,

The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau thanks you for your membership to our organization. It has been a tradition for us to provide our readers with a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you updated with agricultural news and events that take place in the AV Valley and the greater Los Angeles area. However, with the rising cost of printing and postage we would like to continue this tradition online starting with our May/June issue. Please refer to our website at www.lacfb.org as we are in the process of updating it to include links for students, teachers, and anyone interested in agricultural related topics. For those of you that do not have a computer, please contact our office staff at (661)274-9709. They will print a copy of the newsletter and mail it to you per request.



With the New Year comes new traditions. We hope that you will join us with our new beginning.

Sincerely,
The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Jolene Brown's "The Top Ten Stupid Things Families Do To Break Up Their Business":

8. "Forgetting to use common courtesy."
7. "Ignoring the in-laws, off site family, and employees."
6. "Failing to build communication skills and meeting tools when the times are good so they'll be in place to use when the times get tough."
5. "Believing mind reading is an acceptable form of communication."
4. "Presuming a conversation is a contract."
3. "Assuming others will/should/must change and NOT me."
2. "Believing the business can financially support any and all family members who want to work together."

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1. "Assuming all genetic relationships equal good working relationships."



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California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Another talented speaker that afternoon was Chad Hymas. He presented a very personal biography of his life experience following a tragic event. One day while working on their elk ranch and preserve, there was an accident. A 1200 pound bale of hay had fallen and pinned Chad until help had arrived. This left his body paralyzed, but NOT his spirit. He asked the audience to live their life with an open mind. His inspirational thoughts were to try to change something negative to make it a positive. His advice was to: **"Change a belief." "Change a tradition." "To achieve the unachievable and to reach for the unreachable."**

The last two days of The CFBF Annual Meeting was when the 2006 Tentative Basic Resolutions were discussed. A hot topic again this year was the definition of a bona-fide farmer. The delegates had agreed that in order to resolve this issue, a committee would be set up to further investigate these topics. This committee would consist of delegates that had volunteered from the various county Farm Bureaus. They would report their findings periodically throughout the year. This study group will gather data and present their findings at next year's Annual meeting in Sparks, Nevada where the issue will be further discussed.

We would like to thank CFBF for an informative and festive Annual Meeting. It gave us the newly appointed LACFB office staff-the opportunity to put faces to the voices that we have been conversing with over the phone. We are glad to have met all the wonderful people that make up our extended farm family as we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Please note that the updated policies will be available in the January 10th **Ag Alert** issue.

*For more information on Jolene Brown and her motivational business presentations, please visit her website <http://www.jolenebrown.com/> or send her an email at Jolene@JoleneBrown.com.

**For more information on Chad Hymas and his inspirational presentations, please visit his website at <http://www.chadhymas.com/home.php>.

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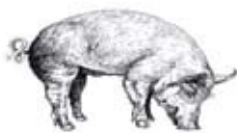
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This is a historical first. Under the tax deduction provision that was included in the Pension Protection Act of 2006, all business entities—including farms and ranches--will be allowed a tax deduction when donating food to charity.

Please visit the website for America's Second Harvest, the nation's largest charitable hunger-relief organization, at www.secondharvest.org.

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P.O. Box 2752
Lancaster, CA 93539
(661) 948-8424
E-mail: ahartwigcompany@coldwellbanker.com

FLORIST

Palmdale-Lancaster Florist
44761 10th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 723-7673

GROCERY SUPPLIERS

Antelope Valley Produce
206 West Nugent
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 942-5939

INSURANCE SERVICES

Robert E. Griffin Insurance
44741 10th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534-2318
(661) 948-0712
E-mail: bob@regriffinins.com

MACHINERY

South Kern Machinery, Inc.
520 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307
(661) 833-9900
1-800-244-6424
(661) 833-9911
E-mail: lsitzman@southkern.com
www.southkern.com

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

50th District Agricultural Association
2511 West Avenue H
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 948-6060

Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
43301 Division Street, #206
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-8070

White Fence Farms
41901 20th Street West
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 943-3316
E-mail: wff@gnet.com

SUPPLY COMPANIES

Distribution Supply Tech
4820 Lanier Road
Chino, CA 91710
(909) 627-3638

WATER AGENCIES

Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency
6500 West Avenue N
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 943-3201
E-mail: avekwa@aol.com
General Meetings - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Littlerock Creek Irrigation District
35141 N. 87th Street East
Littlerock, CA 93543
(661) 944-2015
E-mail: lcid@skylinx.us
General Meeting - 4th Wednesday of the month

Palmdale Water District
2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale CA 93550
(661) 947-4111
E-mail: front_office@palmdalewater.org
www.palmdalewater.org/
General Meetings - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

Quartz Hill Water District
42141 50th Street West
Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 943-3170
E-mail: dmeraz@qhwd.org
www.qhwd.org/
General Meeting -2nd Thursday of the month

WELLS & PUMPS

Rottman Drilling
46471 N. Division Street
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942-6125
E-mail: rdrilling@msn.com

Support our Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Members