



Upcoming Events:

BABY PIGLETS!



LACFB will sponsor baby pigs at the Antelope Valley Fair.

August 24-September 3, 2007

Online Features:

COMING SOON!



Agricultural Film Clips

July/August 2007
Meeting Calendar

Exec Bd Mtg July 19/Aug 16 6:00 p.m.

Board Meetings DARK until Sept.

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Faces of LACFB

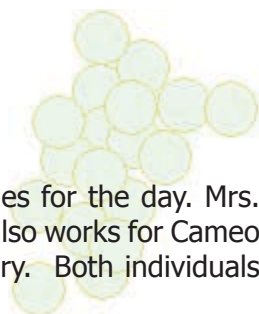


Meet the individuals behind the various aspects of agriculture throughout LA County

Desert Wineries: Just a Mirage?

By Victoria Gerginis

As you pass through the canyons, heading north from Los Angeles, the desert communities of Palmdale and Lancaster are revealed off the freeway. You might see newly constructed houses encroaching upon the Joshua trees that sprawl across the desert landscape. Is it a mirage, or did I just find one of the wine industry's best kept secrets?



Waiting inside the quaint Antelope Valley Winery's tasting room are my tour guides for the day. Mrs. Chantel Kilmer is the president of the Antelope Valley Winegrowers Association, and also works for Cameo Vineyards. Mr. Allen Quinton is the account manager for the Antelope Valley Winery. Both individuals have extensive background knowledge and passion for the wine business.

As we make our introductions, I grab my digital camcorder and we head outside towards the surrounding vineyards (video clips describing the wine process and other aspects of my tour will soon be online at www.lacfb.org). Onsite, there are numerous rows of decade old vines swaying in the wind. Taking a closer look, one could see the camouflaged bunches of small round grapes cradled within the vine. At this stage, the farmer looks at the structure of the leaves and also determines the variety of grape based on how it is bunched. For example, the grapes used to make a bottle of Merlot are deciphered by their specific leaf design and tight bunches.

Three pairs of footsteps echo their way across the dirt rows surrounded by the tall vines. The wind whistles and the birds chirp as we make our way to the other side of the vineyard. It's a little past noon, the sun is a blaze and the wind is greatly appreciated. The dry climate is a blessing to the farmer because mold and pests like the winged sharpshooter are not issues here. Both can be problematic in the Northern California regions where the damp, wetter climate allows them to thrive.

In the desert, the farmer is concerned with the overpopulation of the cute, yet extremely destructive, rabbits and gophers. Under the night cover, these creatures come out to feast on the newly planted vines. As the fruit starts to bloom, birds are also a threat as they start to dive through the vines foraging for food. Scarecrows are generally used to scare pests away; and nets are used to protect the grapes. However in the bigger vineyards out in the Lake Los Angeles area, the sound of canons going off on a timer is used to scare swarms of birds away.

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CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR L.A. & ORANGE COUNTIES

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(661) 945-2604 ext. 107
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Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Directors' Meeting Attendance 2007

DIRECTOR	May	June	July
Casey Alesso	E	E	D
Gloria Alesso	E	E	D
Jess Baker	P	P	D
Ralph Bozigian	P	E	D
John Calandri	E	E	D
Steve Godde	P	E	D
John Goit	P	E	D
Dennis Groven	P	E	D
Scott Harter	E	E	D
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Gailen Kyle	P	P	D
Julie Kyle	P	P	D
Ray McCormick	P	E	D
Richard Miner	E	P	D
Terry Munz	P	P	D
Eugene Nebeker	P	P	D
Roy Pursche	P	E	D
David Rizzo	P	P	D
Steve Rodrigues	E	P	D
Jeff Siebert	E	E	D
Craig Van Dam	E	E	D
Jessie White	P	P	D

E= Excused
P=Present
D=Dark



2007 Photo Contest

Say **Cheese** and **win**

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE

Deadline for Entries
September 28

This contest is open to any amateur photographer who is a member of a county Farm Bureau in California. Entry forms and additional details are available at www.cfbf.com.



Vol. 10 Issue 15

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

July/August 2007

Farm Bureau News

FARM BUREAU NEWS 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

Telephone: (661) 274-9709
FAX: (661) 274-0637
E-mail: exec@lacfb.org

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS FOR THIS ISSUE

CA Farm Bureau Federation

John Valentine-Director of Relations for Nationwide Insurance.

Brian Watson-Farm Bureau Group Manager.

LAY OUT DESIGN AND FIELD RESEARCH REPORTER FOR FACES OF LACFB:

Victoria Gerginis-LACFB Office Staff

Please Note: The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers for products advertised in Farm Bureau News, nor does the Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than those expressed in editorials or articles showing authorship by an officer, director, or employee of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

President's Message:

The Junior Livestock Show and Auction of 2007 were a success!

The Junior Livestock Show and Auction took place at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center on June 9 and 10 (We are including this information in this issue because our last newsletter was emailed before this event took place). This is an annual event in the San Fernando Valley, and the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau is always a proud sponsor.

This year, the LACFB donated \$ 2,000 to add-on to the 4H, FFA, Grange and independent participants showing their livestock. These dedicated agricultural enthusiasts, spent most of their time and energy preparing their livestock for the auction. The majority of the money that they had earned will go into their college funds; as they continue their agricultural pursuits.

I would like to thank all of the individuals that took the initiative to pull that event together. From all the thank you notes our office had received, I'm sure the children greatly appreciated everyone's time and efforts.

Making sure that these events continue throughout the decades ensures agriculture in the future, as we (referring to everyone that believes in the importance and the benefits of farming) strive to promote public awareness.

View the photos taken at the event by our office staff ~

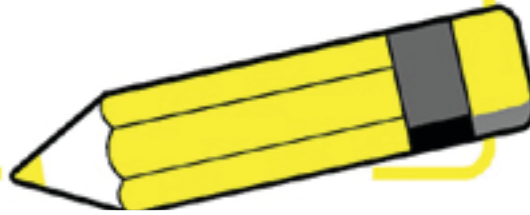
PAGES 6, 8-9

Terry A. Munz

Teacher's Corner:



Water Fact Sheet



Water Fun Facts



Agriculture brings food to your table. **Water** is an important aspect in this process. Did you know?

Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat to 75% of the nation's wildlife¹.

CA Farmers use less water than they did 30 years ago, yet produce 67% more crops².

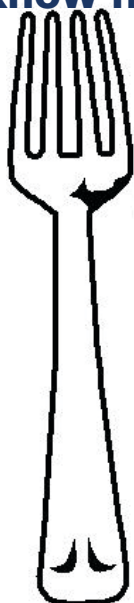
Los Angeles County is 25th in the state with agricultural production³

Top Crops in Los Angeles County
Ornamental Trees and Shrubs
Bedding Plants
Root Vegetables (Carrots, Potatoes, etc)
Orchard Fruit (Peaches, Cherries, etc)
Alfalfa Hay
Indoor Plants, foliage



Americans have the most affordable food supply in the world! For 1 gallon milk, 1 dozen eggs, 5 lbs. sugar, 2 lbs. sirloin steak, and 2 lbs. apples we only pay \$18.79; it would cost us \$30.10 in Paris, France and \$74.23 in Tokyo, Japan⁴.

Do you know how much **water** it took to make your lasagna dinner⁵?



Dinner	Gallons of Water
<i>Lasagna</i>	
Pasta (4oz)	71.8
Tomato Sauce (6oz)	38.7
Cheese (3oz)	168.0
Ground Beef (3oz)	82.5
<i>Garlic Bread</i>	
Bread (1 Slice)	10.6
Butter (1 Pat or .36oz)	45.7
<i>Salad</i>	
Lettuce (1/2 Cup)	1.5
Tomato (2oz)	3.8
<i>Drink</i>	
Milk	48.3



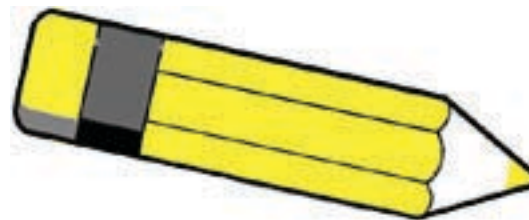
Did you know that **water** affects food?

Popcorn pops because water is stored in a small circle of soft starch in each kernel. When heat is applied, the water turns into steam causing it to explode⁶.

It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one egg⁷.

Pumpkins are 90% water⁸.

Water Fact Sheet-



Become a
Farm Bureau
Member!

Please call :
1-800-698-3276
today!

Do you realize how much water you use?

It takes 2 gallons of water to brush your teeth⁹.

It takes 25 to 50 gallons of water to take a 5 minute shower¹⁰.

It takes 2 to 7 gallons of water to flush a toilet¹¹.

A dishwasher uses 25 gallons of water in a load¹².

A washing machine uses 30 gallons of water per load¹³.

The average American individual uses 100 to 176 gallons of water at home each day.
The average African family uses about 5 gallons of water each day¹⁴.



Do you realize how much water is wasted?

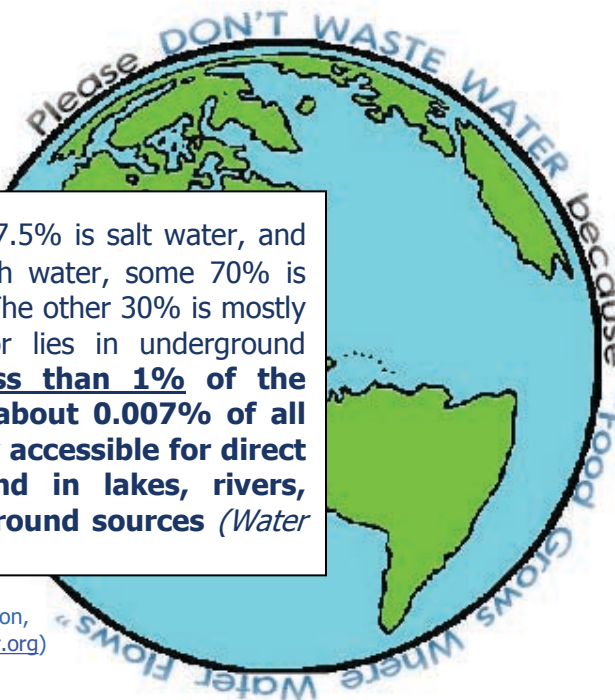
In 1 hour 1,000 gallons of water can run through a garden hose¹⁵.

A leaking faucet can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day¹⁶.

Did you know?

Of all **water** on earth, 97.5% is salt water, and of the remaining 2.5% fresh water, some 70% is frozen in the polar icecaps. The other 30% is mostly present as soil moisture or lies in underground aquifers. **In the end, less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human uses. It is found in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and in underground sources** (*Water Partners International*¹⁷).

(CA Farm Water Coalition,
<http://www.farmwater.org>)



For any agricultural related questions, please contact:

Los Angeles County Farm Bureau (661) 274-9709

www.lacfb.org



Citations

- 1 <http://biosystems2.okstate.edu/scenic/farmers.asp>
- 2 pamphlet: "National Amazing but True!" CA Farm Bureau Federation
- 3 *LA County Agricultural Crop & Livestock Report 2006*
- 4 Source: USDA
- 5 *The Water Fact Book*, page 16, CA Farm Water Coalition
- 6 <http://www.agday.org/index.php>
- 7 <http://www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org/kids/>
- 8 <http://www.agday.org/index.php>
- 9-11 <http://www.njawwa.org/kidsweb>
- 12-13 <http://www.jea.com/community/education/kidscorner/waterfacts.asp>
- 14 www.water.org
- 15-16 www.centralbasin.org
- 17 Water Partners International

Data compiled by ~ LACFB Office Staff

Graphic Design & Layout ~ Victoria Gerginis



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Relations Nationwide
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Contact John via email at:
Valentj4@nationwide.com

Nationwide

A ray of light after giant tornado ravages Kansas farming community

Nationwide helps Greensburg's vital co-op when the town needed it most

After the most powerful tornado to hit American soil in eight years drilled its deadly path across Greensburg, Kan., the only business left standing was the concrete grain elevator belonging to the Southern Plains Cooperative.

The world saw television coverage of the destruction left by the giant tornado's 200 mile per hour winds and the grain elevator standing defiantly amidst rubble. For many of Greensburg's 1,600 residents, the elevator was the only part of their home town they could recognize. And with harvest season near, seeing the elevator intact was one of very few signs of hope.

The co-op has been the lifeblood of this farming community and a **Nationwide** customer for more than 20 years. While the dollar value of the claim isn't near the industry's largest, it could be the worst claim to ever happen in the co-op arena from a customer standpoint. According to FEMA, only one out of every five businesses ever recovers from a natural disaster.

"This is about more than just handing our customer a check. Southern Plains' success is a vital component to this community's comeback," said Brett Harman, president of **Nationwide Agribusiness, a member of the Nationwide family of companies..** "Our efforts are focused on getting them back in business immediately."

Right after the storm, Mark Whalen, a commercial claims specialist at **Nationwide**, maneuvered through National Guard checkpoints and piles of debris, to get to the site. Though his job takes him through many disaster areas, he was amazed by the power of the F5 tornado.

"Complete devastation," said Whalen. "To look out and see no standing structures in an entire town is mind boggling."

Like any first responder, Whalen had to assess, evaluate and control what he could. Even in the middle of chaos, his experience allows him to help business owners make the important decisions during those first critical hours after a disaster.

Whalen's first concern was helping the Southern Plains manager and general manager quickly identify parts of the business that could be salvaged. The tornado blew the caps off the grain elevator, so taking care of wet grain became another priority as they worked to salvage inventory.

After helping them mitigate their losses and keep some of their operations running by using other locations, Whalen helped the co-op set up temporary offices and place ads in local newspapers to let their customers know they are still in business.



YOUR GRANDFATHER RELIED ON US, TOO.

For over 60 years, State Fund and the Farm Bureau have worked hard for California's farmers and ranchers. Together, we've created a solid and stable workers' compensation program that has provided safety education and training to each new generation.

To see what we can do for you, today, talk to your insurance broker or give us a call at 1-800-773-7667. Of course, if you want to check us out with gramps first, that's just fine with us.



State Compensation Insurance Fund is a branch of the State of California

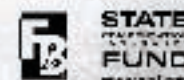


[STATE FUND & FARM BUREAU WORKING HAND IN GLOVE SINCE 1947]

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NATIONWIDE CONTINUED/PAGE 7

Junior Livestock Show and Auction 2007



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Desert Wineries: Just a Mirage?

Amidst the desert landscape, the sporadic re-planting of vines is taking place. This experiment has to do with growing grapes used in making white wine. All the vineyards scattered across the vast desert were grape varieties used for red wine—until now. Supposedly, white wine was not supposed to grow here. The experimentation of grape varieties could be credited to UC Davis and an agricultural studies student—Steve Godde—who envisioned the winery setting of the 1900s. During that period, there had been two major wineries and several backyard operations that were thriving in this area. Then in 1919 came Prohibition; the vineyards were destroyed and replaced with alfalfa (For more information regarding the AV history and wineries refer to the following site: www.cameovineyards.com).

Wineries in the Antelope Valley are no longer a mirage. Mr. Godde has been replanting vineyards since the 1980s; with other wineries following his lead. Their objective is to have this type of agriculture to continue growing in the desert. One day, as you drive into the Antelope Valley you will see vineyards, restaurants, and wineries—a smaller Temecula—that's the ultimate goal.

For those interested in taking a weekend trip to the Antelope Valley, wine tours and personalized packages that include spas or driving range additions are available. In August, the wine harvest season begins. Please contact 661-965-7241 for additional information or reservations.



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Nationwide CONTINUED FROM/PAGE 5

"We help them see a bigger picture," Whalen explained. "It's overwhelming in those first days. There is so much going through their minds. We help them make sense of what has happened, but we also help control expenses by guiding them to cost effective alternatives."

It's easy to see how overwhelming the ordeal can be. The first hours after the tornado hit were for search and rescue. Three of the co-op's 14 employees lived in Greensburg and one of them was missing. The man was eventually found with a piece of wood embedded in his shoulder. He needed surgery and is now recovering.

With the crew safe, the next concerns were the 8,000-gallon propane and 26,000-gallon anhydrous tanks. Both were leaking. An area oil field supplier provided the equipment needed to close the two tanks. They then began securing the chemicals – fertilizer, pesticides and others – stored at the site.

"The chemical shed was destroyed," said Charles Collins, safety director for Kansas Safety & Compliance, a safety management company managed by Kansas Farmers Service Association. "Three tanks were blown over, but only one, containing Roundup, spilled. This was especially fortunate considering that it rained for three days after the tornado."

The Nationwide home office in Des Moines, Iowa, assisted the co-op by researching values on fleet vehicles and quickly getting them an insurance check. They also helped find a local recycler and got undamaged inventory shipped to other co-op locations.

Through the coordinated efforts of Whalen and Collins, the co-op got a local trucking company to repair some of their 22 damaged vehicles, and a local dealership provided three pickups for the co-op to use in the interim.

Nationwide even hired co-op workers to help clean up the site so they would still have paychecks coming in on Fridays. Knowing the co-op's employees were also dealing with great personal losses, Whalen offered crisis counseling services for those in need.

"This claim shows what a huge difference our large claims expertise can make. We're able to see opportunities – things unique that others might not think about," Harman said. "We know enough about these catastrophic situations to find innovative solutions that help our customers stay ahead of the game."

Southern Plains was partially back in business just days after the disaster and is now getting ready for the wheat harvest season.

"Nationwide reacted fast and was able to assist me in quickly getting the Greensburg location back in business," said Ron Gruber, general manager of the co-op. "I was really pleased with Mark's work. One person couldn't have done all of this. This has truly been a team effort."

State Fund for county Farm Bureaus
July 2007

Lockout/tagout procedure saves lives

By Brian Watson
Farm Bureau Group Manager

When people are working around agricultural machinery, there are two words that they should become familiar with—lockout/tagout. When "lockout/tagout" procedures are adhered to, the chances of a machinery related mishap are greatly reduced.

Lockout/tagout means that the energy source for a piece of equipment is disengaged. There is a lot of difference between simply turning off a machine and actually disengaging the power source. Without disengaging the power, a short in the switch or someone else turning on the machine could suddenly start it running again, potentially causing serious or fatal accidents.

Be aware of the dangers and be on your guard around any machinery or moving equipment. Even if you don't operate the machinery, you could get caught in it and injured if it's not properly locked.

The lockout/tagout rule should always be followed during machine setups, or when performing maintenance or making repairs. The following prevention program is recommended:

- Identify all equipment that requires lockout/tagout of power sources.
- Post warning signs to indicate that lockout/tagout is required.
- Develop written procedures explaining how lockout/tagout is to be done and allow no deviation from these procedures.
- Train workers in lockout/tagout and conduct periodic refresher training.
- Perform regular maintenance to prevent malfunctioning equipment.





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CONTINUED FROM/ PAGE 7



If a lockout/tagout procedure is going to be used, a person should first notify all individuals in the area where the work is to be performed. Disconnect all energy sources to the piece of equipment, check to see that everyone is clear of the machine and then test start the machine to be sure it is disengaged.

When a piece of machinery has been locked out, a person should never remove any locks or tags other than his or her own. A person should never try to start equipment that has been locked out or tagged out unless authorized to do so.

Before restarting a piece of equipment, the following items should be checked and then rechecked:

- Have all guards been replaced correctly?
- Are all stray tools and parts accounted for and removed from the work area?
- Are pressure tubing, pipes and hose connections properly installed?
- Have all lockout/tagout notices been removed?
- Is the area clear of all workers?

Be aware of your personal safety and the safety of others when working with or around moving equipment and machinery. Be sure to follow lockout/tagout procedures, even for a quick or minor repair. Injuries can be prevented by doing things right. Insist that everyone follow proper lockout and tagout procedures.

Take Away the Guess Work with FARM TEAM

Article contributed by the CA Farm Bureau Federation

Are you frustrated with California's regulatory climate, but don't have the time to walk the halls of the State Capitol?

If you have just five minutes, you have the ability to make a difference for California's family farmers and ranchers.

Farm Bureau developed the FARM TEAM, our grassroots political action program to provide a united voice on legislation and regulations that impact your ability to do business.

FARM TEAM is the easiest way to take part in the political process – and from the comfort of your own home! As a web-based program, you will receive an email Action Alert when your help is needed the most.

The Action Alert explains the issue at hand, and has a letter attached which has already been drafted for you. Because the program is web-based, all you have to do is enter your zip code and the system looks up your elected officials for you.

FARM TEAM takes the hard work and guessing out of writing letters to your elected officials. Responding to **Action Alerts** take no more than five minutes. All you have to do is:

- Customize the letter according to how the issue impacts your business
- Complete the contact information
- Click the "Send" button

The State Legislature and Congress are in full swing and many issues that impact your business are before them.

Not a FARM TEAM member? Visit www.cfbf.com and look for the FARM TEAM button or contact us at 1-800-698-3276.

If you are a FARM TEAM member, continue to look for and respond to Action Alerts. It may not be your issue today, but it could be tomorrow!

With the united voice of family farmers and ranchers across the state, we can protect California's rich agricultural heritage.



Junior Livestock Show and Auction 2007

Williamson Act

in Jeopardy Again

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY THE CA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Many of California's most fertile valleys are far from Sacramento, but millions of acres of farmland are threatened by the state's ongoing budget crisis. California's most important land conservation program is being threatened for the first time in four years as Governor Schwarzenegger tries to close a lingering structural budget deficit.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 is one of the most unique farmland protection laws in the country. While nearly every state has some form of preferential assessment practice for agricultural land, California's Williamson Act requires an ongoing 10- or 20-year commitment by landowners to keep the land in agricultural or open space use in return for property taxes based on the income producing capability of the land. This commitment is in the form of a contract between the landowner and the local government, generally the county that has jurisdiction over the property.

The Williamson Act is unique because it combines a planning and zoning tool with a property tax policy and an open-space policy. The result has been the retention of millions of acres of agricultural land in agricultural use and the improvement of the financial stability of state's agricultural economy.

Statewide, the property tax relief to contract holders is roughly \$150 million annually. Since 1972 the state's general fund has offset those foregone property tax revenues to counties in the form of open-space subventions. Today, with the renaissance in **Williamson Act** enrollments over the last three years, including more than 400,000 acres in Merced County alone, those subventions total about \$40 million annually.

In addition to the property tax relief, why do more than half of California farmers and ranchers who own 16 million acres participate in the **Williamson Act**? A statewide survey of 190 participating landowners in 13 counties identified three main reasons: participants believe that farming and ranching is the highest and best use of their land, they have an emotional attachment to the land, and they want to pass it on to the next generation as farm or ranch land.

The **Williamson Act** also provides landowners with the certainty that they will be able to continue to farm or ranch their land without the intrusion of incompatible non-agricultural uses. Farmers and ranchers have demonstrated that they are more than willing to restrict their development rights if they can get some security that their neighbor won't sell out either. The law requires the creation of "agricultural preserves" of a minimum of 100 acres and restricts uses in those preserves to uses compatible with agriculture.

This is the first time that Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed elimination of state funding for the program. Thankfully there is already a groundswell of support in the Legislature to maintain the funding.

Members of the Legislature have told the governor that while they understand the need to correct the budget's structural deficit, they do not support a de facto repeal of the **Williamson Act**. Immediately following the governor's announced cuts, members of the State Senate and Assembly went on record in strong support of open-space subvention funding. In numerous individual and group letters to the governor, they urged full funding of the subvention. For example, 31 members of the Legislature's Rural Caucus requested the governor to restore the funding for this worthy program.

It is vital that the **Williamson Act** continue to help protect our rural environment.

Tough budget times call for wise decisions by our elected leaders. It would be unwise to eliminate a highly successful program like the **Williamson Act** that means so much to so many counties.

If you care about the rural heritage of our state and the unique open space that this program helps to create and protect, contact the governor and urge him to **save the Williamson Act**.

*Junior
Livestock
Show and
Auction 2007*



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Public Announcements

Public Announcements:

The AV Resource Conservation District needs volunteers to help at their Conservation Nursery, located on Avenue I and 90th Street West.

Volunteers are needed to help water plants and trees, repot plants, and general gardening duties.

We need help for a couple of hours a week once a month or more time if you are willing to give it.

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Program expires: December 31, 2007.

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Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

50th District Agricultural Association

2511 West Avenue H
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 948-6060

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

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

(continued)

Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District

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