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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2008

Napa County Farm Bureau 95th Annual Dinner Meeting with keynote speaker A.G. Kawamura.

NAPA, CA - July 21, 2008, **AG Kawamura, Secretary of California Department of Food & Agriculture** was the keynote speaker at Napa County Farm Bureau's 95th Annual Dinner Meeting at Rutherford Grove winery. Over 160 members, state officials and friends gathered at Rutherford Grove winery on July 18th to celebrate Napa County Farm Bureau's efforts in preserving land for agriculture, and in creating policies and programs that allow us to maintain the rich and fruitful quality of life in Napa County.

The evening included the installation of Directors, the presentation of 2008 Agriculturist of the Year Award to Volker Eisele as Napa County Farm Bureau's Agriculturist of the Year, Special Friend of Ag Preserve Award to Napa Valley Veteran Vintner Warren Winiarski, presentation of Friend of Farm Bureau Awards to Rafael Rios and Gary Sack as well as a recognition of Aldo Delfino Scholarship Recipients.

Napa County Farm Bureau members witnessed and the installation of the 2008/2009 Board of Directors and welcomed three new Directors, Cattle rancher **Dan McQueeney** from Gordon Valley, and vineyard managers **Robert Jordan** and **Steve Matthiasson**.

Esteemed winegrower Volker Eisele was honored as Napa County Farm Bureau's Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year at their 95th annual dinner meeting on July 18th at Rutherford Grove winery. Farm Bureau recognizes Mr. Eisele for his dedication to agricultural preservation in Napa County.

Mr. Eisele was presented with **resolutions by Congressman Mike Thompson** and also received a **California Legislative resolution from Assemblywoman Noreen Evans** and **State Senator Pat Wiggins**. The resolutions highlight the milestones of Eisele's career as a grape grower as well as his life-long dedication to land preservation and conservation.

Veteran Vintner Warren Winiarski, received a Special Friend of Ag Preserve Award from Napa County Farm Bureau President Peter Nissen. President Nissen acknowledged Warren Winiarski's efforts to establish the Napa Valley Agriculture Preserve 40 years ago, the first in the nation. Nissen also thanked him for putting Napa County on a world map with the historic 1976 Paris tasting where Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon won first place among the ten French and California red wines.

In a picture perfect setting in the heart of Napa County at Rutherford Grove winery, Secretary of California Department of Food & Agriculture A.G. Kawamura, who was raised in Orange County, applauded the efforts of Napa vintners and Napa County Farm Bureau in preserving the land, the heritage and beauty of the Valley and for contributing to the state's economy.

The evening included a competitive live auction bid led by past-president Al Wagner. Al Wagner announced "sold" to Laddie Hall for a Boot Scootin' BBQ boogie for 24 and "sold" to Investment Specialist Ken Kuhlmann for a lot of 19 magnums donated by NCFB Board of Directors.

A silent Auction for the Aldo Delfino Scholarships fund attracted many members and VIPs. The auction included 38 lots donated by local businesses and wineries. Proceeds will fund next year's round of scholarships for graduating seniors pursuing a career in agriculture or ag related studies in college.

President Peter Nissen expressed special thank you to host sponsor Rutherford Grove winery, Premier event sponsors Rombauer winery and State Compensation Insurance Fund for their contribution along with other event sponsors: American Sanitation, Napa Valley Petroleum, Premier Power, LPL Financial, Volker Eisele Family Estate, Trinchero Family Estates, Barbour Vineyards, Bert Williams & Sons, Inc., California Grower Foundation, Domaine Carneros, Joseph George Wines, Keenan Winery, Napa Valley Aloft, Saddleback Cellars, Schramsberg Vineyards, Taddei Vineyards.

About Napa County Farm Bureau

NCFB is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization whose basic goal is to ensure the proper political, economic, environmental and social climate for the continuation of agriculture. Napa County's strong agricultural heritage has contributed significantly to this state's economy. Today, NCFB strives to preserve land for agriculture, and creates policies and programs that allow us to maintain a high quality of life in Napa County

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