



Winery Definition Ordinance update

On March 2nd, the Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed the recommendations from the winegrape industry groups of FB, Napa Vintners, Napa Grapegrowers and Winegrowers for modest amendments to the Winery Definition Ordinance. Those changes were carefully crafted to boost economic activity but not undermine the Ag Preserve. They include clarifications on the definition of “marketing of wine” that allow food & wine pairings and business meetings which remain “incidental” to the wine education. The proposal for Special Event Permits for weddings, cultural and social events was denied. Consideration of tours and tastings without appointment may be revisited, but a costly and time consuming environmental analysis is a concern.

The WDO was adopted in 1990 and has been successful at limiting commercial uses in agricultural areas by ensuring that wineries remain focused on the business of producing wine, and by ensuring that tours and tastings and marketing of wine play a subordinate role. County staff will prepare an ordinance with the recommended amendments and a formal vote on these changes will happen in the near future.

Free workshop on CA Air Resources Truck Rule

March 11th 2pm-4:30pm UC Cooperative Extension Conference Room

Farm Bureau has arranged a workshop on March 11th with the Air Resources Board to inform ag producers about the new Truck Rule. To take advantage of the ag mileage thresholds, farmers need to be signed up with the Air Board by March 31, 2010 and labels (AG decals) will need to be on those vehicles by April 30, 2010. Information about the rule, forms and labels is available at our website www.cfbf.com/issues/truckbus.cfm.

The training seminar will provide: Update and overview on the regulation, focused on the agricultural and two-engine sweeper requirements | How to use the fleet calculator; | How to use the ARB on-line reporting system. RSVP 707.224.5403 | info@napafarmbureau.org

Water Conservation Workshop in Yountville

March 9, 2010, 8:30am– 2:30pm, Yountville Community Hall. Free event.

Topics will include: Groundwater and Surface Water Overview, Frost Protection & Water Conservation, Instream Flows, Updates on PG&E rebates, Recycled Water, NRCS/AWEP, Fish Friendly Farming, RCD – Fish for Farms, Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance, Groundwater Permits. RSVP to 259.5969 or deborah.elliott@countyofnapa.org

Revised Instream Flow Guidelines published

The State Water Board published a revised version of a Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams and is accepting comments until March 26th. FB’s Natural Resources Committee is collaborating with state FB as well as Mendocino and Sonoma Farm Bureaus to analyze the policy and comment. The proposed policy will apply to applications to appropriate water, small domestic use and livestock stockpond registrations, and water right petitions. It was originally published in Dec. 2007 and roundly criticized as an unworkable solution to provide a sustainable balance of water for fish and farms. To access the new document go to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/instream_flows/.

Foodlink - Napa County Local Foods Forum

April 28th Napa Expo

The Local Foods Forum will bring growers, institutions, restaurateurs & markets, health & government officials and community advocates together for a day of brainstorming and networking to strengthen our community’s food system, improve public health and build economic prosperity. This daylong conference will be held at the Napa Expo.

→ Register now!

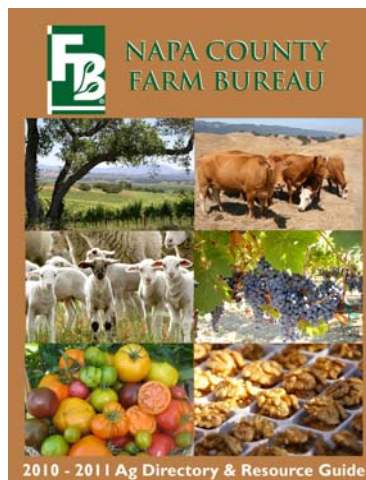
Agricultural Worker Training & Safety Seminar

April 2, 2010, 8:00 am - 5 pm, English and Spanish, NV College Upper Valley Campus, St. Helena. 2 hours CE credit
Farmers and farmworkers routinely must deal with potential hazards such as equipment, tractor, ATV, chemicals, the weather and pests. The Farm Safety seminar will educate farmers, employees about the importance of farm safety as well as remind them of the latest safety regulation. Classes will be presented in Spanish and English and attendees will receive a certificate of participation for their records. Visit napafarmbureau.org for more information and download a registration form.

Upgrade your membership to Business and have your name listed in the 2010-2011 Napa County Ag Directory & Resource guide.

Please contact NCFB at 707.224.5403 to find out how your business can be listed for free in both the Grower Advocate and Ag Directory and Resource Guide.

Deadline for advertising is April 15th. Visit napafarmbureau.org for more information



Napa County Vacation Rental Ordinance update

FB continues to advocate for no vacation rentals in ag zones. We participated in two county sponsored stakeholder meetings in which a range of alternatives were discussed. County staff analysis was clear that General Plan amendments and a Measure P vote would be needed to ease the restrictions in ag zones. The next step is to continue our participation in the discussions and be present at the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 16th to express farming concerns and influence any changes being proposed in the vacation rental regulations.

Support the statewide PD/GWSS Assessment! Workshop, March 15th at Yountville Community Center

Since 2001, the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) assessment has been one of the primary sources of funding for research on Pierce's disease and its primary vector, the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Senate Bill 2 gives winegrape growers and grower/vintners the opportunity to vote on continuing the assessment until 2016. Ballots will be mailed to all winegrape growers on March 29th and NCFB urges a YES vote.

In partnership with Napa Valley Grapegrowers and Napa Valley Vintners, we will hold an informational workshop on March 15th from 9-11 am. Please attend to find out more about this successful program.

Grape grower Andy Beckstoffer elected to the CIA Vintners Hall of Fame!

For the first time in history, a grape grower has been elected to the Culinary Institute of America's Vintners Hall of Fame! The Vintners Hall of Fame at CIA Greystone was founded to celebrate the men and women responsible for the growth and worldwide prestige of the California wine industry. NCFB encourages members, to attend the celebration and show their support on Sat, March 13th.

RSVP <http://www.ciaprochef.com/vintners/2010.html>

An opportunity to have your wines featured through CFBF

California Farm Bureau Federation is in need of wine from time to time, for special events, meetings and gifts for conference speakers and guests. To be considered please submit on one sheet of paper the varietals available and the case lot price of those offerings. The wines will be purchased in "case" lots, with no more than two cases from one winery. Submission should also include length of time prices are in effect. Please submit all proposals to Suzy Livingston via fax 916-561-5690 or e-mail slivingston@cfbf.com

NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit napafarmbureau.org for a complete list and more information

March

- 3 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 3 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting, 6pm at Billco's
- 8 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 10 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 9 Water Conservation Workshop, 8:30-12:30pm, Yountville
- 12 Organic Farming Group, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 13 CIA Vintner's Hall of Fame Celebration, CIA Greystone
- 15 PD/GWSS statewide assessment 9-11am, Yountville Community Center 9-11am
- 17 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 19 Day at the Farm, 9am at Napa Expo 224-5403
- 19-21 Napa Environmental Film Festival, NVUSD Auditorium, napaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com
- 23 Off-road vehicle and stationary pump engine grant workshop, 9am at FB 224-5403

April

- 2 Farm Safety Training, 8am Upper Valley Campus 224-5403
- 7 Natural Resources meeting, 4pm at FB 224-5403
- 7 Young Farmers and Ranchers, 6pm at Compadres
- 9 Organic Farming Group, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 9-10 Leadership Napa Valley Ag Day, 944.8311
- 10 & 11 CA Native Wildflower Show and Plant Sale, Skyline Park, 10am-4pm
- 10 Gardening Workshop, Master Gardeners, 8:30am-4:30pm, Vintage High School, 707-253-4147
- 11 CA Air Resources Truck Rule Workshop, 2pm-4:30pm, UC Cooperative Ext 224-5403
- 12 Tax, Land Use meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 13 Community & Member Outreach, 12pm at FB 224-5403
- 21 Board of Directors meeting, 3pm at FB 224-5403
- 28 Foodlink, Napa Expo

Save the date!

- May 14th Meadow Muffin Ag Education Golf tournament
- July 12th Forklift Certification
- July 16th 97th Annual Dinner Meeting, Rutherford House
- August 20th Volunteer Appreciation event

Grant workshop for off-road vehicle replacement and stationary diesel pump engines

March 23, 2010, 9-10am, NCFB's Office

Replace your old off-road vehicle and get up to 80% of the cost for your new equipment through the Off-Road Equipment Replacement Program (ERP). Stationary diesel pump engines 50hp or greater are eligible for 85% of the engine replacement cost. Bay Area Air Quality Management District staff will give a presentation on the Agricultural Engine Replacement Program and explain how to apply for funding. There will also be a Q&A session and applications for the grant will be available. Please RSVP to info@napafarmbureau.org or 224-5403 by March 15th