



Lake County News & Reviews

Volume 94, Issue 1

January/February 2017

CFBF ANNUAL MEETING IN MONTEREY

House of Delegates discusses membership fees, cannabis.



Above: CFBF President Paul Wenger urges for a united effort in protecting agriculture. Below: Delegates seated for the session.



The California Farm Bureau Federation hosted its Annual Meeting in Monterey December 4-6th. There were many interesting speakers and break-out sessions including information on the East San Joaquin's Waste Discharge Order, the update to the Forest Plans, and new food safety regulations.

One of the more interesting meetings during the delegates session dealt with CFBF's policy on cannabis cultivation. County Farm Bureaus and members wished for language in the policy book which allowed CFBF staff to engage on cannabis issues especially following the passage of Prop. 64. The Central Coast Caucus was in favor of a progressive policy regarding cannabis and have welcomed cannabis growers into their county Farm Bureaus. Counties such as Fresno and others in the Central Valley were vocal in their opposition to cannabis advocacy and grower membership which has left CFBF staff in a predicament. The House of Delegates was able to pass a resolution which will enable CFBF staff to advocate on cannabis issues in such a way as to minimize the impact those regulations may have on traditional agriculture.

The House of Delegates also voted to raise CFBF's membership dues by \$35 in 2017 and \$5 thereafter with a sunset of 4 years. This will enable CFBF to continue to be effective in its advocacy for agriculture on the state and national level. County Farm Bureaus must react accordingly in their dues structures. Even with this fee increase, Farm Bureau's membership rates still remain lower than many commodity groups.

Also in this Issue:

- ILRP Update.....6
- DPR Funding open.....9
- USDA and Water.....7
- **Lake County Wines**.....13
- Cannabis Ordinance.....8
- Minimum Wage increase.....17



Lake County News and Reviews

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From the Office



Volume 94 - Issue 1

Happy New Year to all of Lake County's farmers and ranchers! We look forward to 2017 with optimism especially in light of the much-needed rain falling across much of the state right now.

January 16th is the deadline to make your Irrigated Lands payment. Unfortunately, the Regional Water Board has slated a number of Lake County growers for inspection during the storm-water season. This is a good reminder to keep current on all your paperwork. Nitrogen Management and Sediment Erosion Control Plans will be mailed out later this month.

The Lake County Farm Bureau will be hosting a number of trainings this winter and spring. The Respirator Fit testing and Pesticide Safety Training will be on Wednesday, February 22nd. See page 15 for the training flier. LCFB also plans CPR, Forklift and Heat Illness trainings with dates TBA.

Finally, please read page 8 for information on the cannabis ordinance hearing at the Board of Supervisors on January 17th. This is an evening meeting to accommodate members of the public who are unavailable during normal working hours. We encourage all Farm Bureau members to become engaged on this issue as it could have an impact on ag land in the county.

Thank you for your continued membership and we wish you all a Happy New Year!

Welcome new 2017 members!!

Aaron Hiatt

Scott Simkover

Scenes from Lake County

Lambing season at Beaver Creek Vineyards. The average gestation length in sheep varies from 142 to 152 days and many lamb in Lake County during the winter. Sheep provide excellent weed control in the Lake County vineyards.



Lake County Farm Bureau's Mission Statement

Lake County Farm Bureau strives to protect, promote, and enhance the agricultural industry in Lake County and beyond, through political involvement, education, information and services.

Do you have a story or issue related to agriculture in Lake County and would like to see it published in our newsletter? Contact the office at lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net!

Lake County Farm Bureau 2017 Board of Directors

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Lake County Farm Bureau

65 Soda Bay Road

Lakeport, CA 95453

Phone: (707) 263-0911

Fax: (707) 263-1101

Email: lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.lakecofb.com

The Lake County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of each month. Contact the office for times and locations.

LCFB announces new President Keith Brandt and District Director Dave Rosenthal

At the Annual Meeting in Monterey, Dave Rosenthal was elected as a CFBF District Director representing Lake and Mendocino counties. Rosenthal will succeed Peter Bradford from Mendocino County who just finished his 8 year term. LCFB thanks Peter for his tireless work in keeping the Board apprised of happenings on the state and national level!

LCFB 1st Vice President Keith Brandt will step up to the President position on the LCFB Board. We look forward to working with Keith in his new leadership role in the coming year!

Are you interested in joining the LCFB Board of Directors? Contact the office for more information!

Nationwide offers Worker's Comp

Nationwide is the leading farm and ranch insurer in California, offering plans for farms and ranches of all sizes. Agricultural members receive up to a 15% discount on auto insurance and up to a 5% discount on farm insurance to a maximum of \$500 per year. Members can also receive up to a 7.5% discount with no cap on workers' compensation insurance when written as part of a farm package and subject to eligibility guidelines.

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Dates and Events, January/February 2017

- **Jan. 4:** Meeting with Rob Brown, cannabis
- **Jan. 11:** Regular monthly LCFB Board meeting
- **Jan 16:** Martin Luther King Day
- **Jan. 17: Cannabis Ordinance at Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5pm.**
- **Jan. 20:** Equine and Wine: Lake County Horse Expo, Lake County Fairgrounds. Free!
- **Jan 24:** CAPCA ED Yuba City.
- **Feb. 2:** Master Gardeners pruning workshop.
- **Feb 4:** Wine and Chocolate event, Mt. Konocti Winery.
- **Feb. 8:** Regular monthly LCFB Board meeting.
- **Feb. 11:** 19th Annual Stars of Lake County Community Awards
- **Feb. 22:** Respirator Fit Testing and Pesticide Safety Training, LCFB office
- **Feb. 28:** CAPCA ED Chico

Local Ag Directory: Useful Numbers and Websites

Steven Hajik, Ag Commissioner	(707)263-0217	lakecoag@co.lake.ca.us	Dept. Fish and Game, Lake County	(707)263-0217	Ag@lakecountyca.gov
Lake County Trapper	(707)263-0217		Dept. of Environmental Health	(707)263-1164	
UC Extension, Lake County	(707)263-6838	celake@ucdavis.edu	Lake County Vector Control	(707)263-4770	info@lcvcd.org
Rachel Elkins, Pomology Advisor.	(707)263-6838	rbelkins@ucanr.edu	Lake County Water Resources	(707)263-2344	
John M. Harper, Livestock Advisor (specializing in cattle, sheep, goats)	(707)463-4495	jmharper@ucanr.edu	Agricultural Consultants, Crop Advisors and PCAs.	agunlimited.com	/consulting-consultants.html
Lucia G Varela: IPM Advisor	(707)565-2621	lgvarela@ucanr.edu	Pear Doctor, Ag Consultant	(707)279-4335	
Lake County 4-H Office	(707)263-6838	nmgentry@ucanr.edu	Glenn McGourty, Viticulture	(707)463-4495	gtmcgourty@ucanr.edu
Korinn Woodard, NCRS	(707)263-4180	Korinn.woodard@ca			
US Depart. Ag. Service Center	(707)263-4180	.usda.gov	Gregory, Giusti, UCCE	(707)263-6838	gagiusti@ucanr
Debra Sommerfield, LCWGC	(707)279-2633		Lake County Planning Dept	(707) 263-2221	

January Jamboree - Equine & Wine

Fun for the Kids!
Goat Roping Dummy & Packing Dummy!
Learn to tack up to Drive with the Hooves & Wheels Driving Club!
Tack Swap!
Ask the Trainer with AQHA World Show Contender Liz Remphrey!

Raffle Prizes!
Local Boarding & Training Facilities!
Meet up with local equestrian groups including Back Country Horsemen, Clear Lake Junior Horsemen California Dressage Society, and Rodeo!

Hosted by Lake County Horse Council
Free Admission to the Public! Booth Space Available \$25

Food & drinks! Live Entertainment! Enjoy wine tasting from local wineries!

Friday, January 20, 2017 from 5-9pm
Fitch Hall, Lake County Fairgrounds
401 Martin Street, Lakeport

LAKE COUNTY HORSE COUNCIL

Come see what LCHC is doing for local equestrians!

Lake County Ag and Natural Resource Day March 16, 2016

We are still looking for exhibitors! Are you interested in educating students on agriculture in Lake County? Machinery, demonstrations, livestock, materials all welcome!!

Contact Brenna at lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net or (707) 263-0911 if you are interested in being a part of this inaugural event!

IRRIGATED LANDS PROGRAM UPDATE

Irrigated Lands Paperwork Reminder!

Nitrogen Management Plans and Sediment Erosion and Control Plans will be mailed out by the end of January. As a reminder, you must fill these out and retain both copies in your headquarters office or somewhere on your operation.

Your Nitrogen Management Plan will have the same format as previous years. Lake County growers **do not** need to certify their Nitrogen Management Plans at this point in time. You should have Nitrogen Management Plans at least through the 2015 growing season. Contact the office if you need copies made.

The Sediment Erosion and Control Plan will consist of a number of pages. All you must do is flip to the back page and **self-certify** that you are following Lake County's grading ordinance. Check the box, sign at the bottom, date and file this paperwork. Please see the example below for where to check and sign. You do not need to fill out any additional pages in the Sediment Erosion and Control Plan.

If the Regional Board chooses your operation for inspection, they will request to see this paperwork. As always, please contact the office if you have any questions.

ILRP News from the Sacramento Water Quality Coalition

Allocation Increased to 45% As Storms Ring in the New Year

With reservoirs rising from December storms, the Department of Water Resources in late December boosted its early-season estimate of next year's State Water Project supply from 20 to 45 percent of most requests. "This winter's wet start gives us hope we'll be able to keep increasing the State Water Project allocation," said DWR Director Mark Cowin. "But the faucet can shut off suddenly and leave us dry for a sixth year in a row. Drought always looms over California, so we must use water wisely and sparingly. The first DWR snow survey of the year took place on Tuesday January 3 at Phillips Station, where the snowpack's water content measured at 53 percent of normal, said Frank Gehrke, the state's chief snow surveyor. Despite the lower level, Gehrke called it a good start because higher elevations were doing better as illustrated by the storm totals above and Weather West's December 28, 2016 blog highlighted. Right now, it appears there will be a pretty good chance of seeing at least 1-2 "low snow" events in NorCal over January and possibly further south as well.

Best Management Practices for SGMA Released

On December 23 the Department of Water Resources published Best Management Practices, a series of five documents that provide regulatory clarification, technical guidance, and general examples to assist groundwater sustainability agencies and inform local agencies and stakeholders. The BMPs will serve as an important reference as GSAs develop their plans to sustainably manage California's groundwater basins. In addition to the topics addressed in the BMPs, DWR also drafted Guidance Documents for topic areas unique to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including a preparation checklist for submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to DWR and a GSP annotated outline. Guidance Documents provide suggestions, with supporting graphics, for developing certain components where no established practice in the water management industry exists.

Qualifying Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Certification Methods		
Mark Selected Method	Certification that Plan adheres to a site-specific Agency recommendation or County Ordinance	Area Office/County
	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	
	University of California Cooperative Extension	
	Resource Conservation District	
X	County Ordinance Applicable to Sediment & Erosion	Lake County
	Qualifying Professional Certification/Registration	Certification/Registration Num
	California Registered Professional Civil Engineer	
	California Registered Professional Geologist	
	California Registered Professional Engineering Geologist	
	California Registered Professional Landscape Architect	
	NRCS Certified Conservation Planner	
	American Institute of Hydrology: Professional Hydrologist	
	American Society of Agronomy: Certified Soil Scientist	
	EnviroCert International, Inc: Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control	
	EnviroCert International, Inc: Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality	
	National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies: Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control	
	Alternative Certification Methods	Training Program/Method
	Self-certified by Member	
	Executive Officer's Approved Method	

Printed Name: Your Name

Certifying Signature: Signature and date Date:

USDA Invests \$33 Million to Improve Water Quality in High-Priority Watersheds

In December, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced an investment of more than \$33 million in 197 high-priority watersheds across the country to help landowners improve water quality through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).

The NWQI helps farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation practices, such as nutrient management, cover crops, conservation cropping systems, filter strips, terraces and buffers, which protect and improve water quality where it is needed most. Conservation practices enhance agricultural productivity and profitability while also improving water quality by enhancing soil health and optimizing the use of agricultural inputs.

"USDA is committed to working hand-in-hand with farmers, ranchers, and landowners to address water quality issues and provide the tools necessary to ensure clean, safe water for communities and wildlife," Vilsack said. "This latest investment is yet another example of how voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs are benefitting both producers and our natural resources."

This year, NRCS added 42 new watersheds to the NWQI and selected 21 watersheds for new assessment projects. These assessment watershed projects span 17 states and include a variety of land uses and water quality issues. NRCS will provide resources for these assessment projects to leverage existing plans, data, and information, and fill gaps needed to complete watershed assessments and develop outreach plans. Experience and data gained from several studies, including the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), have shown that improvements in water quality are more likely to be detected when conservation systems are placed in the most vulnerable areas of a watershed.

Since 2012, conservation systems have been placed on almost 600,000 acres in priority watersheds through NWQI, supported by approximately \$125 million in USDA investments. Now in its sixth year, NWQI has expanded to include more small watersheds across the nation, and it builds on efforts to deliver high-impact conservation in areas such as the Mississippi River basin, Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes.

California Farm Bureau Federation Outlines Issues for New Administration and Congress.

Facing urgent issues including water supply, trade, immigration and regulatory reform, the California Farm Bureau Federation said it looks forward to working with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump and with the 115th Congress.

"California farmers and ranchers have seen, on many occasions, how federal government policies can affect their ability to provide food and farm products to customers around the state, nation and world," CFBF President Paul Wenger said. "We will provide the Trump administration and the new Congress with our best advice on how federal policies can benefit the economy and environment in rural California."

Wenger noted that President-elect Trump has spoken frequently about both trade and immigration.

"We'll make the case to the Trump administration and the new Congress about how reducing trade barriers benefits the rural economy," he said, "and we'll discuss ways to assure that farmers and ranchers who depend on an immigrant workforce remain able to provide jobs to those who want them."

Wenger said the elections renew hope for reform of estate taxes to assure family farms and ranches can be passed smoothly from one generation to the next, and for appointment of federal judges who administer laws fairly in the interest of all Americans. He said Farm Bureau will also ask the new administration and Congress to reform regulations that constrict water supplies and place unnecessary burdens on land management.

"Regulations must be flexible enough to encourage continued production of food and farm products while maintaining the stewardship of our land, air and water that farmers and ranchers pursue every day," he said. "For example, the Environmental Protection Agency has overreached with a 'waters of the United States' rule that greatly expands its authority over farmland, and we hope that regulation will now be withdrawn."

Water Measurement Regulations Take Effect for Diverters of 1,000 or More Acre Feet



On Jan. 1, new regulations concerning the measurement, monitoring and reporting of water diversions took effect for the largest category of water diverters. The regulations, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as required by SB 88, have now passed their effective deadline for those diverting 1,000 acre-feet or more of water annually (smaller diverters will be required to comply with the regulations by July 2017 or January 2018 depending on their size and type of diversions).

Despite the regulations having taken effect, however, the SWRCB still has not made available final forms by which diverters can request additional time, alternative compliance or a cooperative measurement method (though sample versions of these forms are available at the SWRCB's website).

For that reason, the SWRCB is extending the filing deadline for these forms until January 30. The SWRCB's website says that these forms will be "made available shortly." In the meantime, any diverters of more than 1,000 acre feet annually who have not yet installed a measuring device at their point of diversion in compliance with the regulation is heavily encouraged to fill out an extension of time request (or other request) once the forms become available online.

Additionally, those who are interested in filing requests for additional time, alternative compliance or for a cooperative measurement method should study the sample forms currently available at the SWRCB's website.

DRAFT CANNABIS ORDINANCE Public Meeting at the Board of Supervisors Chambers

**Tues. January 17, 2016
5:00pm**

Take advantage of this opportunity to provide input to the Board of Supervisors about cannabis cultivation in Lake County.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors will hold a special workshop on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. to review the draft conceptual cannabis ordinance which has been the topic of recent Lake County Planning Commission meetings. The workshop will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 255 N. Forbes Street in Lakeport.

According to Jeff Smith, Lake County's 2nd District Supervisor and Board of Supervisors Chair for 2017, the Board looks forward to this opportunity for in-depth discussion of the draft ordinance with Community Development staff.

This workshop will not be culminated with any decisions or action relative to the draft ordinance and in fact, may be the first in a series of Board workshops needed to fully digest and refine it. The public is encouraged to attend.

This Board workshop will also be viewable via livestream at http://www.co.lake.ca.us/Government/Boards/Board_of_Supervisors/calendar.htm



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION ANNOUNCES 2017/2018 PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE GRANTS

The focus for the 2017/2018 Alliance Grants is adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) practices in agricultural settings near schools. Alliances primarily conduct outreach and implementation, not research. Application is by a two phase process: Phase 1 - short proposal concepts are accepted in an open competitive review; Phase 2 – full proposals are accepted by invitation only after concept review.

Why?

Increasingly, many schools are built on prime agricultural land next to farms. As a result of this close proximity, teachers, parents, and the general public have concerns about the agricultural use of pesticides near these schools. For this Alliance Grant, DPR seeks proposals that will provide information and education to growers adjacent to schools about practical and proven IPM solutions that the growers can easily implement, thereby reducing pesticide use.

Key Dates

January 3, 2017 – Release of grant solicitation, opening of application period for proposal concepts

February 3, 2017 – Proposal Concepts due by 5PM

February 24, 2017 – Invitations to submit full proposals

April 4, 2017 – Proposals due by 5PM

June 30, 2017 – Grant awarded

How to Apply:

The grant application can be found at the CDPR website located here: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgmt/grants/alliance/>. For content questions, contact: Mark Robertson 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015 Sacramento, CA 95812-4015
Phone: (916) 324-2451 E-mail: Mark.Robertson@cdpr.ca.gov



WHAT THE LCFB HAS BEEN DOING FOR YOU



Nov. 4: AgVenture Session 4

Nov. 10: Cannabis cultivation stakeholder meeting

Nov. 17: Planning Commission public workshop: cannabis

Nov. 17: Northern Counties Caucus

Nov. 28: Cannabis stakeholder meeting.

Nov. 30: LCFB Board meeting

Dec. 4-6: CFBF Annual Meeting, Monterey.

Dec 9: Ag Dept. Grower meeting, ILRP

Dec. 12: Cannabis stakeholder meeting

Dec. 15: Last Planning Commission cannabis meeting of the year.

Dec. 19: Ag Dept. Grower Meeting

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Peggy Campbell, CPA	707/263-9017
Richard Morhar, CPA	707/279-8032

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Bob Bartley Pump, Inc.	707/279-2304
Central Valley Builder's Supply	707/963-3622
Cold Creek Compost	707/485-5966
Davebilt Company	707/263-5270
Lakeshore Feed & Grain	707/994-9335
Mendocino County Farm Supply	707/462-1492
Rainbow Ag Services	707/279-0550
Stokes Ladders	707/279-4306
West Cal Tractor	707/584-9111
Wilson Repair Service	707/263-3667

AGRI-TOURS and CAMPING

Eleven Roses Ranch	707/998-4471
Camp Indian Meadows LLC	707/942-2267

ASSOCIATIONS

♦Allied Grape Growers	559/276-0210
California Women for Agriculture	707/279-4335
♦Lake County Fair	707/263-6181
Lake County Farmers' Finest	707/263-6076
Lake County Winery Association	707/357-5237
♦Lake County Chamber of Commerce	707/263-5092
Lake County Horse Council	707/279-1903

AUTOMOTIVE

Lakeport Tire & Auto	707/263-5422
Tire Pros	707/994-9097
Joel Place Automotive	707/275-8813

CHRISTMAS TREES

Elk Mountain Christmas Tree Farm	707/275-2075
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★President's Club Member

♦Business Support Member

Do you see information that needs to be updated or changed? Are you a LCFB business member not on this list? Please call or email the Lake County Farm Bureau for additions or corrections!

CONSTRUCTION

All Phase Electric	707/349-0694
All Temps Air Conditioning & Heating	707/263-1528
Big Valley Electric	707/279-2430
Blair Drywall and Painting	707/263-4404
♦Central Valley Builders	707/963-3622
Charlie McNabb Painting	707/278-0507
Conser Land Surveying	707/263-5512
Granite Construction	707/467-4110
Jonas Energy Solutions	707/994-5911
Lucerne Roofing	707/263-4200
North Coast Barns	707/355-2276
Shore Side Electric	707/279-9248
Hiatt Construction	707/245-6860
Totorica Plumbing	707/279-4020

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Granite Construction	707/467-4110
Kelseyville Lumber	707/279-4297
Lake County Electric Supply, Inc.	707/263-7002
S-Bar-S Rock Quarry	707/279-9376
Wright Construction	707/987-9227

EQUINE BOARDING

Cole Creek Equestrian Center	707/279-0915
Highland Springs Equestrian Center	707/279-1903

FARM/RANCH MANAGEMENT

★Bella Vista Farming Co.	707/279-4220
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FINANCIAL SERVICES

American Ag Credit, FLCA	707/462-6531
Lake Loan & Investment/Larry Cathey	707/279-4238
Strong Financial Services	707/262-1880
♦Savings Bank of Mendocino County	707/263-7102
♦Umpqua Bank	707/262-3342

FOOD PROCESSING

Adobe Creek Packing	707/279-4204
Ellis Ranch	707/994-3225
Chacewater Wine & Olive Mill	707/279-2995
Lake County Walnut	707/279-1200
Lauenroth Walnut Dryer	707/279-8561
Maryka Orchards	707/279-4200
★Scully Packing Co.	707/263-7327

HAY SALES AND SERVICES

Carstensen Hay	707/278-0545
Holdenreid Harvesting	707/279-0650

INSURANCE

Allied Insurance-Lorraine Metzinger	707/263-5639
★Lincoln-Leavitt Insurance	707/263-7162
Lunas Insurance	707/263-5601
NorCoast Life Insurance	707/263-1945

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Yerba Santa Dairy	707/263-8131
Cow Mountain Kiko Goats	707/262-1577
Keithly Ranches	707/279-4044
Oak Rose Ranch	707/275-8052
Seevers Ranch American Shetland Ponies	707/349-1994
Roush Performance Horses	707/263-7177
Williams Equine Enterprises	707/972-0602

MEDICAL SERVICES

Jameson Chiropractic	707/263-3124
Kirk Andrus, MD	707/279-1888

MARKETING

♦Allied Grape Growers	559/276-7021
♦Bengard Marketing Inc.	707/263-1990
Lake County Winegrape Commission	707/279-2633

NURSERIES

Bailey's Nursery	707/279-9168
Duarte Nursery	800/472-3833
Jaguar Gardens Nursery	707/995-5218
Spring Thyme Nursery	707/262-0920
Star Gardens	707/987-0998
Suchan Nursery (walnuts only)	707/275-2461

PEST CONTROL

Bat Control Specialist	888/409-7378
California Exterminators Alliance	707/277-9103
Pestmaster Services	707/275-3333
RB Pest Control	707/263-5245
Weed Tech	707/998-1318
Wildlife Pest Management	888/409-7378

PRODUCE & WINE OUTLETS (RETAIL)

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Dried Pear Bread Pudding

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SHOPPING LIST

1 loaf cut into large cubes (about 6 cups)
4 cups half-and-half
4 large eggs
3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons whiskey or bourbon
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
Pinch freshly grated nutmeg
12 ounces dried pears or a combination of pears and apricots, chopped



DIRECTIONS

- Preheat an oven to 400 degrees F. Spread the bread cubes out on a baking sheet and cook until toasted, about 10 minutes.
- Whisk the half-and-half, eggs, sugar, whiskey, vanilla, salt and nutmeg together in a large bowl. Toss bread cubes and dried fruit together and place into the slow cooker. Pour custard over top and press down lightly until all bread is covered with custard.
- Cover and cook on LOW until pudding puffs and is just set, about 3 1/2 hours. Remove insert from the slow cooker and cool on a rack. Spoon pudding into large cups or bowls and sprinkle each serving with cinnamon sugar, and toasted nuts. Top with whipped cream or yogurt.

TOPPING

1/4 cup sugar and 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon mixed together
Whipped cream

Thank you to Food Network for the recipe!

Please call 707-263-0911 or email lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net to submit your recipe to be featured in the next News & Reviews!

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2016: An Outstanding Year for Lake County Wines Region's Reputation Grows as Wines Consistently Achieve 90+ Ratings

From Lake County Winegrape Commission and Lake County Winery Association, December 29, 2016 –

Awareness of Lake County as a source of high-quality wine is clearly on the rise, according to the Lake County Winery Association and Lake County Winegrape Commission, which noted a significant number of 90+ ratings for Lake County wines released in 2016.

"This year may be the 'tipping point,'" said Terry Dereniuk, Executive Director of the Lake County Winery Association. "We've never seen this level of attention, from critics as well as consumers. Today, Lake County wines stand on their own, appearing regularly on retailers' shelves and restaurant wine lists as both sellers and buyers recognize the quality of these outstanding wines."

"Winemakers in Napa and Sonoma have been buying fruit from Lake County for many years and blending it into their wines," said Debra Sommerfield, president of the Lake County Winegrape Commission, which helps growers in the county promote their products to winegrape buyers and others in the wine industry. "Increasingly, wines made from ultra-premium Lake County grapes are bottled and labeled as such, drawing praise from critics like Robert Parker and favorable comparison to other great wine-growing regions."

The region also is attracting investment, as growers like Andy Beckstoffer and Clay Shannon and winemakers like Jed Steele look to the future. Beckstoffer, for example, called his vineyard in the Red Hills AVA of Lake County "the most promising site in the New World of wine." And he has backed that statement with an innovative project designed to showcase the vineyard's potential. Working with a limited number of carefully selected winemakers, Beckstoffer is providing fruit and individually managing vines according to each winemaker's preferences. In exchange, the winemakers have made a three-year commitment to creating the best possible single-vineyard wines from that fruit.

"This project not only demonstrates Andy's commitment to the region but also represents the kind of innovation that is bringing worldwide attention to Lake County," Sommerfield said.

According to Steele, who has been crafting high-quality and immensely popular wines in Lake County for more than 30 years going back to his time with Kendall-Jackson, improvements in viticulture and winemaking in the region have resulted in the rise to prominence. "We now have highly professional viticulturists planting large acreages in prime sites with varietals that excel in our soil and climate," Steele said. "I am reminded of working in Napa Valley in 1968 to 1969, when the excitement was just stirring there. And I sense that same excitement and anticipation here in Lake County." Steele makes wine under

four labels, available at steelewines.com.

Signs of both improving quality and increasing awareness of Lake County wines are the high scores awarded by prestigious critics such as Jim Gordon at Wine Enthusiast. Gordon, a 30-year veteran of the wine industry, reviews wines from Lake County for the Wine Enthusiast Tasting Panel. He explained the ratings this way: "In Wine Enthusiast reviews, 90-93 scores mean excellent quality and highly recommended. 94-97 points mean superb wines that are great achievements in winemaking, and 98-100 means the pinnacle of quality. But to me, any wine deserving of a 90 or higher score passes a certain invisible threshold of excitement. It's a wine I enthusiastically want to share, by telling my readers and my friends about it."

In 2016, Wine Enthusiast awarded 90 points or better to more than 30 wines. Here is a sampling:
2000 Chacewater Tawny Port (Lake County): 94 points
2011 High Valley Petite Sirah (High Valley, Lake County): 93 points, "Editors' Choice"
2013 Obsidian Ridge Estate Grown Syrah (Red Hills, Lake County): 93 points, "Cellar Selection"
2012 Steele Szymie Syrah (Lake County): 93 points, "Cellar Selection"
2012 Peter Franus Red (Red Hills, Lake County): 94 points, "Editors' Choice"

The full list (with links to the reviews) can be seen on the Lake County Winery Association web site.

Parker, who is widely acknowledged to be one of the most influential wine critics in the world, also is paying attention to Lake County and recently reviewed several wines from Obsidian Ridge.

In his review of the 2013 Obsidian Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Red Hills, Parker noted "impressive intensity, a dense ruby/purple color, loads of licorice, graphite, mineral and black fruits, a medium to full body and moderate tannin." He called the 2014 Obsidian Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon from Red Hills, "a winner, slightly more open and precocious, but with plenty of blackcurrant and blackberry fruit, striking minerality (no doubt from the Obsidian rocks) and a full-bodied, luscious, juicy style with a voluptuous texture."

According to Clay Shannon, President and CEO of Shannon Ridge Family of Wines, high ratings from well-regarded critics are an affirmation of many years of work and consistent focus on quality. "We are starting to enter a time where our mountain-grown vines are reaching maturity and the quality and character of the wine is emerging," Shannon said. "90 point wines are easier to sell and they quickly gain national attention in the retail wine market." Shannon Ridge Family of Wines is the largest producer in Lake County and bottles wine under five labels.



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Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Lake County Farm Bureau • 65 Soda Bay Road, Lakeport, CA 95453

Registration is required

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Avoiding Workplace Slips, Trips and Falls

*The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.**

The majority of workplace accidents – and 15% of accidental deaths – are caused by slips, trips and falls, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Yet, they are some of the most preventable workplace accidents.

Conduct a walk-through of your entire operation looking for hazards, such as wet or greasy floors, loose mats, torn carpeting, uneven floors, cables or wires, clutter and bad lighting. Identify these areas with warning signs and promptly eliminate hazards. Document safety assessments, maintenance work and incident reports.

How to help prevent slips, trips and falls:

- Keep walkways and stairways well-lit and free of debris and clutter. Secure stairway handrails and apply nonskid surfaces or abrasive strips to steps. Clearly identify steps, ramps and other elevation changes.
- Fix uneven surfaces by recoating or leveling the floor, if possible. Detour traffic until repaired. Illuminate or otherwise identify areas that can't easily be leveled.
- Install slip-resistant flooring, such as mats with textured surfaces or rubber backing, around entryways and other areas prone to wet conditions. Encourage use of slip-resistant footwear in these areas.
- Instruct employees to clean up spills immediately. Clean floors with products approved for the floor type. If floors are greasy, use a grease-cutting solution. Use “wet floor” signs until the floor is dry. Portable fans can help speed up the drying process.
- Maintain outdoor areas, including sidewalks and parking lots. Adjust downspouts to direct water away from walkways as rain and mud can create hazards. Fill any potholes. Paint tire stops and curbs “traffic yellow” for visibility.
- Routinely inspect interior and exterior lighting for proper illumination. Test emergency lighting monthly.
- Train employees in slip, trip and fall safety. Encourage them to assess safety every day. Establish guidelines for reporting issues and responding to customer injuries or hazardous situations. Acknowledge improvements and success.
- Instruct truck drivers to always use the three-point stance while entering and exiting their cabs, keeping both hands on the vehicle for support as they raise or lower one leg at a time.

Nationwide's expert risk management consultants can assist in identifying potential exposures to help reduce claims and determine appropriate levels of workers' compensation insurance. Contact your local Nationwide agent to learn more. For more information on this and other topics, visit MyNSightOnline.com.

Nationwide is the endorsed insurance and financial services provider for the California Farm Bureau. In 2017, we expanded our relationship offering workers' compensation coverage for farm and ranch members.

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MyNSightOnline.com features extensive risk management and safety expertise articles. Nationwide customers can log into MyNSightOnline.com to access additional risk management tools, resources, training and workers' compensation information developed specifically for farmers and ranchers. Simply visit MyNSightOnline.com, click “Sign Up” in the top right corner and follow our easy steps to online access.

To learn more about Nationwide farm insurance and other commercial coverages: Nationwide.com/agribusiness. To find a local Nationwide agent: FarmAgentFinder.com. Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, OH, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S.

CA Minimum Wage Increases to \$10.50 on 1/1/17



Date	Minimum Wage for Employers with 25 Employees or Less	Minimum Wage for Employers with 26 Employees or More
1/1/17	\$10.00/hour	\$10.50/hour
1/1/18	\$10.50/hour	\$11.00/hour
1/1/19	\$11.00/hour	\$12.00/hour
1/1/20	\$12.00/hour	\$13.00/hour
1/1/21	\$13.00/hour	\$14.00/hour
1/1/22	\$14.00/hour	\$15.00/hour
1/1/23	\$15.00/hour	

SB 3 (Leno) increases the California minimum wage to \$10.50/hour as of 1/1/17 for employers of 26 or more employees (employers of 25 or fewer employees may continue to pay \$10/hour until 1/1/18), and increases the state minimum wage each January 1 in subsequent years until the minimum wage reaches \$15/hour as of January 1, 2022 for employees of 26 or more employees (employers of 25 or fewer employees will not be required to pay \$15/hour until 1/1/23). The state minimum wage will be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index annually thereafter.

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) published Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to assist employers in assessing whether and when the 25-employee threshold applies. DIR's FAQ deals with the question of how employers who's employments fluctuate above and/or below 26 employees in this way:

The statute does not specify how employers should count employees in order to determine which wage rate applies. The question of how many employees work for an employer will affect those businesses with a workforce that hovers around 25 or that fluctuates above or below the threshold during the course of the year, including employers that use seasonal or intermittent workers. In these situations, a court or the Labor Commissioner likely would focus on the facts during a pay period in which an alleged underpayment occurred. Because this law places no limitation on who gets counted, they would look at whether every employee of that employer was counted (including those exempt from overtime as an executive, administrative, or professional), regardless of the number of hours worked or geographical location. Courts will ultimately determine whether a counting method is reasonable in view of the purposes of the law and the minimum wage law has long been held to be a basic protection for the benefit of employees. Thus, an employer must make a reasonable and good

faith determination of the size of their workforce, recognizing that (1) when there is an ambiguity in law or facts, the courts generally will look for a reasonable interpretation that is most favorable to workers; and (2) an erroneous decision to pay the lower wage rate could be far more costly in terms of added penalties and interest than paying the higher rate in the first place. The Labor Commissioner recommends that if an employer reaches the threshold of 26 employees at any point in a pay period they compensate their workers at the minimum higher wage rate for the duration of the entire pay period and going forward as long as they have a minimum of 26 employees. This method will best protect employers from liability for unpaid wages and related damages and penalties

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