



Lake County News & Reviews

Volume 94, Issue 2

March/April 2017

BARRA HOSTS H-2A WORKER SEMINAR

Lake and Mendocino employers attend seminar to learn about H-2A program



On February 23rd, Barra Vineyards of Redwood Valley hosted an H-2A worker seminar presented by Dax Deason of Deason Law. During the seminar, Deason presented information about the H-2A process and answered questions.

The Deason Law firm represents farmers, farm labor contractors, and non-agricultural companies to sponsor large groups of foreign labor that are needed during the peak temporary or seasonal times of the year. Over the past ten years, they have been deeply involved in helping agricultural companies to sponsor thousands of H-2A agricultural workers from Mexico.

Given that the current labor shortage is projected to intensify depending on administration immigration policies, many Lake County farmers and ranchers have showed a renewed interested in the H-2A program which is both complex and expensive.

The H-2A agricultural guest worker program was passed by Congress in 1986 as part of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). Since its inception, the program has been the primary legal mechanism through which U.S. employers have hired seasonal agricultural guest workers. To import an agricultural guest worker under the H-2A program, an employer must first meet the requirements set forth in statute and corresponding federal regulations. Similarly, a foreign national seeking to enter the U.S. as an H-2A guest worker must meet admissibility requirements.

More information on the H-2A program can be found at the Dept. of Homeland Security's website at <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-2a-temporary-agricultural-workers>. Deason Law Firm can be contacted at www.deason-law.com. For an editorial about the labor problem see page 13.



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Lake County News and Reviews

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From the Office

Volume 94 - Issue 2

The Lake County Farm Bureau office has been busy with a number of projects in January and February!

We continue to be active in the planning of the inaugural Ag and Natural Resource Day on March 16! This is an event to introduce K-6 students to the importance of agriculture in Lake County. There is still room for exhibitors; please contact LCFB if interested.

Farm Bureau hosted a Respirator Fit and Pesticide Safety Training in February. If you or your employees missed this training, MVP Consolidated will be hosting a number of additional trainings in Mendocino and Central Valley counties throughout March and April.

In December, the Regional Water Board announced they would be doing a number of inspections in Lake County during storm water season. For more information about the inspections including what to expect for the future, see page 6.

Finally, Lake County Farm Bureau continues to play an active role in Lake County's cannabis ordinance. There is a public meeting on March 7th at the Lake County BOS chambers.

The spring will continue to be busy. LCFB is hosting a CPR class on March 29 and has already set the date for our 94th Annual Meeting and Cole Creek Equestrian Center. Save the date!

Thank you for your continued membership, and we look forward to interacting with you throughout the spring.

Welcome new 2017 members!!

Marc Hooper Duane Mitzel

Scenes from Lake County

In honor of Lake County Ag Day's "Then and Now" theme, here's a recent 'then' photo of the late Juan Erquiaga logging Boggs Mtn. with his Belgians in 1987— one of the last to do so. Horses are less destructive than vehicles for logging, which is why Juan was able to use his draft horses into the 1990s.



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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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.

The Most Frequently Cited Cal/OSHA Standards for Agriculture

Below is a list of the Top 10 Cal/OSHA Standards that Agriculture Employers are fined for:

- CCR - T8 3203 - Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP)
- CCR - T8 3395 - Heat Illness Prevention Written Procedures
- CCR - T8 3395 - Heat Illness Prevention Training
- CCR - T8 0342 - Reporting Serious Injuries
- CCR - T8 3395 - Heat Illness Prevention Access to Shade
- CCR - T8 3439 - First Aid Kit
- CCR - T8 3457 - Field Sanitation - Toilet/Hand Washing
- CCR - T8 3439 - First Aid Application at Remote Locations
- CCR - T8 3457 - Field Sanitation - No Soap
- CCR - T8 3395 - Heat Illness Prevention Inadequate Water

From the eyes of an Agriculture employer, these issues are easy to overlook. Most are simple matters that should be taken care of to avoid costly Cal/OSHA fines.



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Dates and Events, March/April 2017

- **March. 7:** Cannabis Public Meeting, 2pm
BOS chambers
- **March. 14:** CAPCA Ed San Ramon
- **March 15:** Local Business Expo, Lakeport
- **March 16:** Ag and Natural Resources Day.
- **March 18-19:** Clearlake Bass Tournament
- **March. 29:** CPR Training, Big Valley
Grange
- **March 23:** CAPCA Ed San Luis Obispo
- **April 11:** CAPCA ED Escondido, Sustainable/
Organic production
- **April 11:** Confined Space Training
- **April 25-28:** Northern Counties Manager's
Conference
- **April 28:** Recycling buy-back at Konocti Vista
Casino
- **April 27:** CAPCA Ed Simi Valley
- **April 30:** Real Hero's Breakfast, Rohnert Park

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@lakecountycalifornia.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	

Are you getting LCFB email updates?



Lake County Farm Bureau regularly emails members with important information about trainings, events and meetings that sometimes get scheduled between newsletter printings. There are email addresses that are out of date in our system and a number of members who failed to provide an email when they signed up. We will continue to print important information in the newsletter, but don't miss out on the latest information by email!

If you have not been getting Lake County Farm Bureau emails, please contact Brenna at the office at lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net or 263-0911. Thank you!

IRRIGATED LANDS PROGRAM UPDATE

Regional Board performs on-farm inspections on several Lake County ag operations

In December, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board contacted the Coalition announcing that they were planning inspections in Lake County during ‘the storm water season.’ Seven growers were initially identified; most of them were vineyard operators in the Red Hills and Clearlake areas.

The Regional Board scheduled four inspections ultimately having to re-schedule all due to inclement weather. Two inspections took place two days after significant rainfall and one inspection took place the day after significant rainfall. The Regional Board’s primary focus was to look for signs of erosion during the wet season.

Fortunately, all four inspections went exceedingly well and all operations were able to show off the superior best management practices employed in Lake County vineyards. The inspectors detected no significant examples of erosion in any of the sites noting how impressed they were with how the operations looked following the storms. It was raining during one inspection of one of the steepest sites they had visited and they noted minimal to no run-off.

This bodes well for how the Regional Board views Lake County agriculture. We were able to show that our cultural practices are protective of water quality and took the opportunity to educate the inspectors about the broader picture regarding Clear Lake and water quality in Lake County. We were able to effectively communicate that water quality is a high priority, but that perhaps Water Board resources spent on irrigated agriculture were misdirected in our area. Illegal cannabis sites in the National Forest, septic tanks and sewer leakage into the lake and erosion from OHV use and unpaved roads were cited as examples of potential problems and the result was a positive and fruitful conversation. The inspectors did admit that the problems in Clear Lake were non-point source and complex.

Unfortunately, even though these inspections went very well, they will continue to be a reality for

Lake County growers. **The Regional Board indicated that they will return next year for more inspections citing particular interest in pear and walnut operations in Big Valley.**

During the inspections, the Regional Board staff were primarily interested in Nitrogen Management Plans, Farm Evaluations, abandoned wells, pesticide storage and irrigation/sediment capture ponds. The following are some useful tips to consider for your own operation should you be selected by the Regional Board for inspection:

- Keep all paperwork (Nitrogen Management Plan, Farm Evaluation and Sediment Erosion Plan) in an organized folder labeled by year.
- Be able to answer questions about your nutrient application on the Nitrogen Management Plan. The Regional Board is looking for your applied Nitrogen to be lower than your removed Nitrogen (A/R ratio). Make sure you are accounting for all Nitrogen credits. Unfortunately, for crops like pears, there is no standard number for the N removed during harvest. However, your CCA and advisors like Rachel Elkins can help you come up with a value.
- Abandoned wells should be at least capped. The Regional Board is setting up regulations that stipulate that any abandoned wells should be filled in 2 years. This regulation is not official yet.
- Chemical storage, mixing and loading sites, refueling areas and heavy equipment storage should be clean, well-drained and free of refuse. The Regional Board inspectors do not have the specific qualifications to inspect your pesticide storage areas, however, they are looking for obvious signs of pesticide leakage or irresponsible management practices.
- There should be an attempt to mitigate any potential erosion in the field and on all service roads and avenues. Cover crops, straw and gravel road base on service roads were examples they noted.

As a reminder, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition will contact any grower slated for inspection **prior to** contact from the Regional Board. This will allow us time to answer your questions on the inspection and your compliance with the program.

Farmers monitor impact of storms on crops, water supply

Strong storms during the Presidents' Day holiday weekend flooded farm fields, caused several dairy farms to relocate their animals and brought other impacts on California farms and ranches. The storms also added more water to an already overtaxed system, and led to renewed calls to modernize the system.

"In the long term, the surge of storms should bring an improved water outlook," California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger said, "but it has definitely brought worries to farmers and ranchers whose land is inundated or whose crops may be at risk. We remain hopeful that weather in coming days will minimize any problems."

Wenger noted that many reservoirs have filled and have had to release water, which underlines the need to enhance California's water storage capacity.

"Believe it or not, there are people who think we don't need more water storage, and that we should even tear down many of the facilities we now have," he said. "These activists don't care how many people suffer from devastating floods in winters like this. They don't care how many people suffer from water shortages during droughts"

Wenger said California must move as quickly as possible to allocate money from the 2014 water bond, Proposition 1, to create more storage both aboveground and underground.

"Environmentalists say we can solve water problems by conserving more water and storing more underground. But we're not able to conserve most of the water flowing through the system now—we have had to let it go. And moving water into the ground takes time. You can't replenish groundwater if you don't have aboveground reservoirs and canals to hold and move water to where it can effectively filter underground," Wenger said.

Farm Bureau said farmers of a number of crops and commodities will be assessing the impact from the weekend storms, including:

- **Almonds**—The storms hit just as almond trees were blooming. Bees that pollinate almond blossoms don't

fly in the rain and prefer temperatures higher than 55 degrees. In addition, a number of almond trees were blown down by strong winds during the weekend. But farmers said the tree losses weren't as bad as feared, and expressed hope pollination would still be successful.

- **Berries**—The rains delayed strawberry harvest along the Central and Southern California coast. Production may be temporarily reduced as farmers wait for waterlogged fields to dry and discard rain-damaged berries.

- **Dairy farms**—Several dairy farms located near the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers needed to move their animals to higher ground as river levels rose. Other farmers are watching river levels carefully and preparing to move their animals if needed.

- **Field crops**—Fall-planted grain crops that have germinated could take on too much water, which could ultimately reduce yields. Hay fields have also flooded. Soggy or flooded fields will delay planting for a number of crops.

- **Grapes**—Vineyards in various grape-growing regions have been flooded. Farmers say that could leave vines vulnerable to root-rot damage if they remain flooded for too long.

- **Vegetables**—Rains and muddy fields slowed vegetable harvest in Southern California and delayed planting in the Salinas Valley. Rain generally benefited vegetable crops in the Imperial Valley.

- **Walnuts**—Flooded orchards that remain waterlogged for too long could be vulnerable to root diseases that can kill trees.

- **Miscellaneous**—Heavy rains in foothill regions have washed out privately maintained roads, making it hard for cattle ranchers to reach their animals, and muddy pastures limit ranchers' ability to reach herds on horseback. Pear orchards in Lake County have been flooded. Citrus fruit harvest was temporarily delayed. The storms brought large amounts of rain to Santa Barbara County farmers who have remained in severe drought. One farmer there reported losing about half

Lake County Farm Bureau Announces 2017 Scholarship Applications Available

The Lake County Farm Bureau (LCFB) Scholarship Committee is proud to announce that the scholarship application period for 2017 is open. The LCFB Scholarship Program was organized to give financial aid to Lake County students who show a desire to pursue a career in the agricultural industry. The scholarships are awarded annually and are based upon academic achievement, career goals, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, and a commitment to study agriculture.

Eligible students must be a resident of Lake County who are enrolled or plan to enroll in a college or vocational school during the 2017/2018 year. To apply for the LCFB scholarship, students must complete an application, provide transcripts from each school attended and include two current and dated letters of recommendation. The entire packet must be received by LCFB on or before April 15th to be considered by the Scholarship Committee.

Applications are available at Lake County Farm Bureau's website www.lakecofb.com and at the office located at 65 Soda Bay Road in Lakeport. Students can also get an application by contacting their local high school counselor or through the Mendocino College scholarship webpage.



DRAFT CANNABIS ORDINANCE Public Meeting at the Board of Supervisors Chambers

**“Cannabis Cultivation”
Tues. March 7, 2016
2:00pm**

Take advantage of this opportunity to provide input to the Board of Supervisors about cannabis

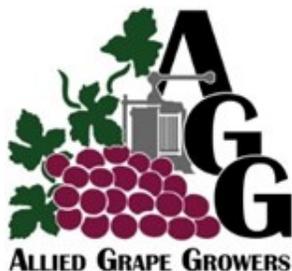
The Lake County Board of Supervisors will hold a special workshop on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. to give the Planning Department direction in the cultivation portion of the draft Cannabis Ordinance. The workshop will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 255 N. Forbes Street in Lakeport.

During the January 17 meeting, the Supervisors discussed cannabis dispensaries, manufacturing and distribution.

The meeting to discuss cannabis cultivation was postponed until March 7. This will be the first major step in refining where and how cannabis will be cultivated in Lake County. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to attend and give provide comment on this matter.

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

2016 California Winegrape Crush Size Confirmed as “Below Average”



Fresno, California – The California Agricultural Statistics Service released its annual Preliminary Grape Crush Report at noon today summarizing the size and value of the 2016 California

grape crush. Allied Grape Growers estimated a 3.9 million ton winegrape crush, as did most industry observers, prior to the release of the report. Few are surprised by the crush size, as confirmation of a 4,000,790 ton winegrape crush was made public today.

“Even though the 2016 winegrape crush was larger than either of the previous two years, it still fell slightly short of what we consider an average sized crop in California. Based on bearing acreage estimates and multi-year yield analysis, an average crush would have landed at right about 4.2 million tons.”, stated Jeff Bitter, Vice President of Allied Grape Growers. In addition to the winegrape crush, 97,759 tons of table type grapes along with 98,205 tons of raisin type grapes were crushed, bringing the total California grape crush, of all types, to 4,196,753 tons, an 8.5% increase from the 2015 total. Of the total grape crush in 2016, 9.4% (393,045 tons) was crushed for [unfermented] grape juice concentrate – used internally by wineries and also in the food processing industry to add color and/or natural sweetness to various consumables.

The weighted average purchase price of California winegrapes in 2016 increased significantly (14% or

\$97.20 per ton) to \$789.36 per ton, demonstrating the overall stability of industry supply/demand, but more importantly signaling the transition of supply away from the value segments and more toward the mid and upper sectors of the business. The value segment of the market continues to move closer to balance as inventories dwindle, while the mid and upper segments of the market continue to enjoy both growing supply (from new plantings) and strong consumer demand.

Year-on-year production changes for major California varieties was mostly up and included Chardonnay (the largest single variety crushed annually) at 672,418 tons, up 6.1%; Muscat of Alexander at 170,403 tons, down 5.5%; Pinot Grigio at a record 243,655 tons, up a whopping 31.6%; Sauvignon Blanc at 105,509 tons, up an impressive 19.4%; Cabernet Sauvignon at a record 557,192 tons, up a staggering 22.3%; Merlot at 266,950 tons, up only 5.6%; Pinot Noir at 249,503 tons, up a much needed 34.8%; and Zinfandel at 414,559 tons, up just 6.7% from 2015. Rubired, a red winegrape variety used predominantly in red grape concentrate production came in at 247,536 tons, down 11.4% from last year’s record production.

The real story from the 2016 winegrape crush remains the fact that perhaps the recent drought years in California has had negative residual effects on crop size. Two “positively” rainy seasons in a row now might help California finally experience an ample crop once again in 2017.

WHAT THE LCFB HAS BEEN DOING FOR YOU



Jan 4: Meeting with Rob Brown
Jan 13: Meeting with Tina Scott
Jan 16: Meeting with Moke Simon
Jan 17: LCFB Board Meeting
Jan 20: LCFB Booth at Equine and Wine event
Jan 30: Sacramento Valley Coalition meeting

Feb 1: Regional Board Inspection 1
Feb 8: Board meetings
Feb 8: Inspection 2
Feb 15: Cannabis strategy planning session 1
Feb 17: Cannabis strategy planning session 2
Feb 22: Respirator Fit testing and Pesticide Safety training
Feb 23: H-2A Field Worker program seminar

Support these Businesses

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Joan Sturges, CPA	707/279-1188
Peggy Campbell, CPA	707/263-9017
Richard Morhar, CPA	707/279-8032

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES

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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

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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
DS Concrete Inc.	707/350-3399

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
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INSURANCE

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★Lincoln-Leavitt Insurance	707/263-7162
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Lake County Winegrape Commission	707/279-2633

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Featured Recipe

Blueberry Walnut Breakfast Bars

SHOPPING LIST

1 cup California walnuts
2 cups Gluten Free oats
1/4 cup plant-based vanilla protein powder
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon

TOPPING

1/4 cup oats
1/4 cup California walnuts chopped finely
1/4 cup pepitas
1 cup fresh blueberries



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare a 9x9 square baking dish with two pieces of parchment paper. Add all the ingredients for the base to a food processor and process on high until fully broken down and the mixture is doughy. Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish and spread into an even layer with a spatula. Bake 8 minutes. Crumble: Add all the ingredients for the crumble mixture into an even layer pressing the mixture gently into the crust. Remove the baking dish from the oven, top with the crumble mixture into an even layer pressing the mixture gently into the crust. Bake another 12 minutes in the oven. Remove from the oven and cool in the pan paper. Slice into 12 bars.

**Thank you to California Walnuts for the recipe!
Please email lcfarmbureau@sbcglobal.net to
submit your recipe to be featured in the next News & Reviews!**

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GRANITE™

Editorial: Labor shortage and our migrant workers

By: Diane Henderson: LCCWA President, LCFB Board member, Kelseyville pear farmer.

With the federal government's push to deport illegal immigrants, farmers in this country fear that they will lose their workforce. Over 90 percent of our farmworkers are immigrants, primarily from Mexico, and many of them are undocumented. Many people support the idea of mass deportation because they believe these immigrants just don't want to make the effort and pay the cost of going through the proper application procedure to become legal. They also believe that these immigrants are taking advantage of our social support systems and that they are stealing jobs from Americans. However, these beliefs are based on insufficient or inaccurate information.

People who are already here without legal documentation have no way to 'get in line' and become legal. They can only apply from outside of the country. The customary path for legal immigration for employment or family reunification is through a written visa application from a legal U.S. resident for members of his immediate family or for a fiancé any of whom must be residing outside of the United States. Any children must be unmarried and under the age of 21. Usually the applicant's employer is required to write a letter of employment verification. These requests must go through a U.S. Consulate in Mexico and then the applicant waits for an appointment. The waiting period is the problem. It can be very long—decades, in fact. On top of that, no one country can receive more than seven percent of the visas available for the year, so there is a quota and there are always more applicants than there are slots available, especially for Mexico. I know a father who is a naturalized citizen here who was been waiting since 2002 for the papers to come through for his son, who is still in Mexico.

It is because the INS system is impossibly backlogged that so many people desperate for work have paid a smuggler or 'coyote' thousands of dollars to sneak them across the border illegally. Once here there is no recourse for them to become legal. This is why we have millions of workers here without papers who have been working in the U.S. for many years and raising their families here.

These undocumented workers do pay taxes. Besides sales taxes and property taxes, they pay into Social Security and state disability through payroll deductions. In 2013 the U.S. Social Security Administration estimated that undocumented immigrants—and their employers—paid 13 billion in

payroll taxes alone for the benefits they will never receive because of their illegal status. In spite of this, many of them go ahead and file tax returns, which they can do legally using an individual tax identification number (ITIN) provided by the IRS. They file tax returns with the hope they will provide proof of responsible residency should an avenue to legalization ever materialize.

As for 'leaching off the system,' these undocumented workers cannot collect welfare or food stamps or unemployment benefits. They can receive schooling and emergency medical care only.

Removing these immigrants from the country will not likely help the job market and will only hurt businesses, especially agriculture. California produces over half of all the fruits, nuts and vegetables in the entire nation and much of the farm work cannot be mechanized. This is work that most Americans neither wish to do nor are equipped to do, not matter how high the wages are. The fact becomes increasingly apparent with the growing labor shortage and rising wages. Farm work involves hard physical labor, often in difficult weather conditions and requires skills that are usually developed by being in the farming community, whether here or in another county. In addition, many of the jobs in agriculture are seasonal, not permanent. People like to work where they live, not move around from job to job in other areas.

However we must have a migratory labor force available, particularly for harvests when the local labor force is not large enough to handle the workload. We desperately need a guest worker program similar to the old Bracero Program but with better worker protections. Under such a program, workers could enter the U.S. with seasonal work permits to work the harvests (or other seasonal jobs) from California on up to Washington. After that they would be free to go home to Mexico where they and their families wish to live.

If the federal government succeeds in this proposed deportation effort, the results will be devastating. Those farmers who cannot mechanize their labor will have to give up and sell out. The effect on the nation's food supply would be enormous and the economy of the entire country, let alone California, would be seriously affected. It's time to start appreciating the fact that the immigrants who have established their lives here are the backbone of farming and numerous other businesses that couldn't survive without them. We must continue to advocate for them and push immigration reform!



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Farm Bureau welcomes Executive Order on WOTUS Rule

Welcoming President Trump's executive order for review of a disputed Clean Water Act rule, the president of the California Farm Bureau Federation said he hopes today's action leads to a more cooperative approach to environmental regulation.

"California farmers and ranchers pride themselves in the care they show for the land, water and other resources entrusted to them," CFBF President Paul Wenger said. "We want to work cooperatively to maintain and improve our land, not to be subject to confusing and sometimes contradictory rules from government agencies.

"We're encouraged by the Trump administration's action to roll back the 'waters of the United States' rule," Wenger said. "At the same time, we recognize the executive order as the first step in what could be a long process to undo the confusion brought by the WOTUS rule.

"Ultimately, the goal should be to provide farmers and ranchers—in California and elsewhere—the freedom to farm their land productively and with environmental certainty, while pursuing compliance with the Clean Water Act through incentives rather than coercion."

USDA Farm Service Agency offers text alerts to Mendocino and Lake County producers

U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Executive Director Katie Delbar in Mendocino/Lake counties has announced that farmers and ranchers in California now can receive notifications from their FSA county office through text messages on their cell phones.

"In addition to the free FSA GovDelivery email news, customers now can choose to receive text message alerts from their county office," said Delbar. "These text messages inform producers of important program deadlines, reporting requirements, outreach events and updates."

Whether producers are in the field, on a tractor or even on horseback, this service will enable FSA customers and stakeholders to receive notifications while on the go.

Producers can text CAMendocino or CALake to FSANOW(372-669) to subscribe to text message alerts from Mendocino and Lake counties. Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details associated with your particular data plan. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

To receive GovDelivery email notifications, subscribe online at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe or contact the Mendocino/Lake County FSA office for subscription assistance. Producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state or by county.

Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest. According to Delbar, GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information. Contact your local FSA office at 707-468-9223, ext. 2 if you have any questions regarding FSA's electronic news service or new text message option.

USDA works to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

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Nationwide

How to Prepare for and React to a Flood

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

You may not be able to stop an oncoming flood, but you may be able to mitigate some of its damage by knowing what to do before, during and after one of nature's most devastating perils. Floods damage or destroy more homes than any other natural disaster – causing \$2 billion-plus in property damage every year. A flood can happen to anyone, so it's important for you to consider adding the protections provided by a flood insurance policy.

Find out about flood insurance:

It's important to know that standard homeowners insurance generally doesn't cover damage caused by a flood. The government offers federal disaster assistance only when the president declares a major disaster. Ask your insurance agent about whether flood insurance is available in your area.

To help reduce damage:

- Install backflow valves or standpipes to prevent sewer lines from backing up.
- Elevate your washer, dryer, water heater, oil tank, furnace and electrical wiring on concrete blocks. If you're unable to raise an item, anchor it and protect it with a floodwall or shield.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Landscape with plants and vegetation that resist soil erosion.
- Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place.
- Install a flood-detection device that sounds an alarm or calls your phone if it senses water.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, hand tools and other materials handy for addressing storm water.

What to do during a flood

- A flood can be scary, but try to stay calm. The most important thing is to keep your family safe, but if you have time:
- Turn off utilities at the main power switch.
- Move valuables, important papers and clothing to upper floors. If you have only one floor, put items on shelves, tables or countertops.
- Sanitize your bathtub and sinks and fill them with fresh, clean water in case the water supply becomes contaminated.
- If you feel threatened by rising water, leave your home or move to upper floors.
- Never try to drive through a flood. Six inches of water can cause loss of control and possible stalling.
- If you're in your car when the water begins to rise quickly, abandon it and move to higher ground.
- Don't walk through flood areas. Just 6 inches of water can sweep you away.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- What to do after a flood
- After emergency officials have given permission to re-enter your home:
- Check for structural damage before going inside.
- If it's dark, use a flashlight – not matches, a candle or a lighter.
- Listen for reports to see when drinking water is safe again.
- Don't turn your power on until an electrician has inspected your system.
- Use your cell phone or other camera to photograph damage, which can help get your claim started sooner.
- Inventory damaged or destroyed items – again, to expedite your claim.
- Report your claim to your insurance agent or company as soon as possible.
- Begin initial cleanup as soon as waters recede. Separate damaged from undamaged items and clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- When cleaning, wear a mask, gloves and coveralls to minimize exposure to possible hazardous materials.
- Mold can be a hazardous result from a flood. Consider a professional service that specializes in post-flood cleanup.
- Once you've gathered documentation about your damage and your insurance coverage, contact your insurance company or agent.

FIRST AID/CPR AND AED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

DID YOU KNOW?... One out of every twenty employees must be First Aid certified. Certification is valid for **two** years. This program meets Cal OSHA requirements.



Article 13. Agricultural Operations



§3439. First-Aid Kit.

(a) There shall be adequate first-aid materials immediately available at the farm headquarters and/or on worker transportation buses. Such materials shall be kept in a sanitary and usable condition. A frequent inspection shall be made of all first-aid materials, which shall be replenished as necessary. In the case of employers whose workers are widely scattered in small crews that are contacted by a traveling foreman, adequate protection may be accomplished by having a first-aid kit in the foreman's car or vehicle.

(b) At remote locations, provisions must be made in advance for prompt medical attention in case of serious injuries. This may be accomplished by on-the-site facilities or proper equipment for prompt transportation of the injured person to a physician or communication system for contacting a doctor or combinations of these that will avoid unnecessary delay in treatment. *There shall be at least 1 employee for every 20 employees at any remote location with training for the administering of emergency first aid.*

First Aid/CPR/AED Certification Training To register, complete the form below and mail with payment to: MVP Safety Professionals, 201 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776. Make checks payable to: ***MVP Safety Professionals.***

Company Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Please check which event you are registering for and number of people for each session:

March 29, 2017 — Big Valley Grange, 1510 Big Valley Rd, Lakeport

English # of ppl _____ @ \$75 = \$ _____
(7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)

Spanish # of ppl _____ @ \$75 = \$ _____
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Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name of Person(s) Attending:



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**Public Cannabis
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March 7

CPR Training



March 29

**Ag and
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March 16

CELEBRATION

2017



JUNE 29