Farm Bureau at work

California Farm Bureau's government affairs team is at the Capitol, advocating for farmers, ranchers and agriculture's future. Here are some key issues Farm Bureau is focused on this week.

January 6, 2023

Legislature Reconvenes

January 4th marked the beginning of the new 2023-24 Legislative Session. This session is a bit unique as there are still races out there undergoing a recount. One example is SD 16 – Bakersfield. Senator Hurtado has been sworn into office, but the district is still amidst a recount after her win by only 20 votes. Along with these contentious races, and redistricting changes, this legislature has a large class of new law makers. A quarter of the legislature are incoming freshman, 40 percent of whom are women – a new record, and it is the most diverse class in California's history.

Several bills have already been introduced, and the coming weeks will demonstrate this legislature's top issues for the year. The bill introduction deadline approaching on February 17th, which will be followed by policy and fiscal hearings that make up the legislative process. These next few weeks are also famous for the amount of "spot" or "intent" bills that get introduced. These bills simply change a word or contain a statement of intent and act as placeholder for future legislation. Legislators will then have until the beginning week of March to get actual language across the desk. Some recent examples of these bill are: AB-9 (Muratsuchi) and SB-12 (Stern) intend to require the state to reduce its GHG emissions to 55% below 1990 levels by 2030; SB-23 (Caballero) which proposed to expedite water supply and flood control projects; and SB-66 (Hurtado) which seeks to require better data collection for water decisions. Farm Bureau will monitor the hundreds of bills that are likely to be introduced by that date.

Animal Health & Welfare

With the recent storms hitting California, Dr. Michael Payne of UC Davis has provided some extremely valuable guides for flooding information for equine owners, livestock owners, dairies, and emergency flood evacuations. Take a moment to view the materials provided below. *Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com*

- Livestock
- Dairies
- Dairy Evacuation Checklist
- Equine

California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force invites you to a virtual Ag/Livestock Pass workshop on January18, 2023 at 1:30 pm. You can register for the workshop at http://ucanr.edu/agpassweb . The workshop is sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension with support from groups that have previously implemented successful Ag/Livestock Pass programs. The aim of the workshop is to provide county officials insight into how to set up a functioning Ag/Livestock Pass program, discuss common challenges and workable solutions, and to showcase examples of the program success during recent fires. The workshop will also provide details on complying with AB 1103, a 2021 law which facilitates and governs county adoption and execution of these programs. More details about the workshop are available on the attached flyer. We hope to see you on January 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Schohr, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for Plumas, Sierra and Butte Counties at tkschohr@ucanr.edu or 916-716-2643 *Staff Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com*

Climate Policy

Bill introduction has begun and one notable bill that has been introduced is AB-9 (Muratsuchi) which would require the State Air Resources Board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 55 percent below the 1990 level no later than December 31, 2030. As most of you are aware, under the California Global Warming Act of 2006, the State Board is required to achieve levels of 40 percent below the 1990 level no later that December 31, 2030. We anticipate there will be significant opposition to this legislation and farm bureau will be watching this closely. *Staff: Chris Reardon, creardon@cfbf.com*

Insurance

Due to the scale of previous wildfires across the state and the current and potential flooding, the Department of Insurance preemptively issued a Notice on January 4, 2023 to all property and casualty insurance companies to ensure consumers are properly protected. The Department of Insurance is alerting insurer's that while homeowners' and commercial insurance policies typically exclude flood, mudslide, debris flow, and other similar disasters — unless they are directly or indirectly caused by a recent wildfire or another peril covered by the applicable insurance policy. The Department of Insurance has posted a fact sheet for consumers to answer questions about what their policies cover. The Department of Insurance suggests consumers take these following actions to be best prepared:

- Use their smart phone to perform a home inventory to create a record of their belongings and store scans of important documents that they can easily access.
- Locate their insurance papers and put in a safe place or upload to an online location.
- For renters, consider purchasing renters' insurance to protect their personal belongings, which typically are not covered by their landlord's homeowners' policy.
- Consider comprehensive auto insurance, which would protect their vehicle in the event of flood damage.
- Visit the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) "winter wise" web page to read more tips to prepare for winter weather.
- Consider flood insurance for future disasters in addition to their homeowners' insurance policy. The National Flood Insurance Program currently provides the majority of flood coverage written in the state, but private flood insurance is also available. Flood insurance takes effect 30 days after it is purchased, except in the case of a home purchase where flood insurance is required by the lender.

The Department of Insurance can help consumers with insurance coverage or claim questions. Contact us at our consumer hotline at 800-927-4357 or through online chat or email at insurance.ca.gov.
Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Transportation

California Air Resources Board has sent out a series of upcoming trainings. Please see the below for more details.

MS510: CARB Smog Check for Heavy Trucks:
The Heavy Duty Inspection and Maintenance (HD I/M) Program - NEW!
Do you own, operate, or dispatch heavy-duty trucks in or to California? Then you need to know about the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) upcoming requirement to regularly test the emission control system of nearly every truck operating within California, regardless of where the tucks owner lives or where the truck is based. The new requirements are more commonly known as a heavy-duty truck smog check and will become effective over the next couple of years. If your vehicles are not compliant, you need to know what the current and future requirements are. If your vehicles are compliant, you may need to regularly test and report to remain compliant. This course gives you information about how to comply with the HD I/M program and how to report to continue operating legally in 2022 and beyond.

Date: January 12, 2023 **(Offered in-person only)**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
In Person: Register (Browse for MS510)
Location: Quinn Company
1655 Carlotti Dr. Santa Maria, CA 93420

Date: January 13, 2023 **(Offered in-person & via Zoom webinar)**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
In Person: Register (Browse for MS510)
Location: Coast Counties Peterbilt
920 Elvee Drive Salinas, CA 93901
Webinar: Zoom Registration

Date: February 15, 2023 **(Offered in-person & via Zoom webinar)**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
In Person: Register (Browse for MS510)
Location: Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731
Webinar: Zoom Registration

Date: February 16, 2023 **(Offered in-person & via Zoom webinar)**
Time: 9:00 a.m.
In Person: Register (Browse for MS510)

Location: LA County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803
Webinar: Zoom Registration

Date: February 16, 2023 **(Offered in-person only)**
Time: 1:00 p.m.
In Person: Register (Browse for MS510)
Location: LA County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803

MS504: In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation

The Air Resources Board has a regulation to reduce emissions from existing off-road diesel vehicles used in California construction, mining, and other industries. The In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation (Off-Road Regulation) requires fleets to report to ARB and label their off-road vehicles as well as reduce their overall fleet emissions. This course provides detailed information to help fleet owners understand and comply with the Off-Road Regulation. Due to the Public Records Act, please be advised registration information you provide for this course may be provided in a public records request.

Date: February 2, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

MS505: Large Spark Ignition (LSI) Fleet Regulation

Do you own or operate forklifts in California? CARB is providing a unique training opportunity for fleets to learn about the requirements of the Large Spark Ignition (LSI) Fleet Regulation. The topics covered will include reporting requirements, labeling requirements, and 2016 program amendments. Owners of off-road vehicles with LSI engines are strongly encouraged to attend.

Date: February 9, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

MS 507: Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs)

Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs) are used on semi-trailers, truck vans, shipping containers, and rail cars. Most TRUs are diesel-powered. Although TRU engines are relatively small, significant numbers of these engines congregate at distribution centers, truck stops, and other facilities, resulting in exposure to diesel particulate matter (PM) and health risks to those that live and work nearby. To reduce the risks of exposure to diesel PM from TRUs, owners, operators, dispatchers, and distribution centers must comply with the TRU Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM). This class covers the requirements of the existing ATCM as well amendments adopted in 2022.

Date: January 24, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

MS511.2: Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) Operation & Maintenance

Diesel Emission Control Strategies (DECS), including diesel particulate filter (DPF) technology, are in the forefront of California's Diesel Risk Reduction Program. Retrofit DPF's have been verified by CARB to effectively reduce diesel emissions from diesel-fueled internal combustion engines by at least 85%. This course briefly discusses the production of diesel emissions and their health effects; diesel emission control technology; DPF construction and application; and the maintenance necessary for successful DPF operation.

Date: February 23, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

MS521.9: CARB Diesel Truck Rules - Compliance Options and Reporting Requirements for 2023 & Beyond

Do you own, operate, or dispatch heavy-duty diesel trucks in or to California? Then you need to know that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) enforces air pollution regulations affecting all types of heavy-duty diesel vehicles operating in the State. If your vehicles are not compliant, you need to know what the current and future requirements are. If your vehicles are compliant, you may need to report to remain compliant. This course gives you information about how to comply with CARB diesel regulations and how to report to continue operating legally in 2023 and beyond.

Date: January 19, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

MS525: Compliance Overview: Truck & Bus Rule, Off-Road Regulation, and Portable Equipment

Course topics include the following:

- **Truck and Bus Regulation**
- **Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP)**
- **Advanced Clean Truck (ACT)**
- **In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation**
- **Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) & Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM)**

Date: March 2, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Webinar: Zoom Registration

✦ ANNOUNCEMENTS

CDFA GRANTS $2 MILLION TO REDUCE CHEMICAL PESTICIDES THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis (OPCA) has awarded one project for its Biologically Integrated Farming Systems (BIFS) grant program and two projects for its Proactive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Solutions grant program, with the grants totaling $2 million. The goal of the BIFS grant program is to promote the adoption of innovative pest management techniques that reduce chemical pesticide inputs while allowing growers to maintain profitable businesses. BIFS practices are often selected as a result of research conducted by California universities and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). BIFS projects further refine implementation programs to increase efficacy and economic viability. Outreach is performed through on-farm demonstration, technical assistance, and fostering farmer-to-farmer information exchange networks.

The new BIFS project, led by Dr. Hanna Kahl with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), will receive $1 million in funding to demonstrate and conduct the outreach for the use of biological control to manage spider mites and other pests in winegrape and walnut orchards. Outreach will be conducted in collaboration with commodity groups, Pest Control Advisors (PCAs), and UCCE, and will also include Spanish-language options. Technical assistance will be provided to support select growers interested in adopting biological control.

The goal of the Proactive IPM Solutions grants program is to anticipate which exotic pests are likely to arrive in California and to identify and test IPM strategies that can be rapidly deployed if the pests become established. Techniques resulting from projects of this program will allow for rapid deployment of integrated pest management techniques, including biological control, which will reduce reliance on broad-spectrum pesticides.

Two Proactive IPM Solutions projects will receive $500,000 each. The first is proactive control of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which is presently the most devastating invasive insect pest of forests in the continental United States, led by Dr. Ricky Lara from CDFA's Integrated Pest Control Branch. The second is proactive control of the Cotton Seed Bug (CSB), which was detected in Los Angeles County in 2019 and subsequently confirmed in Orange, San Diego, and Riverside counties, posing a significant threat to the California cotton growers. This project will be led by Dr. Mark Hoddle from the University of California Riverside. These projects are developing biological control strategies that require lengthy research before being approved for use. They will give California growers and CDFA a head-start in using integrated pest management for these pests. For more information on OPCA and its grant programs, visit https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/opca/ .

✦ VACANCIES

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON REGISTERED SERVICE AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announces three vacancies on the Registered Service Agency (RSA) Advisory Committee. The RSA Advisory Committee advises the Department in all matters concerning the registration of services agencies, as authorized by Business and Professions Code (BPC), Division 5, Chapter 5.5, Section 12541. CDFA's RSA Program is responsible for registering businesses (RSAs) and their employees (Service Agents) who, for hire or payment of any kind, repair commercial weighing and measuring devices. CDFA's Division of Measurement Standards and county weights and measures officials regularly monitor the work of service agencies and service agents who must comply with the requirements adopted in the BPC and the California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9. The RSA Advisory Committee consists of seven members. Two (2) positions are currently vacant.

- One member representing industry clients of service agencies
- One member representing county sealers or directors of weights and measures

Applicants must demonstrate applied knowledge in the field of weights and measures, and either technical expertise with commercial weighing and/or measuring devices or general knowledge of government oversight of the RSA industry. The term of office is three years. Members are asked to be available to participate in a minimum of four meetings per fiscal year. The Committee may meet more frequently if needed. Committee members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment for necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment must send a brief letter of interest and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire here to dms@cdfa.ca.gov by February 3, 2023.

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON INDUSTRIAL HEMP ADVISORY BOARD

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pest Exclusion Branch is announcing one (1) midterm vacancy on the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board (IHAB). The Board was established by the California Industrial Hemp Farming Act (AB 566 – 2013) and is comprised of thirteen (13) Members. The term of office for board members is three years, as outlined in Food and Agricultural Code Section 81001.

The Advisory Board makes recommendations to the CDFA Secretary on all matters pertaining to industrial hemp law and regulations, enforcement, annual budgets, and the setting of an assessment rate required to accomplish the purposes of the California Industrial Hemp Law. Members meet at least once per year but may meet more frequently if needed. The members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources. The Board has the following vacancy:

- One (1) registered grower of industrial hemp.

The successful candidate will be appointed to serve the remainder of a term that expires on May 31, 2023. Individuals interested in being considered for this Board appointment should send a letter of interest and a brief resumé to the Industrial Hemp Program by Monday January 31, 2023, by e-mail to industrialhemp@cdfa.ca.gov or by mail to:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Pest Exclusion Branch
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Industrial Hemp Program