



CALAVERAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

APRIL 2015

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Young Farmers & Ranchers

State Representative

Tyler Blagg

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Manager, *Crissy Huey*

Presidents Message

It's been another "working winter" without much down time for rainy days. One of my responsibilities as a reforestation forester with Sierra Pacific Industries is supervising planting crews. Because of the rainless spring, we were able to plant 1.3 million ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, incense cedar, white fir, and giant sequoia seedlings on Company lands in 5 weeks within the Rim Fire area. We covered about half of the area the fire burned on our lands, and will plant the rest next spring.

Farm Bureau continues to work with the Ag Coalition (made up of Farm Bureau, Calaveras County Cattlemen's Association, Calaveras Grown and the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance) on the General Plan Update. The Ag Coalition submitted an Ag Element which had the name changed to the Resource Production Element. The County Planning Department took a portion of our document and added in other points they thought were important. We submitted comments during the comment period, and will continue to work through the process until the Plan is adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The Ag Coalition has been working on this project for 8 years.

Farm Bureau just held our annual Ag Day event for all 4th and 5th grade students in the County. A lot of work goes into the event, and I would like to say a special thanks to Toni Ann Fischer for all she does to make this a great event. I would also like to say thanks to those of you that support our auction at our Annual Dinner meeting where we raise the money to fund this event.

Steve



CCFB President, Steve Kafka, District I Board of Supervisor, Cliff Edson and Ag Day Coordinator/ CCFB Board of Director, Toni Ann Fischer

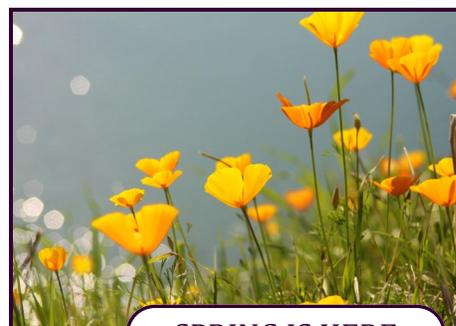
Graduations around the corner...

It's that time of year when it seems our neighborhoods start awakening after a winters nap. Weed eaters are going crazy, spring plants are blooming and our fair-grounds are busy getting ready for our County Fair. All signs that spring is here. Things start happening quickly this time of year, fair, end of school, and graduation celebrations.

Our scholarship committee has received applications and are working through their selection process. It is not an easy task, but we appreciate them volunteering their time and their thoughtfulness to chose deserving recipients.

If you are struggling to find the perfect graduation gift, please consider the gift of a Collegiate Farm Bureau Membership, it's only \$25 and you may be planting the seed for a future Ag Member. It's easy! www.joinfb.com

Crissy



SPRING IS HERE

Photography by Mindy Rasmussen



Tyler Airola, Kevin Wright, Stuart Mast, Pilot-Bryan Locke, Doug Joses and Bob Brennan getting ready for their flight tour

Yosemite & Rim Fire Flight Tour by Stuart Mast

One of the many auction items at our 2014 Farm Bureau Annual Dinner was an airplane flight for 5 passengers over the Rimfire and Yosemite National Park. Several of

us got together and bid for a flight together: Rex Whittle, Mark & Matt Fisher, Kevin Wright, and Stuart Mast.

It is not quite as easy as one might think to get five farmers or ranchers all scheduled for the same date. On April 10 we ended up with a few substitutes when the flight took off at 9am

with Kevin Wright, Stuart Mast, Doug Joses, Bob Brennan and Trevor Airola.

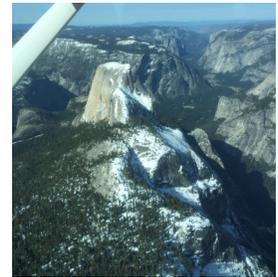
Our Pilot Bryan Locke, was a part of the wild land fire air attack team that worked the Rim Fire. Bob Brennan is a grazing permit holder in what is now the Rimfire area and he gave us plenty of insight as to how the fire progressed and lessons learned. The feed has grown back enough, that in 2015 he will be able to have his full allotment of cattle on the ground.

We were able to spot CCFB board member Steve Kafka and his crew

on the ground replanting trees in the SPI acreage, burned in the fire.

We spent several breathtaking minutes over Yosemite Valley, enjoying the beautiful waterfalls, as well as close-up views of El Capitan and Half Dome.

I would like to thank Courtney Aviation in Columbia for this generous donation.



Emergency Response Team Representative



**TIM FOLENDORF
EMERGENCY REP**

Home #: (209) 736-0345

Cell#: (209) 770-4500

Email: timfland@att.net

We had the following representatives from the County Emergency Response Teams come to our March Board meeting ; Dennis Lewis-Red Cross, Rick Muckey-Calaveras County Sheriff, Scott Fremd-Cal-Fire, Jim Carroll-West Point Fire Chief, Henning Schreiber-Animal Services

The objective of their attendance was to help our organization & its members to get our concerns, when an incident occurs, into the pie of issues to be addressed. The group of entity reps encouraged the Farm Bureau Board to appoint an agency representative that would be the "Voice" for our organization. The Agency Rep would have access to the command center, would be able to attend briefings, have access to maps, etc. that they could then take back to the agency members. He said during the briefings now, there is a bar code that you download that you can then pull up the incident plan, maps, etc. This is something that you can then email out to members. This would be instrumental in getting information out to parties concerned, and would help the command center to focus on the issues that needed to be addressed. The Agency Rep would be the point of contact for the members who needed to get information to the command center as well. They are approaching other groups as well that may have vested interests to also have a voice rep, so that information can get back to all concerned parties. There is a lot of great information out there and they would like to make sure we have access to it; real time maps that can assist in knowing where the fire is in relation to your interests, they fly overhead and obtain infra-red maps of the areas etc. The board has appointed Tim Folandorf as our Representative. Tim is also the Rep for the Calaveras Cattlemen's Association.

What you need to do is contact Tim now, before an incident occurs. He is asking that you email him @ timfland@att.net the following information so he can compile a list of contacts if an emergency were to occur.

Name - Parcel # - Physical Address - Phone #s (Home & Cell)

This is all in the early stages of development, so please watch your next newsletter or give Tim a call if you have any questions. We appreciate Tim stepping up to the plate to take on such a task.

Tyler Blagg earns STAR YF&R AWARD

Tyler Blagg, who currently serves as the 1st vice chair of the statewide Young Farmers & Ranchers earned the Star YF&R Award, which recognizes a young farmer or rancher for service to agriculture. Tyler is our YF&R State Representative for District 12, San Joaquin & Calaveras Counties.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee earned the YF&R Committee of the Year award. Committee members participated in a wide variety of activities in San Joaquin County during the past year, including

involvement in “read-ins” of agricultural books at local schools, distribution of two college scholarships for students studying for agricultural careers, organization of agricultural tours and a number of other community events.



Tyler lives in Lodi with his wife, Amy and two small sons. He raises dairy heifers, grows forage crops, winegrapes and

works as an Ag real estate agent. He has been an active YF&R volunteer since 2007.

He would like to encourage any Calaveras County Young Farmers or Ranchers to attend their meetings. The Young Farmers and Ranchers program serves agriculturalists between the ages of 18 and 35 who are actively involved in production and affiliated professions.

You can email Tyler with any questions about joining YF&R at tblagg@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS to Tyler & the San Joaquin YF&R Committee!

CWA Presentation by Mary Mutz & Nannette Tanner

At the April 14, 2015 Calaveras County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting, members from the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance (CWA) gave a presentation on their study “Improving Water Use Efficiency In High Elevation Vineyards” which was funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

This grant funded the development of the MacDonald Computerized Irrigation Model that tells growers when they should irrigate their high elevation vineyard (1,000 feet elevation or above) based on high temperature forecasts for the next ten days. The grower simply enters their zip code into the model (which is linked to www.wunderground.com) and it will tell them not only when, but also how much they should irrigate. With the click of a button the recommended irrigation directives instantly appear on the screen that say you are to either “Irrigate today”, “Irrigate tomorrow” or “Don’t irrigate at this time”. In addition it also gives you a heads up if it looks like you may need to irrigate in the near future.

Six vineyard trials have been conducted over the past three growing seasons. The average water savings has been 24%. Assessment tests were conducted to assure vines were not under additional stress as a result of getting less water. Harvest tonnage did not suffer and the quality of the berries, juice and wine were equivalent to or slightly better than the vines that obtained a normal irrigation amount.

For more information about this tool, contact the CWA office at 209-728-9467 or email the office at calaveraswines@att.net. The website is www.calaveraswines.org.

*“Improving
Water Use
Efficiency In
High Elevation
Vineyards”*



AG DAY 2015



CCFB Board of Director, Eloise Fischer, District 5 Board of Supervisor, Debbie Ponte and Ag Day Coordinator/CCFB Board of Director, Toni Ann Fischer

Where can you see over 650 4th & 5th grade students smiling and enjoying their lessons for the day? Well it was that time again when the Calaveras County Farm Bureau invites all 4th & 5th grade teachers to bring their students out to the Calaveras County Fairgrounds for Agriculture Awareness Day. Ag Day is a unique opportunity for the students to be exposed to products and services that are in their every day lives and homes yet they may have not made the connection. There is a lot of planning, orchestrating and energy that goes into making this day happen. Our Ag Day Coordinator, Toni Ann Fischer, has been the ring master for 10 years. She coordinates 20-25 presenters and then makes schedules for each classroom to rotate to about 8 stations. We are very fortunate that most of our presenters have been sharing their product or service year after year, so they know the ropes.

We were very pleased to have two Calaveras County Board of Supervisors attend Ag Day this year, Cliff Edson and Debbie Ponte. Their support of our efforts is appreciated. The students always love the "Bug Station", Calaveras County Ag Commissioner, Kevin Wright, and his department bring their insect and plant collection to teach the kids about identifying them. We have received several thank

you letters from the students, some of their comments were:

"2016 will be the 20th year celebration of the Farm Bureau hosting Ag Day for our county students."

Toni Ann Fischer

Dear Agriculture Volunteers,

Thank you for inviting us to Agriculture Day, and thank you for paying for the bus so we wouldn't have to. One of my favorite stations was Snickers. We learned so much about how cows eat and how they produce milk. Apparently cows have one stomach with four sections. First the cow chews the food and then it goes to stomach one and two, to get soggy. Then it comes back up and gets chewed again, and then it goes to all the sections. Snickers was very entertaining. Another one of my favorite stations was the Alpacas. They were so adorable. I really liked the goats too. It was interesting to hear about how much food you should really eat and drink a day. Thanks again.

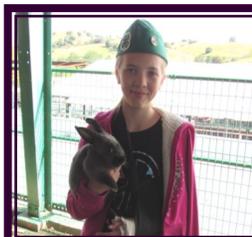


Dear Agriculture Volunteers,

I had so much fun at Ag day and I learned a lot from it. I liked watching Snickers and learning about the California dairy cows and products. One of my friends was hit by milk when the owner milked Snickers. I was kind of scared by the bugs and stuff in a case at one of the stations because I did not know we had so many bugs and spiders up in Calaveras county. I think Snickers was my favorite because of the milk incident. I also liked the tractor safety one because we got to play a hide and go seek kind of game at that station. The turkey at the 4H place was really funny when ever they called his name he gobbled. I also liked learning how to keep the trees safe at the logging truck station. Thank You.

Dear Agriculture Volunteers,

Thank you for a great day. I had so much fun. First we went to the tree station. I learned that there is so much stuff that has tree products in it. We also went to a station where we can crack walnuts and eat them. There was also candy walnuts that tasted really good. I think my favorite was Snickers the cow. It was a very big cow. When they were milking the cow, it shot milk at me. I had an awesome time. Thank you!



Students rotate through some of the 20 presentations.

4-H members share their animals.



FFA Students from Bret Harte & Calaveras High School lead the way



The FFA students act as group leaders, helping to guide the younger students to their next presentation. We received many compliments on this group of High School leaders. Comments expressed were; that they acted professional, courteous and were a pleasure. Thank you all for participating, we appreciate you.

Thank you to our Presenters for taking time off from their jobs and ranches to bring Ag Awareness to our children.

Calaveras County Sheriff's Dept. - Steve Avila & Shawn Cechini

Calaveras County Nutrition Educator - Valerie Vasile

Calaveras County Ag Dept. - Kevin Wright
Calaveras County Master Gardeners

Dairy Council - Kimberlee Youman
Libby Kassik & Sandy Rader

TUCARE - Melinda Fleming & Amber

Dairy Council - Lisa Larson

4-H Council - Jennifer Goerlitz

Melissa Ratkovich

Kathy Mewhinney
Stuart Mast

Chris Thom
Randy Metzger

Lee Bergman
Rick & Pam Brady

Jim Bertrand
Tammy Blakely

Richard Lokey



Stuart Mast teaches about tractor Safety & blind spots, with his own version of a "hide & seek" game.



Kathy Mewhinney talks with a group of students about logging. She really gets the kids to interact with lots of questions.

AG DAY SUPPORTERS

In our small community we have such great support for all kinds of groups and activities. Our unsung Heroes, those people and Businesses that support us are all too often in the background without any spotlights or recognition. Our children are so blessed to have this community support.

The Calaveras County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to say thank you to the community and our members for making our yearly "Ag Education Fundraiser" a success. We would like to recognize SPI, Sierra Pacific Foundation, for their contributions. Every year SPI donates approximately 750 tree seedlings, in which every student that attends Ag Day gets to go home with one to plant in their own yard. I personally have a few of these trees in my yard, that my own kids planted and that have thrived. This year in addition to that generous donation, SPI Foundation also made a monetary contribution of \$500. The Calaveras Winegrape Alliance also made a very generous donation of \$500 towards our Ag Day expenses. Each year they participate in the Grape Stomp, and they have been donating a part of their own fundraising efforts to Ag Day for quite a few years.

We would also like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to Laurie Giannini and the staff at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds. Their partnership in providing us with a venue to host Ag Day is priceless.

The Calaveras County Farm Bureau pays for the transportation costs for the students to attend, and provides a BBQ lunch for the approximately 100 volunteers that come out and make the day a success.

If you would like to make a donation to Ag Day, you can mail your contribution to;

CCFB P.O. Box 206, Altaville, 95221 please indicate Ag Day on your check.



WORKING FOR YOU is a publication that the California Farm Bureau Federation distributes at the annual conference in December. It is a summary of items, issues and ways that Farm Bureau represents you, our member. If you would like to view it in its entirety you can go to the CFBF website: <http://www.cbf.com> It is under the About Us menu item.

CONSERVING FARMLAND

Sponsored successful legislation to make permanent a law credited with saving the Williamson Act farmland-conservation program in several counties, by providing counties with an alternative to exiting the program

MAKING OUR VOICE HEARD

Assured top California priorities were included in the 2014 Farm Bill, including funding for animal- and plant-health programs, research, marketing, food assistance and for the Air Quality Initiative, which assists farmers in paying the cost to comply with air-quality regulations.

ENHANCING WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY

Played a leading role in the coalition of business, labor and agricultural groups that encouraged California voters to pass the water bond, Proposition 1, which will lead to investments in new water storage.

STANDING UP AGAINST ONEROUS REGULATION

Opposed expansion of federal authority over farmland by seeking withdrawal of the "waters of the United States" rule proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HELPING YOU GROW AND MARKET YOUR PRODUCTS

Successfully opposed federal legislation that would have given out-of-state egg farmers an advantage over California farmers.

MANAGING PRODUCTIONS COSTS

Helped persuade the governor to veto a bill that would have effectively required an employer to implement a union contract imposed through arbitration by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, by making an appeal of such an order nearly impossible to win..

REACHING OUT

Received six American Farm Bureau Federation Awards for Excellence for outreach, policy development and member services; earned national communications awards from AFBF for Best Video Program and Best Feature Story

INCREASING THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

Partnered with California Grown to offer members a 50 percent discount on "CA Grown" branding and licensing for agricultural commodities

Where are they now...Lisa (Norfolk) Grant

Lisa (Norfolk) Grant, daughter of Doug and Lynette Norfolk, was raised on a part of her Grandfather's (Gus Hawver) ranch near San Andreas. She attended San Andreas Elementary, Toyon Middle School, and graduated with Honors from Calaveras High School in June 1999. Lisa attended Butte Junior College and California State University at Chico from which she graduated in December 2003 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture with an option in Wild land and Range Science. During her junior year of college she interned through Oregon State University's Rangeland Resources Department at the Roaring Springs Ranch in Frenchglen, Oregon. While interning she assisted with collecting data for multiple graduate and PhD projects. She also met Bill Grant, who was working for Roaring Springs Ranch, who she later married.



Lisa accepted a position as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Burns, Oregon in 2004. She was responsible for 40 livestock grazing allotments and enjoyed working with permit holders to improve the rangelands and their operations.

In September 2006, Lisa and Bill were married in Burns. In 2008, Lisa decided to take a part-time/job-share position as a riparian specialist at Burns BLM. She and Bill were also living and working on a ranch north of Burns. In March 2009 they welcomed twins, Claire and Tanner.

From 2005 through 2012, Lisa was co-project lead for the Five Creeks Rangeland Restoration Project which encompassed 75,000 acres of juniper encroached sagebrush-steppe on BLM and private rangelands. The project revolved around reducing juniper cover and improving rangeland conditions through juniper cutting, broadcast burning, pile burning, riparian plantings, and seeding treatments. This landscape level project was unprecedented due to its size and partnership efforts. Lisa and the Five Creeks Working Group received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship at the Society for Range Management's 68th annual meeting held in Sacramento in January 2015. The Working Group facilitated collaboration among 15 different cooperators including multiple private landowners, not-for-profit conservation organizations, and federal and state wildlife

and land management agencies. Their dedication to ensuring all partners were involved in the decision-making process has fostered a strong relationship between the BLM and ranchers that will make future similar projects easier to implement. The efforts of this working group served as a model for accomplishing landscape-scale rangeland restoration projects.



SRM 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship Recipients Creeks Rangeland Restoration Lisa back row, center.

In 2013, Lisa accepted the District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist position at Burns BLM. Lisa currently oversees six wild horse herd management areas covering 806,000 acres in southeast Oregon.

Lisa and Bill stay busy with their two 6 year olds who love to help their Dad at work, ride horses, swim and play. Lisa is the secretary for the Harney County Cattlewomen's Association and stays involved in the community as much as possible.

**Outstanding
Achievement
Award for
Stewardship at
the Society for
Range
Management's
68th annual
meeting held in
Sacramento in
January 2015.**



Water Wars

By Gary Sack, CFBF Field Representative

The 2015 water wars have begun. Since the State's mandatory cutbacks ranging up to 36% on many water agencies, there has been a flood of complaints from urban people who were late to become interested in the drought issue. They complained in the media that agriculture isn't sacrificing.

Farm Bureau stated that California's farmers have had multiple years of cutbacks. Surface water deliveries from government projects have been cut 60%, 80% and 100%. Environmental activists and newspapers reported that agriculture uses 80% of the state water supply for human usage. They conveniently leave out environmental use of water.

According to State of California figures, environmental uses of water consume 50% of the water, agricultural use 40%, and urban use 10%.

After the initial flood of stories, we have been successful at helping to correct the record, according to California Farm Bureau's Communication/ News Division.

As farmers and ranchers it is important to talk to your neighbors about how carefully you use water—remind them that it takes water to grow food. Food is a basic necessity. We grow more food per drop of water than most anywhere else in the world. And, you may wish to mention that while it is important to conserve, that we also must develop more water storage facilities so that your urban neighbors can grow a garden, and so that California farmers can grow food.

It was interesting; I was recently in New Mexico and speaking with a young lady about California's drought and its impact on farmers in our state. She responded by saying, "that's too bad, we need our local farmers and food produced in the U.S. so that we don't have to rely on other countries." She paused, and then she said, "Food production in the U.S. is a national security issue, too."

I was amazed at her statements, and said that she was stealing my lines. "That's what we tell people," I said. By her statements, I thought that she must have a connection to farming; she surprised me again by saying that she was a high school teacher. That 20-something- year- old woman from New Mexico has a better understanding of the value of our food supply than most people do in California—the nation's leading farm state.

The California Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted to spend up to \$50,000 if we can get at least 19 other groups to join us with \$50,000 contributions toward a \$1 million campaign to help educate California's public on the importance of water for growing food in California, and to help them better understand California's water needs. It is important that our public has a better understanding of their food and water supply. Farm Bureau is working to achieve that goal.

We are in the early stages of planning our Annual Dinner and Ag Education Fundraising Auction. Last year we asked for sponsors to help fund the event and/or donations for the live auction and door prizes. We did have some business and Ranches provide sponsorship and had the best fundraising results ever. Please keep this in mind and watch for further information for the date and details.

A note from Calaveras County Ag Commissioner

Kevin Wright



Despite the sporadic rainfall we have experienced, Calaveras County remains in category D4 (exceptional) drought as determined by the federal drought monitor. For losses experienced through December 2014, applications with USDA Farm Services Agency for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program should have been completed by January 30, 2015. This program provides aid for supplemental cattle feeding and is the program most utilized by our ranchers. The 2014 Farm Bill contained permanent livestock disaster programs that included the Livestock Forage Disaster Program. Many of you were able to utilize the provisions of the program for losses experienced in 2012 and 2013 as well as this past year.

For this year's (2015) grazing season, producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to the FSA office in Stockton by January 30, 2016. The drought monitor determines eligibility for our county and it does not take a genius to forecast that we are in for another year of exceptional drought.

Over the next few weeks I will be doing a phone survey to estimate the percent of forage that has been available to our cattle since October. This report is one criteria that FSA uses to determine eligibility for low interest loans and payments under the NAP (Noninsured Crop disaster Assistance Program). Additionally, California Emergency Management Agency asks the Ag Commissioners to submit a report to them to support their blanket requests to the USDA for drought aid for California. Ranchers who paid the premium for crop insurance in December are eligible for both LFP and NAP programs.

There is other aid available through The National Resource Conservation Service in Jackson Ca. for water well drilling and water conservation during drought under their EQIP program. It provides funds for well drilling and water conservation on a cost share basis. Farm Services Agency may also have funds available for a similar aid under the Emergency Conservation Program that will pay up to 75% of the cost to provide water. It is a good idea to talk to the folks who run these programs and familiarize yourself with the requirements and qualifications if you have not already done so. They are set up to help you survive the drought.

Phone numbers for Farm Service Agency in Stockton is 209 472-7127 x2, Jeff Torres
The National Resource Conservation Service is in Jackson 209 223-6535. Jason Linderman and Amy Rocha



NEW CALAVERAS COUNTY DISCOUNTED BENEFIT

Kamps Propane is offering special low pricing to all Calaveras County Farm Bureau Members.

We are very excited about this new benefit to our members and appreciate Ernie Burgess for bringing this offer to our board. Please call Kamps Propane for details 209-296-5544 .

**CALAVERAS
COUNTY
FARM BUREAU**

**P.O. Box 206
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About Farm Bureau

The California Farm Bureau Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing more than 57,000 agricultural, associate and collegiate members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources.

Farm Bureau is organized on a county, state and national basis-in that order. The county Farm Bureau is the nucleus of the organization. It is here that members join by payment of nominal annual dues which entitles them to the wide range of services and benefits of membership.

The policies and programs of Farm Bureau are developed from grassroots recommendations originating at the community and county Farm Bureau levels. From these recommendations, tentative policy resolutions are prepared and submitted to the CFBF House of Delegates for action at its annual meeting each December.

The House of Delegates is made up of representatives elected by members of the county Farm Bureaus. Resolutions on state matters become CFBF policy. Matters of national interest are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration. The CFBF Board of Directors determines a program of activities based on action of the House of Delegates. That program is administered by CFBF officers and staff.

This article is courtesy of CFBF.

MEMBERSHIP

BENEFITS GUIDE

Welcome New Ag Members

- **Dennis Adams**
- **Ron Beck**
- **Jim Bergantz**
- **Mary Nordstrom**
- **Nicholas Salemme**
- **Sanguinetti Cattle Ranch, LL**
- **Angela Tarbat**

New Benefits guides are available. If you have not received a new guide and would like one, please email me at crissyhuey.ccfb@yahoo.com and I will mail it to you.

Take advantage of the many benefit offers available to farm bureau members.

**Invite someone to join Farm Bureau
www.joinfb.com**