



Calaveras County Farm Bureau

Spring 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Michael David Fischer, Jr.

1st Vice President

Mindy Rasmussen

2nd Vice President

Stuart Mast

Treasurer

Lyn Norfolk

DIRECTORS

Eloise Fischer

Mark Fischer

Tim Folendorf

Daryl Giannini

Steve Kafka

Libby Rader-Kassick

Amanda Berry

Norm Hertlein,

(Honorary Director)

CCFB FIELD REP.

Gary Sack

DISTRICT 12

DIRECTOR

Joe Valente

YF&R REP.

Nick Ferrari

STAFF

Manager

Toni Ann Fischer

Media Outreach

Coordinator

Rebecca Fischer

A Letter from the CCFB President

-Michael David Fischer

As your current Farm Bureau President I wanted to give an update. October of 2015 Toni Ann Fischer was hired as our manager and Rebecca Fischer as our media outreach coordinator. We, as a board, wanted to continue the quarterly newsletter and wanted to plan ahead with some succession planning. Toni Ann took the reins of the day-to-day management and Rebecca is working on media and the newsletter, what a great team. Our newsletter continues to give you updates and keeps you informed of issues in the county, state, and national levels. Our membership has continued to grow which keeps us in fair shape financially.

California Farm Bureau Federation has not had a membership dues increase since 2004. With the loss of a \$5,000,000 agreement with State Fund and other losses of revenue, State Farm Bureau had no other choice but to bring forth a By-Law Amendment to increase

the membership dues. During the California Farm Bureau Federation's 2016 Annual Meeting, an increase to the membership dues was voted on and passed by the House of Delegates. The membership dues were raised \$25 per agriculture membership and raised an additional \$5 per year for a total of three years. This increase was a substantial amount and Calaveras County Farm Bureau had to raise our dues at a minimum of \$40 dollars to receive the same amount back to the county. After many discussions during board meetings, at the advice of the Finance Committee, the Board decided to increase our Agriculture membership from \$85 to \$140 and Associate members from \$72 to \$95. We realize this is a high increase, but this is necessary to continue the level of service California Farm Bureau Federation and Calaveras County Farm Bureau provides.

Our local County Farm Bureau has been very active for many years and as a small county farm bureau we have been *(continued on page 4)*

Table of Contents

Letter from the CCFB President.....	1
Ag Day 2017.....	2
Announcements.....	4
Antibiotic Use in Livestock.....	6

Ag Day 2017

Ag Day 2017 was warmer than it was last year, but we still had a great turn out. My niece and nephew accompanied me as I ran about, trying to get pictures of everything. Or was I accompanying them as they ran around, looking at everything they could? I think it was the latter. The goats were a favorite for my niece, and my nephew gazed longingly at Stuart Mast's bright orange tractor.

Speaking of orange, they also got to sample oranges, and jelly on crackers. So they had plenty to nibble on before lunch. My niece was so tired from running around, she fell fast asleep in her mama's arms before we even got through the lunch line! It was a busy but fun day, for all ages.

Thank you, presenters (listed to the right) who took the time to come out to the Calaveras County Fairgrounds to educate kids about the importance of agriculture. Also thanks to Rosemary Giannini for organizing the presenters and the schools. Both Bret Harte and Calaveras FFA students worked as tour guides, so thank you for helping and thanks to their teachers Jason Weatherby, Kevin Hesser, Mariah Kuntz, Carrie Phillips, and Trevor Airola for sending them out.

Also thanks to Steve Kafka, Brady DeBois, Eloise Fischer, Tim Folendorf, Lyn Norfolk, Amanda Berry, and Mark Fischer for doing the cooking.

-Rebecca Fischer

Thank You, Presenters!

Chris Thom - Bees
Lisa Larsen - Dairy Council
Debbie Powell - Master Gardener
Justice Rasmussen - Beef Production
Kevin Wright - Ag Commissioner
Stacey Landreth - Sunflower Farming
Sue Mosbacher - Jams and Jellies with the UC
Agricultural and Natural Resources
Kathryn Mewhinney - Logging
Richard Lokey - Cattle Trucking
Sue and Randy Metzger - Walnuts
Victoria Fischer - Meat Packaging
Libby Rader-Kassick - Beef Bi-Products
Mark Fischer - Cowboy Gear
Kasey Musachia - Goats and Soaps
Stuart Mast - Tractor
Chris Marcus - 4-H Council
Carolyn Lanza and Kevin Moss - Tuolumne
Resource Conservation District
Lili Jacobs - FoodCorps

For more pictures, check out our [Facebook](#) page!



Announcements

Youth Projects Benefit from Butte Fire Fund

It has been a little over a year since the Butte Fire blazed through Calaveras County. We've come a long way, but there are some who are still recovering. But thanks to a fund generously donated to us by Placer County Farm Bureau and Dan Macon, CCFB has been able to help a few youth projects for the upcoming county fair.

The first group we were able to help were the wood working projects of Mountain Ranch. The project leader Skip Sharp and the kids came to our meeting to show us what the kids had made, and to go over a list of supplies they needed replaced after they were lost to the Butte Fire.

Next, Landen Lopez from Mountain Ranch 4-H was donated money to help out with his rabbit project.

And last, but not least, Maddie and Dominic DeAngelis. Maddie is doing a photography project and some scrapbooking, and Dominic had a welding project.

Landen, Maddie, Dominic and their parents came to our March meeting to receive their checks. Look out for their projects at our upcoming county fair!



Landen Lopez and Dominic and Maddie DeAngelis proudly hold up their checks with CCFB President Michael David Fischer.

Photo by Rebecca Fischer

Continued from Page 1: Letter from the President

successful on your behalf. Your board and staff are actively engaged in many county, state and federal issues which affect all of us as producers. Each year more and more time has been spent trying to stay abreast of the issues and this has increased our needed staff time. Calaveras County Farm Bureau values your membership, our staff and board will continue to stay connected with the issues that may affect you and give updated information as to what is going on in the County, State and National level. We are a membership driven organization and as a group we can and will stay strong and our voice will be heard. This county board and the staff is dedicated and a strong advocate for agriculture. If you as a member have questions about the increase of dues, please feel free to call me at (209) 772-2830 or email me at calcofb@aol.com.

UPDATES TO CALAVERAS COUNTY PESTICIDE REGULATIONS

There are many new updates to pesticide regulations that will be taking effect soon! If you would like more information, you can call the Calaveras Agricultural Commissioner at (209) 754-6504. Or visit their website at:

<http://envhmgmt.calaverasgov.us/Agriculture/AgricultureServices.aspx>

Food Bank

As per usual, we asked for dry goods or cash donation for Santa's Express with the Resource Connection at our Annual Christmas Dinner in December.

In total, we collected 102 pounds of dry goods and \$200 in cash. Thank you all who donated!

CCFB Scholarship

Thank you to all the applicants who applied to the Calaveras County Farm Bureau Scholarship! We received 4 applicants from Calaveras High School and 3 from Bret Hart High School. We will be announcing the scholarship winners at Bret Harte on Wednesday May 24, 2017 at 6 PM and at Calaveras on Wednesday May 31, 2017, also at 6 PM.

Hey folks! We still want to hear from you! Whether it be an article or a recipe, we want to know what's going on in your neck of the woods. If you have questions about what to send, call us at (209) 772-2830 or email us at calcofb@aol.com.

Electronic Newsletter

Do you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, rather than through the mail? Let us know! We'll add you to an e-mail subscriber list.

With the electronic newsletter, you'll be emailed an interactive PDF before we post it online! So you'll get the scoop of what's happening with Calaveras County Farm Bureau a lot sooner!

E-mail us at calcofb@aol.com or call us at (209) 772-2830.

The Panhandle Fire

It wasn't that long ago when the Butte Fire burned through Calaveras County. Now, out near the Panhandle of Texas, ranchers have lost cattle, land, and a couple lives, to a raging fire. If you are interested in ways you can help, or even simply want to give a monetary donation to their cause, here are a few links below with more information:

<http://www.kla.org/donationform.aspx>

www.okcattlemen.org

<http://coloradofarmbureau.com/disasterfund/>

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/DisasterAssistance/STARFund.aspx>

Antibiotic Use in Livestock:

Explaining the Veterinary Feed Directive, GFI #209 and GFI #213

By Amanda Berry

Judicious antibiotic use in livestock has been a growing topic of conversation over the last several years. Access to effective antibiotics are critical for public health, vital for livestock and poultry production, and essential for animal well-being. With growing concern that antibiotic overuse in animals may reduce effectiveness of antibiotics in humans, several changes to antibiotics use in animals has been applied by the US Food and Drug Administration as of January 1, 2017. With these changes the FDA's goal is to promote judicious use of antibiotics, protect public health, and help curb the development of antimicrobial resistance.

FDA issued 3 documents—Guidance for Industry (GFI) #209, GFI #213, Veterinary Feed Directive—modifying the use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals. GFI #209 establishes “judicious use” principle and limits shared class antibiotics to therapeutic purposes. Basically, the key message in this document states that the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals should be limited to uses necessary to assure animal health including prevention, control, and treatment. GFI #209 also states any use of antibiotics should include veterinary oversight in feed and water use. GFI #209 phases out performance indications for certain antibiotics, still allowing therapeutic uses. All growth, nutrition, and health maintenance claims will no longer be allowed for antibiotics. Medically important antibiotics have been identified as important for human medicine and used both by animals and humans. Affected antibiotics in this class include penicilins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, pulmotil, quinolones, fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides,

“With growing concern that antibiotic overuse in animals may reduce effectiveness of antibiotics in humans, several changes to antibiotics use in animals has been applied by the US Food and Drug Administration as of January 1, 2017.”

tetracyclines, trimethoprim, oxazolidinones, sulfamethoxazole, sulfas, clindamycin, rifamycins, metronidazole, macrolides, sulfas and glycopeptides. Guidance #213 detailed the “how” component for the changes in antibiotic policy and advised companies how to revise their labeling and promotion of antibiotics. One key thing to remember is food producers are not losing all feed-grade or water soluble antibiotics, but the way we use them is changing. The key phrase to remember is “medically important” referring to drugs important to therapeutic use in humans, moving us to more judicious use of antibiotics.

Veterinary Feed Directive has been in the works for over a decade, but came into effect January 1, 2017. A Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) is a written statement that authorizes the owner or caretaker of animals to obtain and use animal feed containing VFD drugs to treat their animals in accordance with the FDA-approved directions for use. VFD's also require that any shared class antibiotics requiring a VFD must be assigned by a veterinarian and requires that the veterinarian: engage with the client to assume

“Following the new rules implemented with GFI 209, 213, and VFD gives each of us a chance to show the consumer that we are doing what is necessary to help prevent antimicrobial resistance, and be proactive and take a leading role to maintain confidence in food supply.”

responsibility for making medical judgments about animal health and the need for medical treatment. They must have sufficient knowledge of the animal by virtue of examination and/or visits to the facility where animal is managed to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s), and provide for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care.

So what does all of this mean for the farmer or rancher? Any feed containing a shared class antibiotic or medicating an animal with shared class antibiotics in water will now require veterinary oversight and prescription or VFD. GFI 209, 213 and VFD's do effect Poultry, Swine and Cattle. Antibiotic use is a public health issue. 48% of consumers feel uncomfortable about antibiotic use in animal production, 71% have serious or some concerns about conventional methods in animal rearing, and 53% frequently wonder if the food they buy is safe. Following the new rules implemented with GFI 209, 213, and VFD gives each of us a chance to show the consumer that we are doing what is necessary to help prevent antimicrobial resistance, and be proactive and take a leading role to maintain confidence in food supply. If you have any questions about how to maintain herd health, contact your veterinarian. You can also find more information at:

<http://www.feedstuffs.com/vfd-central> or
<https://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/developmentapprovalprocess/ucm449019.htm>.

Fast Facts

GFI #209

- Establishes “judicious use” principle, i.e., limit use of antibiotics on food-producing animals when medically necessary for prevention, control, and treatment.
- Should include veterinary oversight and water use.
- All growth, nutrition, and health maintenance claims will no longer be allowed for antibiotics.

GFI #213

- Details antibiotic policy changes
- Advises companies with label revision and promotion of antibiotics.

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

- Came into effect January 2017
- A written statement that authorizes animal caretakers to obtain and use VFD drugs to treat animals in accordance to FDA-approved directions for use.
- Requires VFD be assigned by a veterinarian, and requires that said veterinarian engages with client concerning medical judgement and medical need of treatment for animal.
- Veterinarian must examine animal and management facility for diagnosis, and conduct a follow-up evaluation.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

Our **Annual Dinner Meeting** will
be held on:

August 26, 2017

At the Calaveras County Fairground's Ranch House

Social Hour: 5PM

Dinner: 6 PM

Live Auction to follow

This event is our Agricultural Education Fundraiser for Ag Day,
Scholarships, and other educational opportunities..

RSVP forms will be mailed later this summer.

Hope to see you there!

