

# news

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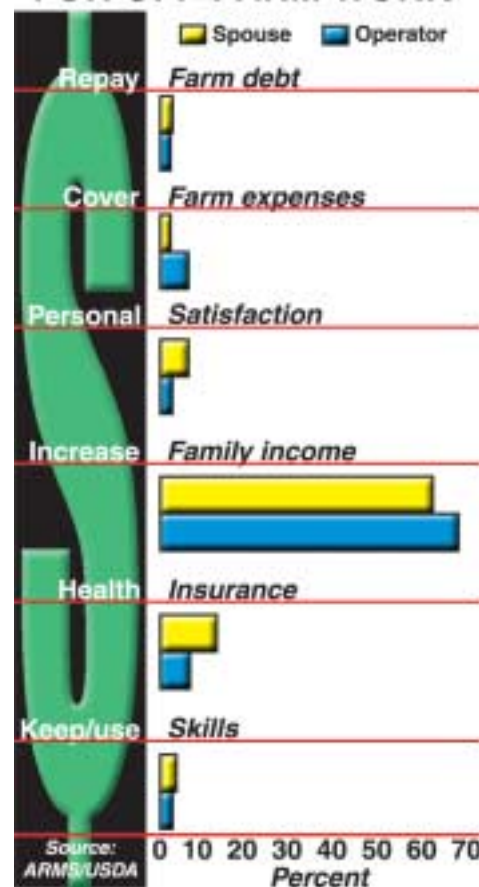
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## Corner Post

### PRIMARY REASONS FOR OFF-FARM WORK



## FB seeks aggressive renewables plan

Legislation to infuse America's fuel supply with fuels made from renewable sources has passed in the House and is being considered in Senate committees. While the provisions ultimately increase the use of renewable fuels, their implementation schedules differ.

The implementation schedule for the House renewables standard, passed as part of its energy bill (H.R. 6), requires the U.S. fuel supply to consist of 2.7 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2005, reaching 5 billion gallons by 2015. The requirement increases renewable fuels use every three years rather than every year, which Troy Bredenkamp, American Farm Bureau Federation energy specialist, said is "an absolute non-starter" because of its effect on supply and demand.

"We need certainty in the ethanol and biodiesel markets to have continual demand and avoid supply problems," Bredenkamp said, adding that the three-year implementation schedule could cause overproduction resulting in a glut of renewables.

Bredenkamp said renewable fuels supporters, which range from agricultural groups to petroleum interests, agree that the best time to join together and push for an ideal RFS would

be during the House-Senate conference on energy legislation, rather than nit-picking what has been proposed.

Before that can happen, the Senate needs to pass its version of omnibus  
*See Renewables plan, page 8*



PHOTO BY G.B. CRAWFORD, FLORIDA FARM BUREAU

### Spring harvest

It's always harvest time somewhere. In Alachua in northern Florida, brothers Tom and Buck Shaw are harvesting English peas planted in late February. Despite losing some volume to freezes and a hailstorm, the Shaws expect to harvest all 120 acres of their pea crop.

## FB: Keep up pressure to lift biotech ban

In a letter to Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the European Commission has promised that it is making progress toward lifting its moratorium on approvals of products of biotechnology.

An EC rule to require labeling and traceability of those products will result in the moratorium being lifted by this October, an EC official said. In addition, earlier this month the EC urged the 12 EU member nations that have yet to adopt an EC directive lifting the moratorium to do so soon or else face a lawsuit.

The American Farm Bureau Federation says such actions are encouraging; however, the labeling and traceability rules do not comply with World Trade Organization rules.

AFBF President Bob Stallman wrote Hastert last week, saying the United States must keep up the pressure on the EU.

"The labeling and traceability rules are more onerous to U.S. farm and food exports than the moratorium because they would also affect processed food products," Stallman wrote. "The United States must keep pressure on the EU to end the WTO-inconsistent moratorium as soon as possible with rules that are WTO consistent."

Stallman also said AFBF appreciates the positive message for biotechnology that the EC has sent to EU members who have yet to adapt their national rules to EU Directive 2001/18 (biotech approval).

"However, removal of the moratorium is still contingent on the adoption of new labeling and traceability rules that AFBF believes are not WTO consistent," he said.

Ron Gaskill, AFBF director of regulatory relations, points out that the EU has made promises in the past, which it has not kept.

"The EU has promised at least five times over the last three years that it would resume biotech approvals, and each time, it did not happen," Gaskill said. "I hope things are different this time, but we need to keep up the pressure to ensure this is not just another empty promise, and to deal with the fact that even if they do lift the moratorium, they're still not in compliance with WTO rules because of their proposed labeling and traceability requirements."

The EU has been under increased pressure in recent months to demonstrate progress toward lifting the moratorium, which has been in place since October 1998. AFBF and other agriculture groups, as well as several members of Congress, have called on the administration to challenge the moratorium in the WTO. The administration could decide late this month whether to move forward with a WTO case.

## VIEWPOINT

THE  
ag agenda

By  
**Bob Stallman**  
PRESIDENT  
American  
Farm Bureau  
Federation®

## Farm Bureau thrives through loyalty to members

Whether or not you watch much television, by now almost everyone has probably seen at least some of the “reality” shows filling up the prime time television schedule, including the one that started it all: “Survivor.”

People who have watched even one episode have witnessed contestants switch their loyalties faster than you can say, “outwit, outlast, outplay.” In this every-person-for-himself game, strategy wins out over integrity.

### A different strategy

In sharp contrast to the willy-nilly loyalty schemes “Survivor” contestants employ, your Farm Bureau operates with a much different game plan. Since its beginning more than 80 years ago, Farm Bureau’s loyalty has always been to our members. When we are engaged in the public policy arena, we judge our progress by making strides that benefit America’s farm and ranch families.

While some public policy positions are more intense and more emotional than others, we are always bound by the policies that you write. Never are those policies, or the trust you place in us, sold out for the sake of a political favor or a short-term gain.

On occasion, folks try to analyze and label our non-partisan public policy positions and actions. This is especially true when a stance we take runs counter to that of a “traditional” ally.

Some analysts try too hard to paint Farm Bureau into philosophical corners, claiming that we no longer function in the way to which they’ve grown accustomed. Upon closer examination, they would realize nothing is further from the truth. Rather than blindly follow an expedient policy course, we hold true to the policy adopted by our members. That is all that really matters and, unlike “Survivor” contestants, we will not sacrifice our principle for the sake of popularity or expediency.

### Working with all

Our goal is to work cooperatively with all political parties, all branches of government and all decision-makers to implement the policy positions approved by Farm Bureau members.

The Bush administration and our congressional leaders are valued and vital supporters of America’s farmers and ranchers. Their words and actions repeatedly prove that point. We appreciate their support, but we also appreciate their understanding when our policy positions are less than totally compliant with their legislative or policy goals. Regardless, we will continue to tread a path to their doors because we know just how important they are.

When we agree with them on an issue, we are confident that all our nation’s decision-makers know that Farm Bureau is the truest ally they can have. But they also understand that we have never supported a policy when that position was detrimental to our farm and ranch families.

For example, Farm Bureau recently took an aggressive stance to stop cuts that had been proposed in the farm program. This stance did not mean Farm Bureau was against fiscal responsibility. Rather, it was in response to a priority issue voted on and supported by the organization’s voting delegates at our 2003 annual meeting. As an organization, we held to that policy.

### Simple reality

So while others may not always understand Farm Bureau’s positions on a particular issue, it really is quite basic. Farm Bureaus across the nation have always been loyal to the foundation of our organization: our grassroots members. We attempt to establish and work with allies, whether organizations, political leaders or others, whom we feel can help us implement our policy positions.

At the end of the day, however, it is our grassroots members, the farm and ranch families we serve, who remain our focus. And, helping those grassroots members survive is Farm Bureau’s ultimate mission.

## It’s up to them next, us first

By Charles Kruse

The Missouri Farm Bureau sponsors an event each year I would love to see other organizations adopt. We are not concerned if others get credit for an event we created—our goal is not to get recognition.

Instead, our goal is to help instill a sense of civic responsibility in young people who will soon be responsible for the future health of our system of government. The Missouri Farm Bureau feels it is vital to help our youth understand our system of government and how it works, and we do so by providing education beyond the classroom.

Each April for the past seven years, we sponsor an event called Youth Leadership Day, an event that evolved from our previous youth civic responsibility effort called the Missouri Freedom Forum, which was initiated in 1962.

County Farm Bureau leaders sponsor local high school juniors and seniors to attend Youth Leadership Day, and provide chaperones and transportation from their county to attend the event in Jefferson City.

This year, nearly 350 high school youth and their sponsors came to the state’s capital city from all around Missouri.

It is truly uplifting to see the enthusiasm and interest expressed in civic responsibility by the young people attending Youth Leadership Day. They spent the day learning about state government, but not sitting in a classroom listening to a lecture—they learned by first-hand experience.

The young people filled the galleries of the House and Senate chambers while the Missouri General Assembly was in session. They had the opportunity to see and hear legislators as they debated bills and amendments.

Students were introduced on the floor in both chambers; they went to the offices of their own state represen-

tatives and state senators to talk with them about lawmaking; and they heard from civics experts.

Whether or not our efforts will encourage them all to become responsible citizens who are involved in their system of government will never be known—but we must try. There is a lot of voter apathy in America, and this should be a great concern for everyone who enjoys the freedom and rights we have.

This is not about Democrat or Republican. This is about governing those who govern us. We think of ourselves as a democracy, but America is actually a republic—a system of government where the people are governed by those they elect to represent them.

If we do not understand our system of government or the issues our government addresses, and if we fail to vote for those who will best represent

us, we forfeit control of the future direction of government at the local, state and federal levels.

We in Farm Bureau feel we cannot sit on the sidelines and watch one of the most successful forms of government evolve into a

system where the people have no say. Americans have the unique right to determine how we are governed, and we will fight to the death to protect that right. Unfortunately, many of us are willing to give that right away.

We teach our youth in many ways. We send them to public and private schools for 12 years of their lives, and many continue their education at the collegiate level. Yet one of the most effective ways for adults to teach youth is by example. If all they perceive from that example is negative and apathetic, they will learn negative and apathetic.

If it is going to be up to them next, it is up to us first.

Charles Kruse, a fourth-generation farmer from Dexter, Mo., is the president of the Missouri Farm Bureau.

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## Farm Bureau news

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## Stable trade likely to come with a more stable Iraq

The war in Iraq could result in increased stability to an often turbulent region. With stability comes the potential to resume trade relationships with countries throughout the Middle East.

Because of sanctions imposed against Iraq after the first Gulf War in 1991, exports of agricultural products were restricted to only those that fell under the United Nations oil-for-food program.

"Clearly, Iraq can be a market for wheat, pulses, corn, rice, planting seeds and breakfast cereals from the United States as it has been in the recent past," said John Skorburg, American Farm Bureau Federation senior economist. While U.S. exports to Iraq totaled just \$21,000 in 2002, Skorburg said that Iraq is a potential \$115 million market for U.S. farm commodities "in the near future."

*"This export figure has been rather flat since 1998, but with a regime change in Iraq and more regional stability, the future should indeed be brighter."*

Industry groups report that prior to the first Gulf War, Iraq imported about 1 million tons of U.S. wheat per year, was among the top 10 importers of U.S. peas and lentils and was the top importer of U.S. rice back in 1989.

The Agriculture Department's Foreign Agricultural Service reports U.S. agricultural exports to all countries in the Middle East totaled \$3.6 billion in 2002, only a slight rise over the \$3.5 billion in 1998.

"This export figure has been rather flat since 1998, but with a regime

change in Iraq and more regional stability, the future should indeed be brighter," Skorburg said. Countries in the region include those in southwest Asia west of Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as Egypt, Sudan and Cyprus.

"A more stable Iraq can help stabilize the entire region," Skorburg said. "The United States will still face export competition into the region from Europe and Australia mainly because of transportation advantages, but even under such assumptions, U.S. agricultural exports can easily exceed \$4 billion a

year consistently into the future."

Meanwhile, farmers in Iraq are concerned with getting this year's spring crop harvested after the recent military action there. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) earlier this month said Iraqi farmers are in need of spare parts and fuel in order to harvest their wheat and barley crops, which should total about 1.7 million tons, roughly the same as last year.

"This would cover nearly 30 percent of Iraq's overall cereal requirements for the period July 2003-June 2004," said Laurent Thomas, chief of the FAO emergency programs service. "A successful harvest would definitely improve access to food and could help stimulate the rural economy." Thomas added that Iraq always relies on substantial cereal imports even in good harvest years.

## WTO dispute settlement works, most of the time

The United States has won the majority of agriculture-related trade disputes it has taken against other countries' trade practices in the World Trade Organization, improving global market access for many U.S. agricultural products.

The United States has prevailed in 57 percent of the cases it has pursued on behalf of U.S. producers of beef, dairy, fruits, grains and other commodities, according to a *Farm Bureau News* analysis of disputes dating back to 1995, when the disputes settlement system began.

In addition, the United States has lost a mere 8 percent of agriculture-related cases brought against it by other WTO member countries, despite the fact that countries tend to pursue only the cases they believe they can easily win. A full 62 percent of cases brought against the United States are pending, and some have been inactive for years. For example, a case that Argentina brought against the United States' tariff rate quota on peanut imports has been pending since January 1998.

Even though the United States' record of wins is enviable, some lawmakers have called for a review of all WTO cases in response to a handful of high-profile cases that the United States has lost. Sens. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) have introduced a bill (S. 676) that would create a commission to review all WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) decisions and determine whether they go beyond the rights and obligations in existing trade agreements.

Overall, the United States has a WTO disputes record to be proud of, said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman.

"Our record shows that the United States market is already very open and the WTO dispute settlement process, though not perfect, works most of the time," he said. "Still, we would like to see improvements to that process as part of the current round of WTO negotiations."

WTO member countries have had the last eight years to put each others' trade practices on trial and think of ways to make the dis-

pute settlement system work better. Now, the suggestion box is open because trade ministers agreed in November 2001 to negotiate clarification and improvement of the system. Those negotiations are supposed to be completed next month.

As part of the negotiations, the United States and Chile have submitted a proposal that they said would give parties to a dispute more control over the process. Their proposal would

also provide greater flexibility, they said, to settle disputes even after a panel has started meeting, collecting arguments and assessing conformance with trade laws.

Parties to a dispute currently can see and comment on a draft panel report before it becomes final, but do not have that same right at the appeal

stage. Under the U.S.-Chile proposal, countries involved in the dispute would also be able to see and comment on Appellate Body reports before they become final. The change would give the parties one more chance to clarify the facts before it's too late, said the office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

that hinder settlement or do not accurately reflect their obligations. One of the biggest proposed changes would allow countries to request a suspension in the proceedings after they have already begun, so they can try again to work out their differences.

"The purpose of the system is to settle disputes, and these proposals will help do that," said U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick last December, when the proposal was submitted to the WTO.

Other proposed changes would ensure that members of a dispute settlement panel have some expertise concerning the particular issues involved in a case, and provide guidance to help panels and the Appellate Body understand the appropriate scope of their work.

Under the current system administered by the DSB, a WTO member country may request consultations with other countries concerning their actions that may violate WTO rules. If the countries cannot settle the dispute within 60 days, the country that requested consultations can ask the DSB to establish a panel to assess the matters involved and report its findings. The DSB then makes recommendations for resolving the dispute or rules on whether a practice is inconsistent with the relevant trade agreements.

During the panel's review, countries may submit arguments and rebuttals, and may comment on the panel's interim report. Within 60 days of the panel's final report, a party to the dispute may appeal the findings. If the case is appealed, the DSB holds off on its decision until the seven-person Appellate Body considers the case and issues its own report.

U.S. report card				
	Won	Settled	Lost	Pending or inactive
Cases the U.S. has brought against other countries	57 percent (12 of 21 cases)	10 percent (2 of 21 cases)	0	33 percent (7 of 21 cases)
Cases other countries have brought against the U.S.	0	8 percent (1 of 13 cases)	23 percent (3 of 13 cases)	62 percent (8 of 13 cases)

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The United States and Chile also propose letting countries reject specific parts of a dispute settlement panel's report, rather than having to take it or leave it entirely as is currently required. Countries could reject portions



## Wetlands postcards campaign mostly a success

Thousands of farmers and ranchers recently sent postcards to the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but instead of saying, "Wish you were here," they said, in effect, "Wish you would bring your wetlands regulations into line with the law."

The American Farm Bureau Federation campaign generated about 3,500 farmer comments concerning the federal government's jurisdiction over wetlands. But, the agencies received more than 115,000 comments overall.

"We were successful at generating a large number of comments," said Don Parrish, AFBF senior director of regulatory relations. "However, our comments were unfortunately overwhelmed by a huge number of 'form' comments by those on the other side of this argument, urging the government not to change its rules."

Still, the number of comments by Farm Bureau members probably would not have happened without the postcard campaign, and Parrish said every farm-friendly comment helps.

AFBF distributed the postcards to Farm Bureau members attending meet-

ings in Washington over the last three months. "Any time two or more were gathered," Parrish said, "we got this into their hands."

The campaign arose from a Supreme Court decision in January, in which the majority ruled that EPA and the Corps of Engineers had overstepped their authority to regulate wetlands under the Clean Water Act. Instead of limiting their jurisdiction to waters with a clear connection to navigability, as the law requires, the agencies' rules exposed thousands of isolated wetlands on farmland to federal regulation.

The Supreme Court decision created an opportunity to have the agencies develop new rules that adhere to the original intent of the law and impose less of a burden on farmers and ranchers. The agencies announced their intention to do just that when they published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in January. They accepted public comments on the notice until April 16.

"Unlike some other issues, this one was really clear cut," said Parrish. "People were either for limiting the govern-

ment's regulatory authority over wetlands, or not. So it generated strong views on both sides. In the end, we just hope the agencies do the right thing."

AFBF made clear that it believes the right thing is for the agencies to develop new regulations that limit their jurisdiction to navigable waters or waters in very close proximity to navigable waters. In addition to organizing the postcard campaign, AFBF submitted its own detailed comments.

"The type of land-use restriction placed on farmers and ranchers by such an expansive regulatory interpretation of the CWA is far beyond what Congress intended, at best creating uncertainties about permissible conduct and at worst exposing farmers and ranchers pursuing routine farming activities to substantial penalties," Dick Newpher, AFBF executive director of public policy, wrote of the agencies' existing regulations. "AFBF urges the administration to move forward with a rulemaking to define the jurisdictional limits of the CWA...."

AFBF also joined a coalition of eight other groups in sending comprehen-

sive comments on the proposed rulemaking. The coalition comments are about five inches thick and include case studies and analyses.

"Our comprehensive comments, combined with the postcard campaign, was a full-court press," said Parrish. "I think we did everything we could, and now we have to just wait and see what the administration does."

Other organizations, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club, want the agencies to keep the existing rules, even though the Supreme Court determined they are outside what the law dictates. They made emotional appeals on their Web sites to get the public to send in comments to "save wetlands."

"Some folks want to make it look like wetlands will not be protected if the administration goes forward with a new rule," Parrish said. "That is just wrong. Under federal incentive-based conservation programs, farmers and other landowners are voluntarily protecting an estimated 20 million acres of wetlands. All of that would continue and possibly even grow if the agencies clarify their authority."

## Drought brings water wars to southern states

The Georgia Farm Bureau Federation is supporting a bill in the state legislature that would require Georgia farmers who have the potential to use large volumes of water from the Flint River to get permits and install meters on their well pumps to measure their water usage.

GFB isn't trying to make things difficult for farmers. It is trying to lay the foundation to defend its water usage in the future.

Most people associate water wars with the arid West, but farmers in southwest Georgia are engaged in their own fight for agricultural irrigation water.

"We usually have all the water we need here," explained Jon Huffmaster of GFB. "It's not like out West, where water shortages are common."

Still, a long-running disagreement between Georgia, Florida and Alabama over water usage and "minimum flows" has heated up in the last couple of years.

The Flint River flows south from Atlanta until it reaches the Florida border, where it merges with the Chatta-

hoochee from Alabama. Both rivers flow into the Apalachicola at the Florida line, eventually turning into the Apalachicola Bay.

During most years, there is enough

water in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basin for all uses, including municipal, agricultural, fishing, wildlife habitat and industrial. But in 2000, when the southern United

States experienced a severe drought, leaders in all three states began to worry that there might not be enough water to go around, and the conflict over each state's usage intensified.

The biggest conflict exists between Georgia and Florida. Georgia wants to use as much water from the Flint as it needs for bustling Atlanta and its suburbs and for farms along the way as the river makes its trip south. Florida wants Georgia to guarantee a minimum of water that it will send to Florida for commercial fishing, recreation and wildlife habitat.

If Georgia agrees to send more water to Florida, Georgia may have to set limits on usage, and Georgia's farmers would need to prove their need for irrigation water. Without measuring current agricultural usage, it would be hard to demonstrate that need.

"Florida has been measuring its water use for years," said Huffmaster. "Not having that data for Georgia puts us at a disadvantage."

The Georgia legislature is expected to pass the bill soon.





## Water availability is a major worldwide concern

**H**aving enough water to go around is not only a problem for the United States. A new report from the United Nations found that worldwide water resources will continue to decline.

"No region will be spared from the impact of this [water] crisis that touches every facet of life, from the health of children to the ability of nations to secure food for their citizens," said Koïchiro Matsuura, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. "Water supplies are falling while the demand is dramatically growing at an unsustainable rate."

Describing the outlook for agriculture as "cautiously optimistic," the report pointed out that "towards 2050, the world could enjoy access to food for all."

Irrigation is an important component in raising crops, and according to the study, presently accounts for 70 percent of all water withdrawals. New calculations presented in the report suggest that by 2030, an additional 111 million acres will be irrigated in developing countries where most of the population growth is occurring. Irrigation water will have to be increased by 14 percent, the report said. Of the 170 countries and territories

surveyed, 20 are currently using more than 40 percent of their renewable water on irrigation, which the report said is "a threshold used to flag the level at which countries are forced to make difficult choices between their agricultural and urban water supply sectors."

The study found that efficiency in irrigation water use is expected to improve through better technology and irrigation water management practices.

Irrigation can also serve as an indicator of economic condition. For example, the report found that in India, 69 percent of people in non-irrigated areas are poor, while in irrigated areas,

that number falls to 26 percent. "There is a strong positive link between investment in irrigation, poverty alleviation and food security," the report said.

The report, *Water for People, Water for Life—UN World Water Development Report*, was a collaboration among 23 UN agencies to produce the most comprehensive and up-to-date report on the state of the world's freshwater resources. It was released last month during the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan.

*On the Net:* <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/index.shtml>.

## Less water equals more problems in the West

**W**hile a snowy and rainy winter helped most states along the East Coast break out of a five-year drought, other parts of the country still do not have enough water to go around.

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, water levels have risen in the West due to several storms throughout the month of March. But since the fall and winter months were so dry, spring and summer water supply forecasts for most basins still range between 50 percent and 89 percent of average.

Demand for water remains constant regardless of its availability, prompting conflicts over who gets how much and for how long.

A plan to divert water from farmers in California's Imperial Valley to residents of San Diego set rural interests against urban ones. In order to reduce California's overuse of water from the Colorado River, the plan called for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to sell part of its allocation to San Diego.

Failure to reach an agreement prompted the Interior Department in January to reduce the amount of water to the IID by 330,400 acre-feet. Farmers in the Imperial Valley depend on that water for their crops.

A district court judge late last month granted a preliminary injunction, sought by IID, that gives the water back to the valley's farmers and residents. The judge ruled that the Interior Department violated its own procedures when reducing the amount of water for the Imperial Valley. The de-

partment is to conduct a beneficial use analysis to re-evaluate its decision to reduce irrigation water in the valley and determine whether the water is being wasted. Results of the analysis are expected in October.

Since animals also depend on water, their needs come into play when deciding how much water should go to certain areas.

A well-publicized dispute could repeat this summer, as the Klamath River watershed, on the Oregon-California border, has received about half of its average winter snowfall. But on

the bright side, recent rains filled Klamath Lake and saturated agricultural lands.

Drought conditions prompted a 2001 decision by the federal government to reduce the amount of irrigation water released to farmers in order to protect threatened salmon and suckerfish.

The decision pitted farmers against fishermen and environmental groups. After farmers protested, the government decided to give water back to farmers and lower the levels of the Klamath River. But later that year, an estimated 33,000 salmon died.

A federal court hearing is scheduled for April 29 to decide if the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages flows in the Klamath basin, should continue diverting water for agricultural use or release more for the threatened fish.

Water disputes also spill over U.S. borders, as is the case with the agreement between the United States and Mexico that dates back almost 60 years.

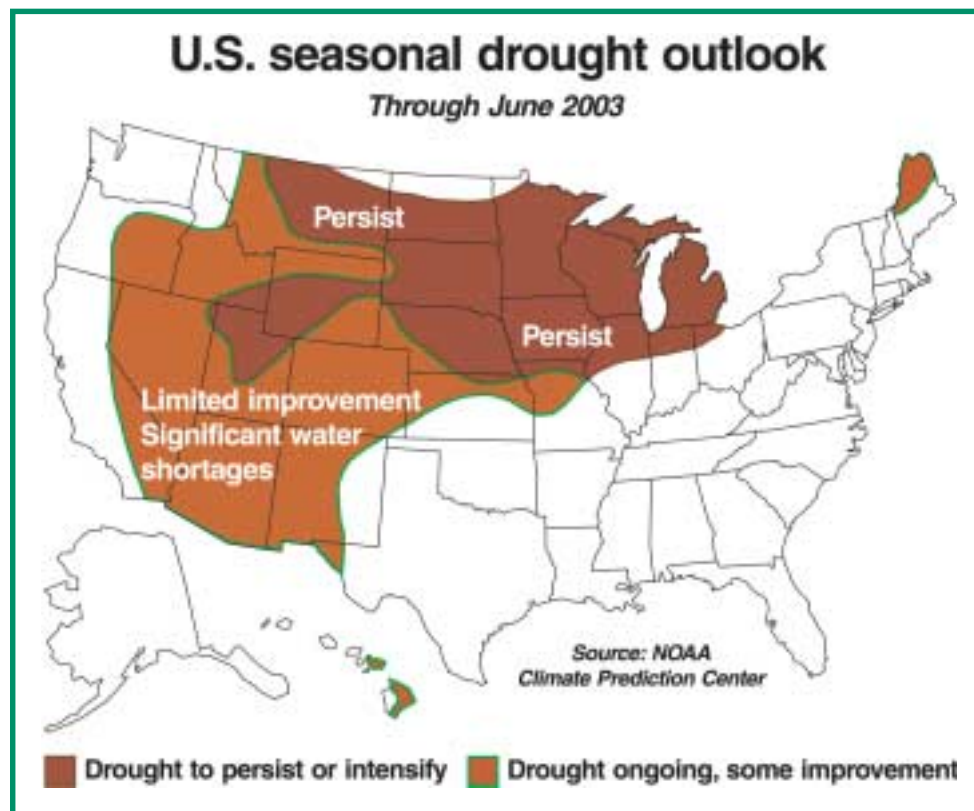
Mexico owes the United States more than 1.4 million acre-feet of water under the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty.

Under the treaty, Mexico must release 350,000 acre-feet of water into the Rio Grande annually, and the United States must allow 1.5 million-acre-feet of water to flow into Mexico from the Colorado River. The United States has held up its end of the deal, while Mexico has not.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman was close to the long-standing dispute during his term as president of the Texas Farm Bureau. "Mexico has no real system to control and restrict its water use, which creates a regulation problem," Stallman said. "Recurring drought, coupled with population growth, has exacerbated the problem."

According to a Texas A&M University study, Mexico's water debt to the United States has cost the Lower Rio Grande Valley economy an estimated \$1 billion over the past 10 years.

As the long, hot summer months draw near, the battles over water are sure to continue.



## CAPITAL UPDATE

## EPA calls for reduced diesel emissions

The Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed that non-road diesel engines, including tractors and construction equipment, reduce emissions more than 90 percent by 2014. The proposal also calls for diesel fuel to contain 99 percent less sulfur by 2010.

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman said the proposal would "dramatically reduce harmful emissions," noting that the agriculture and construction industries account for more than 80 percent of the total emissions from heavy diesel equipment. "Non-road diesel engines are a major source of mobile emissions that up until this point have been virtually unregulated," Whitman said.

The proposal would reduce emissions of soot, or particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides from existing engines by more than 90 percent and incorporate emission control systems into non-road equipment. The rules would take effect for new engines starting as early as 2008 and be fully phased in by 2014.

EPA also proposed that the sulfur content in diesel be phased down from 3,400 parts-per-million (ppm) to 500 ppm by 2007, and finally 15 ppm in 2010—a 99 percent reduction.

"Coupled with the 2007 diesel rule for highway trucks and our school bus retrofit program, these actions will be the most far-reaching diesel programs in the world today," Whitman said.

EPA estimates that by 2030, the diesel program would annually prevent 9,600 premature deaths, 8,300 hospitalizations and nearly 1 million workdays lost due to illness.

While the American Farm Bureau Federation supports programs to improve air quality, Rebeckah Freeman, AFBF environmental specialist, said Farm Bureau is concerned about some aspects of the proposal and their potential to be financially burdensome for farmers and ranchers. These concerns include whether old engines would need to be replaced or if new standards would drive up the cost of diesel fuel.

However, a potential benefit from the proposal could be an increase in the use of soybean-derived biodiesel, which does not contain sulfur, Freeman said.

After further review, AFBF will submit comments to EPA on the proposal. The comment period closes Aug. 20.

## Labor official wants to help farmers

Tammy McCutchen, director of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division, wants to refocus the division's attention toward encouraging voluntary compliance with labor laws and away from fines and penalties.

McCutchen's division, which enforces the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) and other labor laws, will continue meting out fines and penalties for severe violations. But McCutchen wants the division to concentrate the bulk of its resources on helping agricultural employers understand the law, voluntarily comply and avoid having to pay fines.

"There hasn't always been a wonderful relationship between the farming community and Wage and Hour, but I'm trying to change that," McCutchen said. "Our mission of protecting farm workers is best served by having a cooperative relationship with farmers, not playing 'gotcha.'"

McCutchen, a Bush administration appointee, comes to the job armed with an understanding of some of the farmer's challenges. She grew up in Cambridge, Ill., a small agricultural town, where her grandparents raise corn, soybeans and hogs. Growing up in farm country brings an agricultural perspective, she said.

She also understands how difficult it can be for farmers to make heads or tails out of the MSPA and other labor laws, because she had to become familiar with those laws herself.

McCutchen admitted, "I had to do a little bit of learning when I got here and the rules are really complex. I feel that it is my responsibility to help farmers and tell them what they need to do to comply."

While most other types of employers only have to deal with the Fair Labor Standards Act, farmers have to comply with that law as well as the MSPA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration field sanitation and housing requirements, and immigration laws.

One of the first things McCutchen likes to do is point out the good news about farmers' compliance with labor laws. Last year, 61 percent of the farms visited by Wage and Hour investigators were in compliance with paperwork and disclosure rules, 91 percent were in compliance with wage rules, 74 percent with housing standards, 85 percent with transportation rules and 98 percent with child labor laws.

Based on that data, McCutchen decided to refocus the division's resources. Now, rather than just targeting specific crops, her office is looking at all kinds of farms that hire laborers, and looking especially for the types of violations that are more likely to lead to serious injuries and deaths, such as substandard housing and transportation. As a result, some farmers who haven't

*"There hasn't always been a wonderful relationship between the farming community and Wage and Hour, but I'm trying to change that. Our mission of protecting farm workers is best served by having a cooperative relationship with farmers, not playing 'gotcha.'"*

• Tammy McCutchen

been visited before may have Wage and Hour investigators knocking on their doors. But investigators will not keep nagging the same farms that are already in compliance.

McCutchen has also instructed Wage and Hour employees to begin their initiatives with compliance assistance, not enforcement. They are notifying farmers when their areas are targeted for an initiative, rather than trying to catch them off guard. And they are encouraging farmers to contact the Labor Department, Farm Bureau and other farm associations to learn about seminars and training available to help them come into compliance before investigations begin.

"Our goal is to help workers by improving compliance," she explained. "It's not a matter of how much money we can collect or how many fines we can impose."

The division is revising its field operations handbook, which McCutchen

said had not been updated in a couple of decades, and putting all the investigators through a new round of training focused on compliance assistance.

In addition, McCutchen said the division is making a big effort to do speeches and seminars for ag employers. Last year, her office participated in more than 60 conferences and seminars and provided on-site training for three major employers, and she hopes to up that number this year.

McCutchen said one of the best ways farmers can help themselves is by cooperating with investigators. "They're much less likely to get a serious fine if they come forward and cooperate with us, because we do have some discretion on the size of the fines," she said. "In housing and transportation, for example, there are a lot of violations that aren't very serious. Our investigators will say, 'OK, listen, you need to fix that screen door,' and then that's it. So you can help yourself and decrease the amount of time that we're going to take on your farm and ensure that any fines are as low as they can be by working cooperatively and professionally with the investigators."

She added that if investigators do not behave professionally on the farm, "you need to call somebody and report that, and we'll take care of it."

McCutchen said another way farmers can help themselves is by getting into compliance by the time the division begins a national compliance survey in June 2004. "The results of that survey will help focus and drive where we're going to be spending our energy and resources in the ag industry for the next four or five years," she said, "so I encourage everybody to do their best to get into compliance by the time we're out there doing this survey." The final report will be out in September 2005.

### Labor's 2003 enforcement plan

**Northeast:** Connecticut, Rhode Island—all crops (T); Maryland, Virginia—tomatoes (H, D); Maryland, Delaware—melons (D, T); New Hampshire, Maine—all crops (H, T); New Jersey—blueberries, peppers (H, T); New York—nurseries (H); Pennsylvania—mushrooms, apples (H, T); and Virginia—cabbage (H).

**Southeast:** Alabama—peaches (H, T); Georgia—tomatoes (H, T); Florida—all crops (H, T); Florida—melons (H, T); Florida—nurseries (H, T); North Carolina—sweet potatoes (H, T); Tennessee—nurseries (H, T); and South Carolina—tobacco (H, T).

**Southwest:** Arkansas—tomatoes (H, T); Arkansas—peaches (H, T); Louisiana—cotton, sugar, strawberries (H); New Mexico—all crops (H, T); Texas—all crops (H, T); and Utah—sheepherders (H2A).

**Midwest:** Illinois—all crops (H, T); Indiana—melons (H, T); Michigan—packers/processors (H); and Ohio—all crops (H, T).

**West:** Arizona—melons (H); Arizona—all crops (T); California—all crops (H, T); California—onions (H, T); California—grapes (H); California—strawberries (H, T); Washington—asparagus (W, H, T); and Washington—apples (W, H, T).

\* All include child labor

Key: H = housing; T = transportation; W = wages; D = disclosure

FOR THE RECORD

Roll Call

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

House votes on energy policy

April 10, 2003

The House defeated, 197-228, an amendment to strike the provision in the energy bill (H.R. 6) that would allow oil and gas exploration, development and production in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The amendment was sponsored by Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.).

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports the opening of ANWR to environmentally sound exploration and production of oil and gas, as instability of current energy prices negatively affects agricultural production. American agriculture is expected to spend from \$1 billion to \$2 billion more this year than last on fuel and natural gas to complete the planting season.

The ANWR provision's survival in the House was especially important because the Senate energy bill is less likely to include such a provision.

Farm Bureau favored a "nay" (N) vote.

April 11, 2003

The House approved, 247-175, the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (H.R. 6). The legislation includes a renewable fuels standard to increase the use of ethanol and biodiesel and permits oil and gas exploration, development and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) of Alaska.

The renewable fuels provision of the omnibus energy package requires the U.S. fuel supply to consist of 2.7 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2005, reaching 5 billion gallons by 2015.

The bill also contains \$18.7 billion in tax breaks and other incentives, \$6.7 billion of which is for promotion of alternative fuels and energy conservation.

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports a balanced national energy agenda that contains renewable energy allowances and a significant increase in the domestic production of oil and gas supplies to help meet the energy needs of America's growing economy and population, all while providing a more reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy supply.

Farm Bureau favored a "yea" (Y) vote.

LEGEND: Y,y — yea N,n — nay ? — not voting S — Speaker

Table with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Hastings (D), Feeney (R), Diaz-Balart (R).

Table for Georgia with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Kingston (R), Bishop (D), Marshall (D), Majette (D), Lewis (D), Isakson (R), Linder (R), Collins (R), Norwood (R), Deal (R), Gingrey (R), Burns (R), Scott (D).

Table for Hawaii with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Abercrombie (D), Case (D).

Table for Idaho with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Otter (R), Simpson (R).

Table for Illinois with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Rush (D), Jackson (D), Lipinski (D), Gutierrez (D), Emanuel (D), Hyde (R), Davis (D), Crane (R), Schakowsky (D), Kirk (R), Weller (R), Costello (D), Biggart (R), Hastert (R), Johnson (R), Manzullo (R), Evans (D), Lahood (R), Shimkus (R).

Table for Indiana with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Visclosky (D), Chocola (R), Souder (R), Buyer (R), Burton (R), Pence (R), Carson (D), Hostettler (R), Hill (D).

Table for Iowa with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Nussle (R), Leach (R), Boswell (D), Latham (R), King (R).

Table for Kansas with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Moran (R), Ryun (R), Moore (D), Tiahrt (R).

Table for Kentucky with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Whitfield (R), Lewis (R), Northup (R), Lucas (D), Rogers (R), Fletcher (R).

Table for Louisiana with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Vitter (R), Jefferson (D), Tauzin (R), McCrery (R), Alexander (D), Baker (R), John (D).

Table for Maine with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Allen (D), Michaud (D).

Table for Maryland with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Gilchrest (R), Ruppertsberger (R), Cardin (D), Wynn (D), Hoyer (D), Bartlett (R), Cummings (D), Van Hollen (D).

Table for Massachusetts with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Olver (D), Neal (D), McGovern (D), Frank (D), Meehan (D), Tierney (D), Markey (D), Capuano (D), Lynch (D), Delahunt (D).

Table for Michigan with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Stupak (D), Hoekstra (R), Ehlers (R), Camp (R), Kildee (D), Upton (R), Smith (R), Rogers (R), Knollenberg (R), Miller (R), McCotter (R), Levin (D), Kilpatrick (D), Conyers (D), Dingell (D).

Table for Minnesota with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Gutknecht (R), Kline (R), Ramstad (R), McCollum (D), Sabo (D), Kennedy (R), Peterson (D), Oberstar (D).

Table for Mississippi with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Wicker (R), Thompson (D), Pickering (R), Taylor (D).

Table for Missouri with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Clay (D), Akin (R), Gephardt (D), Skelton (D), McCarthy (D), Graves (R), Blunt (R), Emerson (R), Hulshof (R).

Table for Montana with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Rehberg (R).

Table for Nebraska with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Bereuter (R), Terry (R), Osborne (R).

Table for Nevada with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Berkeley (D), Gibbons (R), Porter (R).

Table for New Hampshire with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Bradley (R), Bass (R).

Table for New Jersey with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Andrews (D), Lobiondo (R), Saxton (R), Smith (R), Garrett (R), Pallone (D), Ferguson (R), Pascarella (D), Rothman (D), Payne (D), Frelinghuysen (R), Holt (D), Menendez (D).

Table for New Mexico with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Wilson (R), Pearce (R), Udall (D).

Table for New York with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Bishop (D), Israel (D), King (R), McCarthy (D), Ackerman (D), Meeks (D), Crowley (D), Nadler (D).

Table for North Carolina with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Ballance (D), Etheridge (D), Jones (R), Price (D), Burr (R), Coble (R), McIntyre (D), Hayes (R), Myrick (R), Ballenger (R), Taylor (R), Watt (D), Miller (D).

Table for North Dakota with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Pomeroy (D).

Table for Ohio with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Chabot (R), Portman (R), Turner (R), Oxley (R), Gillmor (R), Strickland (D), Hobson (R), Boehner (R), Kaptur (D), Kucinich (D), Jones (D), Tiberi (R), Brown (D), Latourette (R), Pryce (R), Regula (R), Ryan (D), Ney (R).

Table for Oklahoma with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Sullivan (R), Carson (D), Lucas (R), Cole (R), Istook (R).

Table for Oregon with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Wu (D), Walden (R), Blumenauer (D), Defazio (D), Hooley (D).

Table for Pennsylvania with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Brady (D), Fattah (D), English (R), Hart (R), Peterson (R), Gerlach (R), Weldon (R), Greenwood (R), Shuster (R), Sherwood (R), Kanjorski (D), Murtha (D), Hoeffel (D), Doyle (D), Toomey (R), Pitts (R), Holden (D), Murphy (R), Platts (R).

Table for Rhode Island with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Kennedy (D), Langevin (D).

Table for South Carolina with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Brown (R), Wilson (R).

Table for South Dakota with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Janklow (R).

Table for Tennessee with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Jenkins (R), Duncan (R), Wamp (R), Davis (D), Cooper (D), Gordon (D), Blackburn (R), Tanner (D), Ford (D).

Table for Texas with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Sandlin (D), Turner (D), Johnson, S. (R), Hall (D), Hensarling (R), Barton (R), Culberson (R), Brady (R), Lampson (D), Doggett (D), Edwards (R), Granger (R), Thornberry (R), Paul (R), Hinojosa (D), Reyes (D), Stenholm (D), Jackson-Lee (D), Combest (R), Gonzalez (D), Smith (R), Delay (R), Bonilla (R), Frost (D), Bell (D), Burgess (R), Ortiz (D), Rodriguez (D), Green (D), Johnson, E. (D), Carter (R), Sessions (R).

Table for Utah with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Bishop (R), Matheson (D), Cannon (R).

Table for Vermont with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Sanders (I).

Table for Virginia with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Davis, J. (R), Schrock (R), Scott (D), Forbes (R), Goode (R), Goodlatte (R), Cantor (R), Moran (D), Boucher (D), Wolf (R), Davis, T. (R).

Table for Washington with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Insee (D), Larsen (D), Baird (D), Hastings (R), Nethercutt (R), Dicks (D), McDermott (D), Dunn (R), Smith (D).

Table for West Virginia with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Mollohan (D), Capito (R), Rahall (D).

Table for Wisconsin with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Ryan (R), Baldwin (D), Kind (D), Kleczka (D), Sensenbrenner (R), Petri (R), Obey (D), Green (R).

Table for Wyoming with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Cubin (R).

Table for Alabama with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Bonner (R), Everett (R), Rogers (R), Aderholt (R), Cramer (D), Bachus (R), Davis (D).

Table for Alaska with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Young (R).

Table for Arizona with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Renzi (R), Franks (R), Shadegg (R), Pastor (D), Hayworth (R), Flake (R), Grijalva (D), Kolbe (R).

Table for Arkansas with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Berry (D), Snyder (D), Boozman (R), Ross (D).

Table for California with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Thompson (D), Heger (R), Ose (R), Doolittle (R), Matsui (D), Woolsey (D), Miller (D), Pelosi (D), Lee (D), Tauscher (D), Pombo (R), Lantos (D), Stark (D).

Table for Colorado with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Degette (D), Udall (D), McClinnis (R), Musgrave (R), Hefley (R), Tancredo (R), Beauprez (R).

Table for Connecticut with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Larson (D), Simmons (R), Delauro (D), Shays (R), Johnson (R).

Table for Delaware with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entry for Castle (R).

Table for Florida with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Miller (R), Boyd (D), Brown (D), Crenshaw (R), Brown-Waite (R), Stearns (R), Mica (R), Keller (R), Bilirakis (R), Young (R), Davis (D), Putnam (R), Harris (R), Goss (R), Weldon (R), Foley (R), Meek (D), Ros-Lehtinen (R), Wexler (D), Deutsch (D), Diaz-Balart (R), Shaw (R).

Table for Georgia with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Kingston (R), Bishop (D), Marshall (D), Majette (D), Lewis (D), Isakson (R), Linder (R), Collins (R), Norwood (R), Deal (R), Gingrey (R), Burns (R), Scott (D).

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Table for Louisiana with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Vitter (R), Jefferson (D), Tauzin (R), McCrery (R), Alexander (D), Baker (R), John (D).

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Table for Pennsylvania with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Brady (D), Fattah (D), English (R), Hart (R), Peterson (R), Gerlach (R), Weldon (R), Greenwood (R), Shuster (R), Sherwood (R), Kanjorski (D), Murtha (D), Hoeffel (D), Doyle (D), Toomey (R), Pitts (R), Holden (D), Murphy (R), Platts (R).

Table for Rhode Island with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Kennedy (D), Langevin (D).

Table for South Carolina with columns: Name, Party, Vote 1, 2. Includes entries for Brown (R), Wilson (R).

## GRASSROOTS

## FB launches emergency alert campaign

Early warnings to danger, whether it's an approaching weather disaster or a civil emergency, can save lives. In an effort to help Americans become better prepared for the unexpected, Farm Bureau is launching an Emergency Alert Awareness Campaign.

American Farm Bureau Inc., the American Farm Bureau Federation and state Farm Bureaus are offering information about the potentially life-saving benefits of owning a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio. Just like a smoke detector, a NOAA weather radio will sound an alarm 24 hours a day, seven days a week when danger is approaching, such as tornadoes, floods, chemical spills, terrorist attacks and other catastrophes. The radios can be customized to pick up only signals in a user's immediate area.

"This campaign is designed to educate the public about the need to stay alert and aware of all threats of danger," said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

In addition to increasing awareness of the importance of owning a weather radio, Farm Bureau and ShareCom

Weather Radios, which makes the devices, have teamed up to offer weather radios at a discounted price.

Weather radios cost less than a new pair of shoes and they save lives, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Public safety experts recommend that every home have one. Before an emergency hits, the radios alert the public that danger is near and what actions need to be taken. During the emergency, they tell the public what to do and the status of the situation. After the threat has ended, they send the "all clear" and provide information on where to seek assistance.

There's a misconception that weather radios aren't needed, since this information is also available on TV or AM/FM radios. But TV and radio only help if one is watching or listening, while weather radios work much like a smoke detector—sounding an alarm whenever danger is approaching, whether the owner is asleep, reading or doing other activities.

Some people also think weather radios are complicated to use. But the

reality is weather radios are as simple to use as a regular radio.

Of course, an added benefit of weather radios is weather information on demand. But those who don't need or want the weather reports need not listen to them.

But the most important benefit is the potential to save lives.

"NOAA weather radios have a demonstrated track record of saving lives all across the country," said Curtis Carey, public affairs director for the National Weather Service. "Unlike other communications technologies that depend upon the citizen to be tuned in at the time of the warning, these receivers will wake up to warnings and sound an alarm."

"Personally, I've given NOAA weather radios to my four sisters and parents who live in northeast Oklahoma. I wouldn't be caught without one, and I wouldn't let my family be without one either."

For more information on NOAA weather radios or to place an order, visit [fbcountry.com](http://fbcountry.com) or call toll-free at 866-BE-ALERT (232-5378).

## AFBF, Michigan FB earn awards

The American Farm Bureau Federation public relations team and Michigan Farm Bureau recently earned national recognition in the Best of NAMA/Golden ARC Awards, sponsored by the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) and the Agricultural Relations Council.

AFBF's Food Check-Out Day event earned national recognition in the "Events—Single Day" category, taking merit (second place) honors among 10 entries. AFBF's "Farm Facts" publication was recognized in the "Company-funded, Consumer-directed Activities" category, earning merit status among three entries.

MFB took home first place honors for its state member publication *Michigan Farm News* in the "Company & Association Newsletters—Directed to Farmers, Ranchers & Growers" category, beating out five other entries. In addition, MFB earned merit recognition in the "News or Feature Article" category among five entries.

NAMA members, including both companies and agencies, are eligible to submit their work for this competition, which acknowledges creativity and excellence in agricultural communications.

The awards process began in October 2002, when entries were judged at the regional level. Overall, a total of 1,157 entries from six regions were judged. First place and merit winners from each region were then eligible to advance to the national competition, where 452 entries were judged. National awards were presented April 15 at the Agri-Marketing Conference and Trade Show held in San Diego.

## Foundation video brings biotech to life

The importance of biotechnology in today's world is the theme of a new educational video for students in grades 7-12. The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) created the video with a \$27,500 consumer education grant received through the Shared Solutions Agricultural Initiative of the Altria family of companies.

The 20-minute video, called "Bringing Biotechnology to Life," explores an array of biotechnologies being developed for use in medicine, fuel production, nutrition and feeding a hungry planet. The video also provides a comprehensive overview to introduce the



topic of biotechnology.

The video follows Julian, a student, as he creates a presentation for his science class. When Julian becomes frustrated with his assignment, he contacts his online friend, Cora, for help. Cora enlists her uncle, Vince, since he is a farmer familiar with biotechnology. Through an instant online message, Uncle Vince refers Julian to scientists with expertise in food science, genomics, plant genetics and crop molecular biology. Using their information, Julian assembles video clips about biotechnology for his report.

"The video is designed to be fast paced and appealing to the 7-12 grade audience," said Betty Wolanyk, AFBFA agricultural education director. "The video allows AFBFA to continue to educate Americans of all ages on the opportunities biotechnology provides our farm and ranch families in their efforts of producing safe, high-quality food, fiber and fuel at affordable prices."

To obtain an order form for the "Bringing Biotechnology to Life" video, visit [www.ageducate.org/resources/order\\_form.html](http://www.ageducate.org/resources/order_form.html). Cost is \$18.50

per video; two or more for \$15.00 each; or 100 or more for \$12.50 each.

While the customary Shared Solutions grant maximum is \$25,000, AFBFA was able to earn more by agreeing to collaborate on a similar project with the Nebraska Foundation for Agricultural Awareness. The Nebraska foundation is creating a set of CD-ROMs to help middle school teachers conduct biotechnology-related laboratory exercises and classroom activities. The CD-ROMs will feature step-by-step directions for teachers on how to present biotechnology to students, helping inspire teachers' confidence on this critical subject.

The Shared Solutions Agricultural Contributions advisory board suggested the collaboration between the two foundations. The grants were part of the Altria 2002 Shared Solutions Agricultural Initiative. Through the outreach efforts of Shared Solutions, Altria Group Inc., has become a leader in working with farmers and ranchers to address issues common to agricultural producers and ag-based consumer products companies. The principal operating companies of Altria are Kraft Foods Inc., Philip Morris International Inc., and Philip Morris USA Inc., which together are the nation's largest purchasers of agricultural commodities.

AFBFA was among a select group of 13 organizations nationwide that were awarded 2002 Shared Solutions agricultural contributions grants. Nearly 130 requests for funding were submitted for consideration.

## Renewables plan

*continued from page 1*

energy legislation. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee recently approved the Reliable Fuels Act (S. 791), which calls for the U.S. fuel supply to consist of 2.6 billion gallons of renewable fuel by 2005, steadily increasing each year until use reaches 5 billion gallons in 2012. The bill is expected to be added to the energy package being marked up this week by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Farm Bureau prefers the Senate schedule, but with minor adjustments. The requirement starts at 2.6 billion gallons by 2005, which Bredenkamp said was "a little light" since current law regarding the oxygenate standard requires renewable fuels use to total 3 billion gallons by 2005.

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