



THE PIPELINE

SANTA MARIA CHAPTER OF CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE

March 2010

March Meeting Candidate Forum

Wednesday, March 24
at 5pm

Santa Maria Fairpark

See attached flyer
for more details.

Please RSVP to Lucia
luciahe@yahoo.com
or 621-2262

Please note: This meeting
is not being held at the usual
time and place.

Santa Maria Chapter 2010 Executive Board

President

Kristy Farmer

kfarmer@reliableproduce.com
805-310-3716

1st Vice President

Brenda Kelsch

brenda@grower-shipper.com
805-937-4138

2nd Vice President

Renee Righetti-Fowler

renee@susieqbrand.com
805-937-2402

3rd Vice President

Dayna Hammell

cdhammell@msn.com
805-937-4350

Secretary

Joyce Chrisman

jchrism@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
805-929-1074

Treasurer

Patti Vasquez

patricia.vasquez@sbbt.com
805-934-4829

Presidents Message

REMINDER.....the March meeting will NOT BE AT NOON ! It will still be on March 24 but at 5:00 at the Santa Maria Fairpark. We are hosting a forum for the candidates running to fill the 33rd Assembly position. We want to make sure we choose an Ag friendly candidate! Please see attached flyer for details.

Applications were sent out for school gardens and scholarships. The school garden applications must be postmarked on or before March 12 and the scholarships by April 1. They are to be sent to our post office box in Guadalupe.

March 15 - 20 is National Ag Week! We have FARMOLOGY books for distribution to restaurants, elected officials and schools. During National Ag week, we will be serving at the Annual Foodbank luncheon to "Thank a Farmer" for their contributions to the Foodbank.

April 1 is Fillmore Ag Day in Lompoc. Our chapter will help teach students about agriculture. Contact Roberta if you are interested.

Aside from an array of activities, we need to keep updated on the happenings in the State, County and local governments. The Regional Water Quality Board is gearing up to make proposals that will endanger our growers and their farming practices. Budget cuts will have an impact on agriculture. We will keep everyone posted! It seems as if agriculture is part of the endangered species but hasn't been added to the "protection" list. We as CWA need to educate and preserve!

Kristy Farmer

President

Santa Maria Chapter CWA

Upcoming Field Trip - Strawberries

Daren's Berries has graciously volunteered to take our members and guests on a Strawberry Field Tour. The tour will take place April 10 at 10am.

Please contact Kristy Farmer to reserve you spot!

2010 Task Force Directors and Committee Chairs

Lucia Hegge - Membership Luncheons

Michelle Minetti-Smith - Scholarship Chair

Roberta Alderete - Ag Education

Joyce Chrisman - Legislation, Emails

Rosanne Cisney - Food Safety

Christine Miller - Casino Night

Nancy Machut - Sunshine

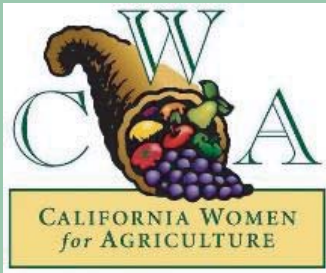
Stacey Grant - Membership

Cyndi Lange - Phone Committee

Yvonne Biely - New Member Follow-up

Kari Campbell Bohard- SB County Ag Advisory Committee, Parliamentarian

Brenda Kelsch - COLAB Dinner, School Garden, Candidate Forum



SANTA MARIA CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE
And COLAB

Present

California Assembly District 33
Republican Candidates Forum

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Santa Maria Fairpark

5:00 - 5:30 PM Light finger foods will be served
5:30 - 7:30 PM Candidates Forum

Forum Candidates include:

Katcho Achadjian
Matt Kokkonen
Fred Strong
Etta Waterfield

Cost is \$10.00 per person

The first 50 to arrive will receive a complimentary CWA shopping bag

For more information contact
Brenda Kelsch
brenda@grower-shipper.com
or 343-2215

Please RSVP
to Lucia Hegge
luciahe@yahoo.com
or 621-2262

USDA, FDA COORDINATE TO ENSURE PRODUCE SAFETY

In a release 2/18/2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration invited public comments to inform future produce safety rulemaking.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration are working together to achieve the goals of enhancing the safety and quality of fresh produce in ways that take into account the wide diversity of farming operations. We are committed to leveraging the expertise of our partner agencies and working together to ensure that our current produce safety and quality activities are complementary and consistent. While USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is in the midst of evaluating a proposed marketing agreement for the leafy green industry, the FDA is currently developing a proposed produce safety regulation. It is our expectation that these products will take into account the diverse nature of farming operations and that any marketing agreement would conform to any regulations that may be promulgated by FDA.

The success of these efforts depends on the feedback and comments we receive from growers and other produce safety stakeholders. AMS will continue to review the comments that have been submitted to USDA on the proposed marketing agreement. To further inform its planned rulemaking, the FDA is announcing today the establishment of a docket to receive information about current practices and conditions for the production and packing of fresh produce and practical approaches to improving produce safety. The FDA will work with AMS to have the testimony from the AMS hearings placed in the FDA docket for consideration by the FDA. The FDA encourages all interested persons to submit information they believe will inform the development of safety standards for fresh produce at the farm and packing house, as well as strategies and cooperative efforts to ensure compliance with those standards.

For more information:

Advance Display of Federal Register Notice:
http://www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx#spec_F

FDA Produce Safety Activities page:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/Product-SpecificInformation/FruitsVegetablesJuices/FDAProduceSafetyActivities/default.htm>

Media Inquiries: FDA-Rita Chappelle, (301) 796-4672, rita.chappelle@fda.hhs.gov
USDA-(202) 720-4623

Submitted by Ruth Jensen, SOURCE U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Nipomo FFA Annual Fundraiser

The Nipomo FFA held their fundraiser dinner event at the Edwards Barn Saturday night, February 18. A nice entourage of CWA Chapter members were present to lend a hand wherever needed. We prepared salads, worked the kitchen, served dinners (including take-out) and worked the event as needed. Over 300 guests helped make this event a huge success.



Get Involved!

Volunteers Needed

"Thank a Farmer" Luncheon

March 19, 2010 at the Foodbank
Honor farmers by serving lunch
Contact Kristy Farmer

Filmore School Ag Day

April 1, 2010
Introduce students to Ag with crafts
and send them home with donated
fresh produce
Contact Roberta Alderete 928-8720

Strawberry Festival

April 23 - 25, 2010
Take a shift at our berry tasting booth
Contact Roberta Alderete 928-8720

COLAB Fundraiser

April 24, 2010
Try your hand at sales! Outgoing
characters needed to sell raffle tickets
Contact Brenda Kelsch

Thank You 2009 Sponsors!

Gold Level Sponsors

Bonipak
Darensberries
Teixeira Farms
COLAB
Etta Waterfield
Western Growers Association

Silver Level Sponsors

Campbell Ranches
Crop Production Service
Irrigation West
OSR Enterprises, Inc.
Catholic Healthcare West
Engel and Gray
Jim Glines

Bronze Level Sponsors

Babe Farms
Central West Produce
Garden Source
Grower-Shipper Association
Nicole Hayden
Rancho Guadalupe
Santa Maria Fairpark
Vegetable Growers Supply
Byars, Thompson, Buchanan
Cal Coast Machinery
G B P & B Accountants
Nick Tompkins
Quality Packaging and Supplies
Rancho Laguna
Valley Farm Supply

Thank You 2009 Donor Members

Alamo Farming
San Ysidro Farms
English Air Service, Inc.
TWIW Insurance Services
Glenn, Burdette, Phillips & Bryson CPA's
DNS Backhoe Service
Gaspar Soil Builders
Johnson Farming
Salas, Inc.
Campbell Ranches
Western Growers Association Insurance Services
Innovative Produce, Inc.
Perrett Ranches
Red Dog Management, Inc.
Plantel Nurseries, Inc.
Los Dos Valles Harvesting
Santa Barbara Bank & Trust
Bejo Seeds
Maretti & Minetti Ranch Co.
DB Specialty Farms
Righetti Specialties
Rancho Guadalupe, LLC
Home Motors

California Women for Agriculture

is a statewide organization with over 2,500 members.

Who we are.

We, as women dedicated to the survival of agriculture, unite as "California Women for Agriculture," to function as a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-commercial action group and a voice for Agriculture.

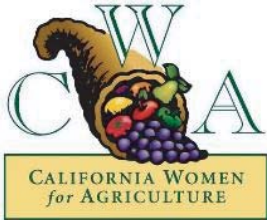
Our Mission.

To promote an educational program in order to develop the interest of California women in agriculture and to promote agriculture in California. To involve women of the State of California for the following general purposes: to speak on behalf of agriculture in an intelligent, informative, direct and truthful manner; to keep CWA members informed on legislative activities pertaining to agriculture; to join forces when the need arises to deal with agricultural problems in a specific community; to improve the public image of farmers and to develop rapport within agricultural communities throughout the state.

Note from the Editor: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! Articles for the insertion into the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged.

Please email your submission to Nicole@PacFresh.com the first week of the month. If you catch any errors, please let me know. They might be there just to make sure you're reading.

Nicole Donati



**Santa Maria Chapter
California Women for Agriculture
P.O. Box 695
Guadalupe, CA 93434**