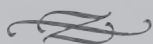


Canyon County FARM BUREAU

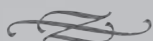
Where Belonging Makes A Difference

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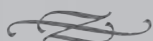
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This past year has really flown by. It is hard to believe we are already in the planning stages for our Annual Banquet in January.

Over 2011, the CCFB has accomplished many things for our agriculture and natural resource entities. These include working on revisions to the Indian Creek TMDL with regard to sediment and temperature targets, continuing education and outreach efforts about Canyon County agriculture to our public, providing scholarships to deserving students, working with the Canyon Agriculture Foundation for Education and the Nampa/Caldwell Chambers of Commerce Agri-Business Committee to develop an Ag Pavilion for the Canyon County Fair, developing an education DVD about Canyon County agriculture, and holding regular Board meetings of the CCFB and its members.

We welcome you to join our scheduled board meetings, which are held every third Tuesday of the month at the CCFB office in Caldwell. Please go to our website at www.canyoncountymb.org for further information or to learn more about how the CCFB is serving you as a member.

*Gina Davis,
CCFB President*



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Canyon County Ag Education Hits Home

It is evident as new generations develop, their knowledge of agriculture and where food comes from becomes more distant.

One of CCFB's main goals for 2011 was to assist with outreach and education efforts about Canyon County Agriculture. I proposed the idea last December to develop an educational DVD about Canyon County Agriculture and to develop an Ag Pavilion at the Canyon County Fair.

Both education and outreach projects were tremendous successes!

Ag Country was a huge hit with the general public during the week of the Canyon County Fair. The tent was sponsored by the CCFB and held a total of 12 agricultural exhibits, a seed box for kids to play in, posters and banners about Canyon County Agriculture production, and the DVD on Canyon County Agriculture and its importance to feed the world. During the week of the Canyon County Fair, over 5,400 people came into the Ag Country tent and browsed around. Over 1,500 people (kids and adults) took the kid or adult Ag Quiz. Our seed box even made national news on MSNBC.com. We had numerous volunteers from the CCFB, CAFÉ, and Ag Chamber which greatly helped in making Ag Country a success.

For 2012, CCFB plans on continuing its outreach and education efforts about Canyon County Agriculture.

During the Annual Banquet on January 25th, we will be featuring the Canyon County Agriculture DVD and clips about Ag Country. We are looking for another exciting year to educate people about agriculture, while protecting farmers, ranchers, and dairymen from unnecessary and burdensome government regulations.



*Roger Batt
Executive Director*



Additional Ag Country Photos on pg. 5



Canyon County
FARM BUREAU

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Canyon County Emission Testing Clears The Air

The vehicle emission testing program in Canyon County and Kuna started June 1, 2010. This article answers questions that have arisen about the program:

WHAT PROMPTED THE EMISSIONS TESTING PROGRAM?

The program resulted from a bill passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2008. Idaho Code 39-116B requires vehicle emission testing in areas of the state where air quality monitoring data exceeds 75% of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and motor vehicle emissions constitute one of the top two sources of the pollution. The Treasure Valley airshed meets the criteria specified in the law. As a result, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was required to implement a testing program in Canyon County and the city of Kuna.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM?

The goal of the program is to protect public health by reducing air pollution in the Treasure valley. Air pollution is a serious health concern, especially for people with respiratory problems, the elderly, and children.

WHO MANAGES THE PROGRAM?

With oversight by DEQ, the program is managed by SysTech International, a contractor based in Salt Lake City with a local office in Nampa. SysTech was chosen to implement the program because of its extensive experience implementing and managing vehicle emission testing programs across the country and because its bid was significantly less than other bidders. As a result, we have been able to meet our air quality goals while keeping vehicle inspection fees low.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS FROM THE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT?

Recognizing that vehicle owners sometimes have difficulties and special circumstances, DEQ created extensions and waivers to help motorists meet the program requirements.

Waivers are valid for one year, after which vehicles are required to meet the emission testing program requirements. Two types of waivers may be granted: repair and hardship. To qualify for a repair waiver, a vehicle must have failed an initial test, had appropriate repairs that total at least \$200, and then failed a subsequent emission test. A hardship waiver may be granted to vehicle owners who cannot afford to pay for

repairs. Hardship waivers are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Recognizing that other extenuating circumstances may arise, DEQ also seeks to accommodate certain motorists, such as students studying out of the area, vehicles located at seasonal residences or vacation homes, residents on corporate assignment outside the area or with non-operational vehicles, active duty military personnel, and business vehicles registered in the area but located elsewhere. In these situations, DEQ can provide extensions ranging from six months to two years if the motorist meets certain requirements and submits an application to DEQ.

For more information on waivers and extensions, visit www.idahoVIP.org.

DO ALL VEHICLES HAVE TO BE INSPECTED?

Some vehicles are exempt from the inspection requirement. They include motorized farm equipment, vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rate over 14,000 pounds, and vehicles solely engaged in the business of agriculture. To qualify for the agriculture vehicle exemption, farmers must certify that the vehicle will only be used in immediate support of the farm and will not be used for any purpose other than supporting the farm. DEQ is currently working with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to eliminate vehicle emissions notices for those vehicles registered as strictly farm vehicles; instead, the exemption would be automatically applied. If a vehicle is used strictly as a farm vehicle but is not registered as such with ITD, the exemption must be renewed annually. Farmers with fleets of vehicles need only fill out the exemption form for one vehicle and attach a list with the following information on the other vehicles: VIN, plate number, make, model, and model year of each vehicle.

WHAT TYPES OF TESTS ARE PERFORMED?

Tailpipe and on-board diagnostic (OBD-II) are the two main tests completed. Pre-1996 vehicles are not equipped with OBD-II testing and therefore are subject to the tailpipe test. 1996 and newer vehicles are equipped with OBD-II and therefore undergo the OBD-II test. OBD II provides much better information about a vehicle's emissions system and is the preferred and nationally required test for 1996 and newer vehicles.

Although some motorists with 1996 and newer vehicles have asked for the tailpipe test instead of the OBD-II test, this testing option is unavailable for those vehicles because the standards are different. OBD-II testing monitors critical vehicle and engine emission control components and alerts the vehicle operator or state

Your FSA County Newsletter is Going Electronic



You may have noticed a steady decline in the number of newsletters you received via regular mail from USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA realizes the importance of newsletters and has continued to post them each month on the Idaho FSA web site or you can always pick one up in your local county office.

However, due to reduced budgets, FSA has limited the number of newsletters mailed through the US Postal Service. Because FSA communicates mission-critical information to farmers, ranchers, and landowners through state and county newsletters, it wants to continue to have this information available on a monthly basis.

During FY 2011, FSA began a pilot program in five states allowing producers to elect to have the USDA newsletter delivered to their email address. Effective the beginning of FY2012 this process will be available nationwide. It uses a program that allows producers to request FSA County newsletters electronically using a new system called GovDelivery. Farmers and ranchers or anyone interested can register to receive their county newsletter every month via email.

GovDelivery is actually a software-as-a-service program that takes the information FSA creates in their county offices and re-purposes it through email, text messaging, RSS and social media channels. Email is the #1 use of the Internet. In fact, over 80% of online time is spent using email. It is the easiest way to reach a broad audience and with a recent nationwide survey that shows 83% of Idaho farm operations as having computer access, it seemed a good time to make the transition. States that participated in the pilot said the producers expressed the effectiveness of receiving their newsletter via email. Some even said they took more time to read it than they had with the old paper version.

To enroll in Gov-Delivery, go to the Idaho Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov/id and click on email updates in the right column. Once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information, contact your FSA county office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

Water Law Updates

After nearly a quarter century of adjudicating water rights to the Snake River and its tributaries, the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) is nearing the end. The SRBA Presiding Judge has convened a Steering Committee to help the Court wind up the adjudication. Dan Steenson (attorney for Ringert Law) is a member of the Steering Committee.

The SRBA was commenced in 1987 pursuant to legislative direction to make a "comprehensive determination of the nature, extent and priority of the rights of all users of surface and ground water from [the Snake River Basin]." Holders of Snake River Basin water rights with priority dates prior to the commencement of the SRBA on November 19, 1987 were required to file notices of claims so that their rights could be reviewed and recommended by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to the Court to issue a decree for the right as claimed, with modifications, or disallowing the claim. Owners of "de minimis" water rights for domestic and stock water use were exempted from the requirement to file claims in the SRBA.

The SRBA Court has adjudicated and issued decrees for individuals, corporations, water distribution organizations such as canal companies, irrigation districts and municipal providers, the State of Idaho, the federal government, and Indian tribes. Members of the Canyon County Farm Bureau use surface or ground water pursuant to a water right that has been or will be decreed by the SRBA (either in their own name or in the name of the water delivery organization from which they receive water)

After "partial decrees" have been issued for all adjudicated water rights, the Court is required to combine all the partial decrees into a "final decree" that will be recorded with the county recorder's offices. The Snake River Basin is organized into "subbasins" based on drainages. In order to begin to wind up the SRBA, the Court will issue subbasin closure orders, which will give parties until a specified date to file "late claims" for water rights. After the basin closure dates, parties will no longer be allowed to file claims.

If a person or entity believes they have a water right with a priority date prior to the commencement of the SRBA on November 19, 1987 that has not been adjudicated in the SRBA, the basin closure orders will provide them a last opportunity to file claims in the SRBA. Snake River Basin water rights with priority dates earlier than November 19, 1987 that have not been decreed by the SRBA court will not be recognized by IDWR.

If you have any questions regarding the closing of basins and the, please contact Dan Steenson at 342-4591.

*Dan Steenson
Ringert Law*



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Upcoming Dates

- October 18 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- November 15 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- January 25 Annual Banquet, 6:00 pm - Caldwell Elks
- March 20 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- April 17 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- May 15 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- June 12 Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell
- August 21 Resolutions mtg, 7:00 pm - Caldwell
Board of Directors mtg, 7:30 pm - Caldwell

Farm Truck Safety Inspections

The Canyon County Farm Bureau and Idaho State Port of Authority are holding their Farm Truck Safety Inspections for 2011. You can call Richard Taggart at (208) 941-4915 or Craig La Chance at (208) 334-8950 to make an appointment to inspect your trucks at your location between 8 AM and 3 PM. We ask that you have a minimum of three (3) trucks to inspect. If you have less than three trucks to inspect, you may combine them with one or more of your neighbors and have all of them inspected at the same location and time.

We'll inspect any truck (one-ton – semi truck & trailer). You will be advised of any defects, so you can have them fixed before you need to use the truck. No citations will be issued. If your trucks pass inspection, a sticker for 2011 will be placed on your windshield that will allow you to pass through any portable weigh/inspection station without having to stop, unless an obvious defect is noticed.

Please call today to make your appointment with:

Richard Taggart (Canyon County Farm Bureau):
(208) 941-4915

Craig La Chance (Port of Entry): (208) 334-8950

Richard Taggart
CCFB Board of Directors