

The Partnership Newsletter



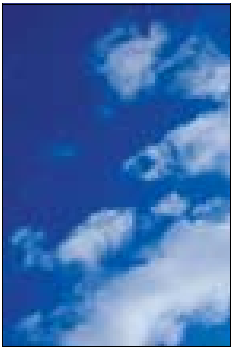
ALAMEDA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Issue 9 May/June 2009

... Making Conservation Happen in Alameda County

Workshops Scheduled to Help Farmers Apply for Air Quality Emission Reduction Program Cost-Share Funds

Story from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



A series of workshops will be held during the next few weeks to update farmers and ranchers about a new cost-share program to help reduce air quality emissions from off-road mobile or stationary agricultural sources such as diesel pumps.

The deadline to apply is June 26, 2009.

The cost-share program is administered by the USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of a new air quality provision of the 2008 Federal Farm Bill, provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the program, agricultural producers can apply for cost-share funds to replace, re-power, or retrofit existing combustion engines. Fifteen workshops are scheduled in various agricultural production areas throughout the state.

The workshops nearest to Alameda County will be Tuesday, June 16 at the following locations and times:

8 a.m. – Merced County Farm Bureau, 646 S. Highway 59, Merced

1 p.m. – Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, 1201 L St., Modesto

5:30 p.m. – San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, 3290 N. Ad Art Rd., Stockton

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The Conservation Partnership extends our warmest congratulations to our NRCS Ecologist Jackie Charbonneau and her husband Justin on the birth of their beautiful daughter...



Kate Coral
Born May 15th
7lbs. 3oz.



East Alameda County Conservation Strategy Invites Public to Community Meeting

A Blueprint for Biological Resources Conservation

The purpose and benefits of having a conservation strategy for biological resources in East Alameda County.

Thursday, June 11, 2009

7 p.m. Open House

7:30 - 9 p.m. Presentation & Questions

City of Dublin's Regional Mtg. Room—100 Civic Plaza, Dublin

See page two for more information

SAVE THE DATE

June 30th ~ Livermore

Wildlife-friendly Ranching Practices

*Wildlife escape ramps for livestock troughs and other practices that benefit both livestock and wildlife.

*Morning talks and demo, afternoon field tour.

*More information to come or contact

peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org

RCD's Meet with Bay Area Open Space



Five Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) found themselves at the new David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley on May 21 to promote understanding of and relationships with RCDs.

Bay Area Open Space Council hosted a panel, "Collaborating with Resource Conservation Districts" at its May general meeting, attended by nearly 50 members and guests. Panelists were: Karen Sweet, Alameda County RCD; Leandra Swent, Southern Sonoma County RCD; Kellyx Nelson, San Mateo County RCD.

Moderated by Tom Robinson, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, the panelists explained RCDs structure and authorities, how they work, and how they partner to make conservation happen. The unique partnership of RCDs with NRCS was stressed as a significant community asset for conservation. Each provided diverse examples of their district's projects, which also typifies the work of other RCDs. The panel concluded with the pitch that RCDs are available to partner - call us!

The panel resulted in significantly improved understanding by these potential RCD partners. New opportunities began with conversation at lunch. Joining the panel for the day were Carol Arnold, Contra Costa County RCD and Nancy Scolari, Marin County RCD. There were numerous 'cheerleaders' at the event as well who already work with RCDs. The participating RCDs sincerely appreciated this opportunity.

The Bay Area Open Space Council is a collaborative of over fifty-five member organizations actively involved in permanently protecting and stewarding important parks, trails and agricultural lands in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. For more information visit their website at www.openspacecouncil.org.

EACCS Community Meeting

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The EACCS team will also discuss:

- What is the East Alameda Conservation Strategy and how will it be used
- Who is developing the Conservation Strategy
- What has been accomplished and what is up next
- Phase 1 of the Conservation Strategy: focal species, natural communities, data collection and mapping efforts, draft chapters
- Phase 2 of the Conservation Strategy: Developing conservation goals and mitigation guidance
- Future opportunities to participate or become involved

For more information please contact Mary Lim, EACCS Coordinator at 925-454-5036 or visit the website at: www.eastalco-conservation.org.

Watershed/Science Expo

By Amy Evans

Partnership staff worked two creek stations at the 2009 Palomares Elementary School Watershed/Science Expo on May 8th. Students from Palomares School as well as other schools from Castro Valley and San Lorenzo attended the Expo. The Partnership's creekside stations introduced the 3rd grade students to Palomares Creek's aquatic invertebrates, gave students the opportunity to pull out invasive plants, and taught watershed protection through use of the watershed model. The Expo was coordinated by Sherry Johnson, a former teacher at Palomares Elementary and an RCD employee, with assistance from school district officials, parent volunteers and Palomares PTA.



Students and a parent helper pull invasive vinca from the creekside nature area at Palomares School.

**The Conservation Partnership
Invites You to Browse Our
Website at www.acrcd.org
for Continuous Updates.**



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Producers in 36 counties are eligible to use the funds to help reduce ozone and particulate matter emissions. Priority will be given to replacing older, higher-polluting engines with newer, reduce emission technology engines that meet or exceed current emission standards. Stationary, portable and heavy-duty off-road mobile systems are eligible.

Other eligible practices to reduce fugitive dust (particulate matter) include conservation tillage, harvest activities, precision pest control and manure injection. Up to \$22 million is available for this program. In addition, certain regional Air Pollution Control Districts may provide co-funding opportunities.

The workshops will provide detailed information and applications for the program. Representatives from the USDA's NRCS and Farm Service Agencies, regional Air Districts, agricultural associations and farm equipment dealers will be at each workshop to answer questions and help producers determine if they are eligible for the program.

For complete details, contact Morpheus Anima at 925-371-0154, ext. 125 or morpheus.anima@ca.usda.gov or visit: www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2009.

Volunteers Wanted For a Hands-on-Conservation



Streamside Hedgerow Planting and Sunol AgPark Farm Tour

Help needed to spread mulch
and plant native plants

**WORK DAY AND FARM TOUR FIRST SATURDAY
OF MONTH
NEXT DATES: JUNE 6TH
NO WORKDAY IN JULY.**

Visit our website for regular updates:
www.acrcd.org



Or contact
Leslie Koenig
At 925-371-0154,
ext. 115



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91st Annual Livermore Rodeo June 13th & 14th 2009

Wednesday, June 10 - The Mixer. Tickets are \$20.

Thursday, June 11 - Family Night. \$1 hot dog, \$1 soda, gates open at 5:00 p.m., admission is free - Local Team Roping and Wild Cow Milking

Friday, June 12 - Slack (Pro Rodeo roping and barrel racing, contestants who didn't get drawn for the performance)

Saturday morning - The Rodeo Parade, downtown Livermore

Saturday & Sunday, June 13th & 14th. The 92nd Annual Livermore Rodeo, the World's Fastest. Gates open at 10:00 a.m., the Rodeo begins at 2:00 with the Grand Entry. Plenty of food, drink and souvenirs.

For more information: www.livermoreroдео.org





Alameda County Resource Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Address Service Requested

Mission Statement

“The Conservation Partnership provides leadership in the County and region about natural resources conservation and agricultural enhancement through education and outreach, resource services and technical assistance, partnerships and funding.”

See Inside for Conservation & Agricultural Activities

- **Workshops scheduled for air quality cost-share funds**
- **Livermore Rodeo**
- **EACCS Community Meeting**
- **Watershed Science Expo**
- **RCD’s Meet with Bay Area Open Space**
- **Wildlife escape ramp workshop**
- **Staff has new family member!**

If you wish to receive our newsletter via e-mail only please e-mail Peggy Kiefer at peggy.kiefer@acr.cd.org

The Conservation Partnership
www.acr.cd.org

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Ling He, NRCS attends the CA Tiger Salamander workshop field study.

Recycle by sharing with others!