

The Partnership Newsletter



ALAMEDA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Issue 10 Aug/Sept 2009

... Making Conservation Happen in Alameda County

Thank You Alameda County Farmers & Ranchers

by Peggy Kiefer & Morpheus Anima



Alameda County NRCS recently completed 38 local Farm Bill funding request applications totaling \$1,461,047.45. By early September we had funded 12 contracts totaling \$633,063. Contracts are still being obligated so these figures will continue to increase. We do not anticipate being able to fund all \$1.5 million in requests.

Farm Bill 2010 funding sign-ups begin October 1st, 2009. More information can be found at the Local Workgroup Meeting and BBQ on October 7th and in our next newsletter.

The total dollar amount we expect to obligate this fiscal year is \$790,213 from our EQIP and WHIP programs. Our landowner contribution will total more than \$262,327. **Congratulations and thank you to our participating landowners!**

The Conservation Partnership Annual Local Workgroup Meeting and BBQ October 7, 2009

The Alameda County Conservation Partnership is hosting two meetings on **October 7, 2009** for the fiscal year 2010 NRCS Farm Bill Programs.

See inside for more information..



New Insect Pest Will Affect Grape Growers and Wineries

by Robert Blumenthal, CDA
Alameda County

In May of 2008, an insect known as the Light Brown Apple Moth was detected for the first time in the Livermore area. Before then, it had been found in the Tri - Valley area only as far east as Dublin. Since the initial find in Livermore, nine more of these moths have been trapped in the city to date. Consequently, the Light Brown Apple Moth quarantine area has been expanded and will affect grape growers and wineries. This article will describe how.

First, some background. The Light Brown Apple Moth, a type of leaf roller, is not native to the United States. It is known to be destructive to many types of agricultural commodities, including grapes. In California it was found first in Berkeley in 2007, and has since been found in all nine Bay Area counties as well as other parts of the state.

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Light Brown Apple Moth

The ACRCD is looking for an Executive Officer to lead a growing, innovative conservation agency and join a team of dedicated staff and Board of Directors.

Please visit www.acrcd.org if interested. *More career opportunities inside.*

Making Troughs Safe for Bats and Clean for Cows

By Pete Van Hoorn, Range Conservationist

“Wildlife escape ramps” aren’t three words you generally see together, but on June 30th we were proud to offer a workshop by that name and highlight a practice that’s win-win for ranchers and wildlife. Ranch water developments for livestock are an important source of water for many species. Unfortunately, birds, bats and other animals can sometimes get caught in troughs. Not good for wildlife, and the resulting foul water isn’t good for livestock either. Installing escape ramps is a cheap and effective way to keep troughs clean and safe. Our workshop covered the

hows and whys of escape ramps and other wildlife-friendly projects, including a hands-on ramp building demonstration and field trip to Los Vaqueros Watershed.



Workshop participants bending steel

Our main presenter was Dan Taylor of Bat Conservation International. Representatives from Cooperative Extension and the Conservation Partnership also spoke about why the California red-legged frog needs stock ponds, how the Farm Bill can help ranchers install wildlife-friendly practices, and finding common ground for rangeland conservation. Dan then showed our intrepid attendees a simple way to build effective ramps. We built several dozen ramps and then hit the road for Los Vaqueros. There, watershed staff and grazing tenants discussed how they manage the land to benefit wildlife, and installed one of the ramps we’d built.

The workshop was very well-received, and participants are already installing ramps on their properties and passing the information on to others. A big thanks to our speakers and everyone at Los Vaqueros Watershed. We also thank our sponsors – the Alameda County Agriculture Commission, Cattlemen’s Association and Farm Bureau, Bat Conservation International, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay MUD, San Francisco PUC, Clayton Koopmann, and a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation and US Fish & Wildlife Service – a diverse list that shows the strength of the win-win approach.

New Insect Pest Will Affect Grape Growers and Wineries

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In response, the State of California has established a state interior quarantine against this insect in an effort to stop or slow its spread. The quarantine designates regulated areas and imposes restrictions on the movement of plant material to and from these areas.

The quarantine area now extends into most of the Livermore Valley, and restrictions have been placed on the movement of bulk grapes. These restrictions apply to grape growers, shippers, receivers, and transporters, who will be required to enter into a written compliance agreement. Although the specifics will differ depending on the nature of one’s business, the agreement will include requirements for keeping records, notifying the County prior to shipment or receipt of grapes, keeping equipment and trucks free of plant debris, processing grapes from quarantined areas prior to those from non-infested areas, and for allowing County personnel onto one’s property to inspect for the presence of Light Brown Apple Moth.

The Agriculture Department will contact you prior to harvest to have you sign a compliance agreement. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please call Bob Blumenthal, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, at 925-245-0853.

Terry Huff and Lisa Hokholt Celebrate 30 Years with NRCS!



Ed Burton, California NRCS State Conservationist, recently visited our office to present awards to District Conservationist Terry Huff and State Outreach Coordinator Lisa Hokholt for their 30 years of employment with the NRCS. Mr. Burton also presented appreciation awards to NRCS and RCD staff for their outstanding efforts and contributions during a recent NRCS Farm Bill audit.



Above top: Lisa Hokholt receives award from State Conservationist Ed Burton. Above: Terry Huff at a field visit.

Alameda Creek Watershed Council

2009 Photo Contest If you would like to add to the visual appeal of the Webpage and printed materials of the Alameda Creek Watershed Council, enter their 2009 Photo Contest. Go to www.acrcd.org for more information and entry form. Contest entry deadline October 1, 2009.

Brush Piles Provide Excellent Bird and Small Mammal Habitat

By Jessica Morris, ACRC D Intern

Brush piles are not just good for burning. Through proper construction and well-planned placement, brush piles can benefit various wildlife species by functioning as nesting habitat, resting areas, concealment, and protection from predators and harsh weather. When deciding the needed cover type and design for brush piles, landowners should determine the target wildlife on the property. Species benefited by brush piles include ground-nesting birds such as quail, songbirds, and other small animals.

In general, a brush pile is composed of two parts: the base and the pile of plant material on top. The base is formed by alternately placed log layers. If possible, use rot-resistant logs to slow the decay of the pile. The brush part of the pile can be made from a variety of plants parts by placing the brush over the base, forming a teepee shaped pile about five feet tall. The center should be denser than the edges so the animals can enter and exit easily (see diagram below).

Brush piles should be in close proximity of cover, water, and food. In areas absent of cover, the brush piles provide concealment on the passageway between suitable habitats.

If you would like more information on installation of brush piles please contact Leslie Koenig at 925-371-0154, ext 115 or leslie.koenig@acrcd.org.



Example of wildlife friendly brush pile

WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING THIS WEEKEND?



28TH ANNUAL
HARVEST WINE CELEBRATION
LABOR DAY WEEKEND — SEPTEMBER 6 & 7
SUNDAY & MONDAY WWW.LVWINE.ORG

LIVERMORE VALLEY
Wine Country

Celebrate the Harvest Season in Livermore Valley Wine Country at the Annual Harvest Wine Celebration.

Enjoy wines from over 40 wineries, live music, arts & craft vendors and more!

Sunday & Monday, Sept. 6 & 7.

www.Lvwine.org for details.

Western SARE Professional + Producer Grant

Western SARE is offering one or two-year grants similar in concept to the Farmer/Rancher grants with a few key differences. Instead of a producer serving as the project coordinator, an agricultural professional — from Cooperative Extension or the Natural Resources Conservation Service — coordinates the project. A farmer or rancher serves as the technical adviser. Applicants can seek up to \$50,000 and must have a minimum of five producers involved. Proposals are due December 4, 2009. For more information go to <https://wsare.usu.edu/grants> (source California Rangeland Coalition)

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

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

Or contact
Leslie Koenig

925-371-0154, ext. 115



Newsletter Editor

Peggy Kiefer

**(925) 371-0154 ext. 122 or
peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org**



Jeans & Jewels – Celebrate the Valley will be a night of music and dancing. Tri-Valley Conservancy proudly presents a fundraising event designed for those who enjoy music, dancing, friends and fun in a casual atmosphere.

In addition there will be a live auction featuring experiences such as an airplane ride over the valley taking off from a private runway in the Livermore, private dinner with Karl Wente and his band “The Front Porch”, private guided tour of Brushy Peak including a catered meal overlooking the valley and many other priceless experiences!

Jeans & Jewels will be held on Thursday, October 1st, 6 PM at the Casa Real Event Center, Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$75 per person, includes dinner, dancing, auction and no-host bar. Book in advance by calling 925-449-8706 or go to www.trivalleyconservancy.org (tickets will not be

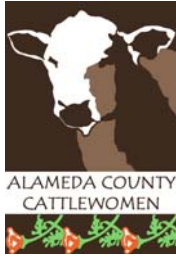
Partnership Career Opportunities



The Alameda County Resource Conservation District is looking for an **Executive Officer** to lead a growing and innovative conservation agency, and join a team of dedicated staff and a committed Board of Directors. This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic, creative and dedicated person who wants to help us continue to make conservation happen in Alameda County. The ideal candidate has a track record of demonstrated successful team leadership and program management. A Job Announcement describing the position and application process can be found on our website. Please visit www.acrcd.org or contact hr@acrcd.org for more information.

Our Watershed Adventures Program hires part-time **Environmental Education Presenters** and **Art Education Presenters** each school year. The presenters conduct fast-paced, exciting classroom activities which help students learn how they can play a role in protecting creeks, watersheds and the San Francisco Bay from pollution. Please visit the Watershed Adventures page on our website to learn more about this program and view the job announcements, or contact Amy Evans at 925-371-0154, ext 112 or amy.evans@acrcd.org.





Local Work Group Meeting and BBQ

The Conservation Partnership would like your input on natural resource funding priorities for Farm Bill in Alameda County.

Please join us for an informal meeting and BBQ dinner.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Agency Meeting 3:30PM

Complimentary BBQ Dinner 5:00PM

Farmer & Rancher Meeting 6:00PM

**Conservation Partnership Office
Martinelli Event Center
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore**



BBQ hosted by Tim Koopmann

*Please RSVP by
Monday October 5, 2009
to Peggy Kiefer at
925 -371-0154 extension 122,
or peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org*



Alameda County Resource Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2
Livermore, CA 94550-6710

Address Service Requested

Mission Statement

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

See Inside for Conservation & Agricultural Information

- **The Partnership is Hiring a New Executive Officer. Other Career Opportunities also Posted.**
- **Local Workgroup Meeting Oct. 7, 2009**
- **New Insect Pest Will Affect Grape Growers and Wineries**
- **Partnership Hosts “Wildlife Escape Ramp” Workshop**
- **Two Team Members Receive 30 Year Awards**

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



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Recycle by sharing with others!

The USDA & RCD are equal opportunity providers and employers.