

The Partnership Newsletter



ALAMEDA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Issue 5

July/Aug 2008

Summer Time is Fair Time



**Master Showman
Jessica Morris.**

Katie Goff shows her steer Jesse.

The Conservation Partnership congratulates the 4-H and FFA champions and showmanship winners of the 2008 Alameda County Fair including the students from Livermore High School Ag Dept. Congratulations to all the participants for working so hard and thank you to their leaders and parents for their important contributions. See results page two.



GOOD LUCK AT STATE FAIR!

Fair photos courtesy of Bob Bronzan, Livermore Valley School District.



**Congratulations
Amy Evans for 20 years of
employment with the
Conservation Partnership!**

Amy at the
Martinelli Center

Palomares Elementary Celebrates 2nd Annual Watershed Science Expo *By Leslie Koenig*

Partnership staff worked two creek stations at the 2nd Annual Palomares Watershed Science Expo in May. Students from Palomares Elementary School as well as other schools from Castro Valley and San Lorenzo attended the Expo at Palomares School. The Partnership's creek stations educated students about watershed protection and Palomares Creek's ecology through study of creek side plants, aquatic invertebrates, water quality, and opportunities to see live amphibians. 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. The Watershed Science Expo is an excellent opportunity to educate children about watershed protection and interest students on the diversity of species that can be found in their local creeks. The Palomares Watershed Science Expo is funded by the Alameda County Flood Control District and volunteer efforts from the Palomares PTA.



Conservation Partnership ecologist Jackie Charbonneau teaches 3rd graders about critters found in their local creeks.

**The Conservation Partnership
Congratulates the 4-H and FFA Champions of the
2008 Alameda County Fair**

Frankie Imhof



Jessica Morris

Beef

Frankie Imhof

Supreme Champion Market Beef &
Overall 4-H Champion Market Beef

Breanne Maggy

Reserve Supreme Champion Market Beef &
Overall FFA Champion Market Beef

Cara Glaze

Overall 4-H Reserve Champion Market Beef

Carly Rose

Overall FFA Reserve Champion Market Beef

Other Beef Champions include:

Katie Ricart

Stephanie Hammerschmidt

Ashley Morris

Champion Market Beef

Haley Imhof

Alexandra Castello

Katelynn Bradford Reserve Champion

Market Beef

Jessie Peterson

Cathy Scroggins

Cash Kuhn

Katie Mottin

Beef Showmanship

Danielle Harvey

Bronti Phillips

FFA Beef Showmanship

Sheep

Jimmy Bennett

Supreme Champion Market Sheep &
Overall 4-H Champion Market Sheep

Ryan Stoneham

Overall 4-H Reserve Champion Market Sheep

Kyle Koell

Overall FFA Champion Market Sheep

Jessica Morris

Overall FFA Reserve Champion Market Sheep

Other Sheep Champions include:

Kelsie Bowles

Jennifer Morettini

Supreme Champion Market Sheep

Justin Luthi

Reserve Champion Market Sheep



Carly Rose



Richard Amato



Breanne Maggy



Swine

Kaitlyn Rose

Overall Supreme Champion Market Swine

Overall 4-H Champion Swine

Leslie Tsuda

Overall FFA Champion Swine

Jimmy Bennett

Overall 4-H Reserve Champion Swine

Brook Toledo

Overall FFA Reserve Champion Swine

Other Swine Champions include:

Champion Market Swine

Julie Blach

Brook Toledo

Austin Griffith

Frankie Imhof

Billy Hammett

Andrew Imhof

Jordan Ott

Rachel Fisher

Reserve Champion Market Swine

Kristin Shade

Julie Blach

Haley Cook

Frankie Imhof

Sean Gallagher

Travis Egan

Richelle Brozosky

Jimmy Bennett

Craig Nunes

Hewey Burnett



Kaitlyn Rose

Goats

Kyle Koell

Supreme Champion Goats &
FFA Champion Goats &
Reserve FFA Champion Goats

Justin Luthi

Overall 4-H Champion Market
Goats

Katie Ricart

Overall 4-H Reserve Champion Goats



Jessica Sweet

Rabbits

Daniel Burnett

4H Champion Meat

Madison Hall

4H Champion Meat

Sarah Rivers

4H Reserve Champion Meat

Landscape

FFA Horse Crew won two 1st place
ribbons.

Other FFA won 1st and 3rd place ribbons.



To learn about FFA go to their website at
<http://www.livermorehighffa.org>.

To see more fair pictures go to the Livermore High School
District website at <http://www.livermoreschools.com/2007-2008/2008-07-04%20Fair%20Showmanship/index.htm>.





A Natural Way to Control Ants This Season

Our kitchen at the Conservation Partnership was recently invaded by ants so staff member Maria Wendler went searching for a safe way to keep them out! She found the remedy below at <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/sugar-ant-hotel.html>

Remedy and story By Annie B. Bond,
executive producer of Care2's Green Living channels.

The ants go marching one by one into this homemade sugar ant hotel. We make three to six of them every ant season—a family tradition—and place a few in the kitchen, and wherever else ants like to frequent. These ant-trap hotels completely rid our house of these common spring and summer pests, but I also have a nontoxic ant spray up my sleeve, which I share, here, too.

Sugar Ant Hotel

- 1 cup borax
- 1 cup sugar water
- 4 shallow glass jars with screw tops (small jar of marinated artichoke heart jars are ideal)
- 4 loose wads of toilet paper

In a bowl, mix the borax and sugar. Place a loose wad of toilet paper into each of four different screw-top jars. Pour a quarter of the sugar and borax mixture into each of the four jars, over the toilet paper. Fill each jar with water to one inch of the top. Screw the lids on the jars, and with a hammer and nail, make four to eight holes in the lid. Place the jars in areas where you have ants (but keep away from pets and children).

Ants Continued...



This ant trap will catch the workers but not the queen. A more comprehensive solution is to blend 1/4 cup of confectioner's sugar and one tablespoon of borax and sprinkle it in ant traffic areas. There is not enough borax with this method to kill the worker ants immediately, so they take it back to the nest, ultimately eradicating it. (If the worker ants do die at the powder, cut back on the borax.) Caution: Keep borax products away from pets and other animals.

Citrus Solvent Spray



Place 1/4 cup of citrus solvent (such as Citra Solve) in a spray bottle, and add 2 cups of water. Spray in areas where there are ants. This works!

There are also a number of herbs such as mint and pennyroyal, and spices such as cayenne pepper, that repel ants.

Tip: Borax can be purchased at hardware stores.



Local Landowners Attend Easement Workshop by Cari Koopmann, Summer Volunteer Intern

On July 8th, the Conservation Partnership, invited local landowners interested in expanding their knowledge of farmland and rangeland protection to come together. Transaction Director for the California Rangeland Trust, Michele Clark provided valuable guidance that hit close to home for farmers and ranchers in the midst of planning or considering an easement. A common topic of concern was the retained development rights of those who are concerned with the future potential of building homes for their offspring. Also at the top of the concern list was the idea of compiling a document that is to be permanent. “What if my son decides he wants to build a home on the easement ten years down the road?” Concerns such as this brought up the importance of the precise development of a structured management plan, which was discussed in depth due to its significance to a mitigation easement.

Among important highlights of the discussion were the personal experiences and shared insight from individuals who have been through the easement process. One landowner settled the anxiety of folks when he stated that not all landowner rights are affected by an easement. Every easement is unique because each piece of land varies in its makeup. It put landowners at ease knowing that it is probable to maintain their current management practice since the existing management is what established the current status of the land. Clark emphasized the need for a family to consult with an attorney who can convey the importance of maintaining good conservation practices. Conservation values are crucial to conveying the importance of maintaining the land in comparable conditions for the purpose of an easement.

Why would a landowner want to place an easement on their property? For the love of the land, maintaining family unity, need for cash in hand, protection of specific species and to keep the land in agriculture, were among the popular rationales. Clark's clear, constructive delivery of easement concepts along with her compassion for the differences in landowner views, needs, and concerns created a well developed discussion.

Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS)

Many of you have heard or know of EACCS but don't necessarily know what it is. The Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) is a collaborative effort to preserve endangered species by developing a shared vision for long-term habitat protection. The EACCS will assess areas all across Eastern Alameda County for their conservation value and establish guiding biological principles for conducting conservation in the county. Part of that guidance will include working with willing landowners to implement long-term conservation in the form of conservation easements that would offset impacts from local land use, transportation, or other infrastructure projects.

For more information go to our website or <http://www.acrcd.org/ForRuralLandowners/EACCS/tabid/111/Default.aspx>

FUN AG FACT

A PIG CAN RUN
A SEVEN
MINUTE MILE!



Deadline!

2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP



Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All of your crops on all of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.* Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP. This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage. Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008. Contact your FSA Office for more information. Producers should also consider establishing eligibility for both 2009 NAP and LFP coverage for forage, available for \$250 per county of operation until December 1.

For more information, contact your local FSA field office. For Alameda County this is the Stockton FSA Office at 3422 Hammer Lane Ste C. Stockton, CA 95219, Phone 209-472-7127.

Tri Valley Agencies Plan Fundraiser

by Peggy Kiefer



Professional photographer Kathleen Ahern photographs rancher Clayton Koopmann for the 2009 Tri Valley Men in Agriculture Calendar.

The Conservation Partnership, Alameda County CattleWomen, Livermore Winegrowers Association and Alameda County Farm Bureau announce a collaborative fund raising effort. The four agencies have come together to create the **2009 Tri Valley Men in Agriculture Calendar** featuring “men in agriculture” and their contributions to agriculture in Alameda County. The men in the calendar include ranchers, farmers and wine growers. The agencies hope the calendar will promote awareness about Alameda County Agriculture. Proceeds from the calendar will benefit various agriculture efforts including scholarships and the Livermore High School Ag Department. Calendars will be available for purchase for \$18.00 on the Partnership website www.acrcd.org and the Wine Growers website <http://www.lvwine.org>. Calendars will also be sold at various wineries and businesses. *Photography donated by Kathleen Ahern.*

Pre-sales have started and there will be a limited amount of calendars sold! Visit the Conservation Partnership website at acrcd.org or contact Peggy Kiefer at peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org to order yours now.

Please note...

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District Board meetings have changed to the third Monday of the month.

6:00 PM

**Martinelli Event Center
Executive Board Room
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore**

Local Work Group Meeting and BBQ

By Morpheus Anima

August 20, 2008

Agency Meeting 3:30PM

Farmer & Rancher Meeting 6:00PM

**Complimentary BBQ Dinner
5:00PM, All Welcome**

**Martinelli Event Center
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore**

The Alameda County Conservation Partnership is convening two meetings on August 20th for the fiscal year 2009 NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a Farm Bill program that provides funding for conservation projects on agricultural lands.

The meetings will provide a forum for local farmers and ranchers, public agency representatives and other partners to communicate their views on the most critical natural resource issues and priorities for the county. Local NRCS staff can then use the input provided to help prioritize EQIP funding allocation to meet local natural resource needs.

This year's meetings will be held Wednesday, August 20th. A complimentary BBQ dinner will be held in between meetings to give an opportunity to network and socialize.

Please **RSVP** to Peggy Kiefer at (925) 371-0154 extension 122, or peggy.kiefer@acrcd.org

Newsletter Editor

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