

2009 ARIZONA FARMING & RANCHING HALL OF FAME HONOREES



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HOWARD WUERTZ OF CASA GRANDE

AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL OF ARIZONA
1819 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE, STE. E-10
MESA, ARIZONA 85204



AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL OF ARIZONA, INC.

Arizona's Reclamation Representative to the National Water Resources Association
www.agribusinessarizona.org ♦ info@agribusinessarizona.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the recent August Executive Committee meeting in Pinetop we spent considerable time discussing Congressman Grijalva's bill, H.R. 3481, The Lower Colorado River Protection Act. While it is not apparent whether there are any wheels on the proposed legislation, it was felt that we should attempt to convince other delegation members not to sign on as bill sponsors in case it moved forward. Congressman Mitchell's staff was briefed on the proposed legislation and its potential negative impacts on operations of the Colorado River and on negative impacts to agriculture.

Discussion of H.R. 3481 leads us to a conclusion that we need to be extremely vigilant about proposed legislation and regulations that sometimes appear out of nowhere, written by unknowns and that may or may not be the subject of hearings. In fact, even the impacted entities may not be consulted prior to introduction of the proposals. Therefore, we must continuously review all proposals and react accordingly to protect the interests of water resources and agriculture. Every proposal need not be treated the same but each must be evaluated on its own impacts so that a strategy can be developed to support, oppose or offer changes. ABC is actively involved in staying on top of legislation that impacts its members. and it's our intent to present the issues before the Executive Committee as they arise.

Bill Plummer
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Last month, the Agri-Business Council Executive Committee member and Treasurer, Dr. George Seperich, and I traveled to Ciudad Obregon, Sonora to attend a workshop organized by the President and colleagues of the Technological Institute of Sonora (ITSON). The purpose of the workshop was to establish the Agri-Business Council of Sonora or the Consejo de Agronegocios De Sonora .

The workshop attendance and participation was the envy of all who have organized such events. It was well prepared, well attended, the right amount of time, on time and re-pleat with active dialogue from roughly seventy large agricultural practitioners from Sonora. Our Vice President, Jackie Meck, Mayor of Buckeye, would have been very impressed with their efforts to keep the meeting on time and on point! (He is well known for keeping ABC meetings on time.)

The workshop covered a broad spectrum of agriculture within six designated groups (primarily water, livestock, poultry, pork and aquaculture). Surprisingly, all the major newspapers and television stations in Sonora were there to cover the workshop and formation of the Council. The subsequent news articles were all positive and supportive. At the conclusion of the workshop, 14 participants were chosen from the various industries to begin the detailed work of establishing the Council and Committees, along with the selection of an Executive Director.

We are anxious now to discover where this new Committee will take the discussion and we look forward to our next meeting with the new Council in the next few months.

On September 9th and 10th, I traveled to Washington, D.C. to work with Family Farm Alliance leadership and members from our West to educate Congressional members, staffers and agency representatives on issues of great importance to our membership; issues related to the Clean Water Restoration Act, Cap and Trade, Climate Change, and Aging Infrastructure legislation, just to name a few. We had great visits and the opportunity to present our views and encourage inclusion of our principles in proposed legislation. It remains to be seen if it will move this year with the Health Care debate taking precedence.

On a final note, it's hard to believe we are already moving into fall weather. The fall season means it's time to remind everyone of our upcoming 18th Annual H2Open Golf Tournament at the Francisco Grande in Casa Grande, October 30th. We look forward to meeting old friends and encourage you to bring a new

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1819 E. Southern Ave.
Suite E-10
Mesa, Arizona 85204
Phone: 480-558-5301
Fax: 460-558-4170

friend to network with a great group of people! By the way, the Agri-Business Council of Sonora will participate also. Please come out and join us! More information and registration forms are available on our website.

Chris Udall
Executive Director

MONEY, TECHNICAL HELP AVAILABLE TO AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY PRODUCERS FROM NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Provided by: George Couch, USDA-NRCS

Agricultural and forestry producers who want to improve their land's natural resources can apply for help from the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Sept. 30 is the first application deadline for CSP, although applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation work and adopt new conservation activities. The program was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Eligible applicants include operators of private agricultural land, private forest land, and Indian tribes. CSP is a national program, but each state has the flexibility to determine its own resource concerns. In Arizona, priority will be given in the following areas:

Agricultural Land: Air Quality, Animals, Energy, Plants, and Water Quantity
Forestry: Animals, Plants, Soil Erosion

To apply for CSP, applicants are asked to use a self-screen checklist. The checklist is available on the Web at www.az.nrcs.usda.gov or at your local NRCS field office. After the self-screening, applicants will meet with their local NRCS field office staff and complete an assessment that will determine eligibility, ranking, and funding.

Visit the Web at www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/contact to contact your local NRCS office, or call 620-280-8842 for more information.

USDA ANNOUNCES \$58 MILLION TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Provided by: George Couch, USDA-NRCS

Nearly \$58 million for water conservation and water quality improvements on agricultural working lands was awarded July 30. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced this funding through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), a new program in the 2008 Farm Bill.

AWEP promotes ground and surface water conservation and improves water quality by helping farmers and ranchers implement agricultural water enhancement activities.

Landowners can obtain funding through AWEP for several types of projects, including:

- Water quality or water conservation plan development, including resource condition assessment and modeling;
- Water conservation restoration or enhancement projects, including conversion to the production of less water-intensive agricultural commodities or dry land farming;
- Water quality or quantity restoration or enhancement projects;
- Irrigation system improvement or irrigation efficiency enhancement;
- Activities designed to mitigate the effects of drought and climate change; and
- Other related activities deemed by the Secretary to help achieve water quality or water conservation benefits on agricultural land.

Funding was made available for 63 projects in 21 states. A complete list of approved projects can be found on the Web at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/2009projects.html. Arizona farmers and ranchers can call 602-280-8800 for more information on AWEP.

HERITAGE CENTER AT LAKIN FARM

Provided by: Carole De Cosmo

The Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame, part of the Heritage Center at Lakin Farm, has issued a call for nominations of Arizona's agricultural pioneers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 2010 Honoree Dinner on February 27.

For the third year seven honorees, five living and two posthumous, will take their place in history among Arizona's agricultural leaders. Nominees can be from any phase of the agricultural industry, including but not limited to farmers and ranchers. Any individual who has been associated with farming, ranching, agricultural business, the sciences, education or agricultural reporting is eligible for nomination.

The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2009. Forms are available on the Heritage Center at Lakin Farm website at www.heritagecenteratlakinfarm.org or by calling Carole De Cosmo at (623) 695-9614. Nominations and supporting material should be sent to the Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame in care of the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, 289 N. Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ 85338. The Honorees Dinner will be held at the Estrella Vista Reception Center in Avondale.

The permanent home Arizona Farming & Ranch Hall of Fame will be in the museum at the Heritage Center at Lakin Farm when it opens in 2012. Designed to educate young people and adults about Arizona's rich agricultural history, the 40-acre site will replicate a working farm from the mid-20th century while incorporating Green technology throughout.

The Conference Center will provide a state-of-the-art center for meetings, training and entertaining. There will be a livestock barn and corral plus exhibition space for 4-H and FFA livestock and equestrian shows. A café on the terrace will provide a welcome place for visitors to refresh themselves with a cool drink, cup of coffee or a light meal after exploring the orchards, flower gardens and other agricultural areas.

The Heritage Center at Lakin Farm will be located near the Agua Fria River in Avondale. (See photos on back of Newsletter.)

NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome The Heritage Center at Lakin Farm as the newest member of the Agri-Business Council of Arizona. We are thrilled to have them join us and thank them for helping to make ABC the exceptional organization that it is!

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

ABC is in search of a new logo and has decided to set up a Logo Design Contest! The contest is open to any ABC member who wishes to participate for a chance to win a \$100 gift card! Simply draw/create an appropriate ABC logo and send your design via mail or email to 1819 E. Southern Ave., Ste. E-10, Mesa, AZ 85204 or info@agribusinessarizona.org by Oct.31, 2009. Designs will be judged by the Executive Committee and only one will be chosen as the new, official logo. Good luck!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Place
September 23-24	SAHRA Annual Meeting	Tucson, Arizona
September 25	Executive Committee Meeting	Coolidge, Arizona
October 7-8	2009 CAFO Roundtable Agenda	Phoenix, Arizona For more information go to http://www.state-cafos.org/events/CAFO.html
October 16	Executive Committee Meeting	ASU, Polytechnic Campus
October 30	H2Open Golf Tournament	Casa Grande, Arizona
November 3	Phoenix Ag Club Tour/Meeting	ASU, Polytechnic and Casa Grande For more information go to http://www.phoenixagclub.com/Events.html