

Today is _____, _____ the _____. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about _____ when we return

New Pesticide Regulations Begin January 1

The new pesticide regulations regarding the use of agricultural pesticides near public K-12 school sites and licensed daycare facilities will take effect January 1, 2018. The new rule from the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) disallows many applications within a quarter-mile radius from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Western Agricultural Processors Association was one of many groups opposing the new restrictions when the proposal was open for public comment. President and CEO Roger Isom stated "the fact is, it's not justified. The data that they put out there doesn't show there's a need for this."

The new rules will require farmers that are within a quarter-mile to produce a notification letter no later than April 30th each year, listing all the pesticides they anticipate using between July 1st of the current year, through June 30th of the following year.

Isom expressed the frustration felt by many growers who will be affected by the new pesticide regulations. "If you go back and look at the data, there's more danger from the chemicals that the schools apply on the ground for insect and weed control than anything we're applying out there," said Isom.

Growers who need to use a particular product that was not initially listed in the annual notification will need to provide notification no less than 48 hours before an application can begin. Fumigants are also prohibited from being applied within 36 hours of when a school or daycare facility is open.

Many counties throughout California already have some requirement for notification when certain pesticides are being applied in the vicinity of schools. The new rules that come into effect on January 1st will be the first statewide standard ever enacted.

Safety is the main driver behind the new restrictions. However, some regulators have noted the new pesticide rules are among the toughest in the country. "Unless somebody's operating outside of the label, outside of the law, we're not going to have a problem," Isom said. "And we haven't had one, that's what the data shows. But DPR has chosen to ignore that, and to put an additional burden on growers in California that we just don't feel is necessary."

More information on the new rules is available through the DPR [website](#).

AVERAGE THANKSGIVING DINNER COST DECREASES



American Farm Bureau Federation Newsline November 16,
2017

AVERAGE THANKSGIVING DINNER COST DECREASES

Audio with AFBF market intelligence director John Newton

The 32nd annual informal Thanksgiving Dinner Price Survey shows consumers continue to enjoy an affordable food supply as this year's Thanksgiving dinner is the most affordable in five years. The average cost for 10 for a classic Thanksgiving Dinner decreased less than two percent, remaining under \$5 per-person, according to AFBF market intelligence director John Newton...tape

Cut #1 :13 OC:... "per-person."

The decline was driven by lower retail turkey prices, along with lower prices for milk and rolls. The average cost of turkey this year is \$22.38 for the whole bird...tape

Cut #2 :16 OC:... "last year."

Meanwhile, the supply of pumpkins for processing for pumpkin pie has rebounded from a couple of years ago...tape

Cut #3 :10 OC:... "are produced."

Full survey results are available at www.fb.org.

Fresno State Ag Mechanization Lab Gets Update

The Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State showcased initial renovations to its mechanized agriculture laboratory on Tuesday, Nov. 14 that were made possible by a \$250,000 gift by Dr. James Moller and his wife, Carol Moller.

The event was attended by University President Joseph I. Castro, Jordan College Dean Sandra Witte, faculty, staff, students, alumni of the mechanized agriculture program and James Moller.

The donation was made in memory of Moller's father, Leonard Moller, who owned and operated the Acme Machine Shop in Fresno until 1973. The shop was originally started by Herman Moller in the 1920s, and he later co-owned it with his son, Leonard.

James Moller, a University of Minnesota professor emeritus of pediatrics and medicine, grew up in Fresno near the original Fresno State campus. On a visit in September 2016, he saw the laboratory's traditional but outdated welding and mechanical equipment during a tour led by mechanized agriculture faculty member Ken Heupel.

"Educational institutions, especially state universities and colleges, have pressing financial concerns, and Ken quietly expressed the program's obvious needs," Moller said. "The surroundings reminded me so much of my father's machine shop that I could visualize him there, and it really touched me. Even though I moved away 60 years ago, I wanted to express my appreciation for the educational opportunities that I was afforded as a third-generation Fresnan while helping to create better opportunities for future students, many of whom are training to be educators and key members of the Central Valley ag industry."

The gift has already provided for a revamped welding area this fall with new multi-processing booths, racks, gas line manifolds, work tables, a computer numerical control (CNC) plasma cutting table and a freshly-painted interior.

Future planned improvements will include new tungsten inert gas (TIG) welders, a hydraulic shear, hydraulic brake, drill press, ironworker, band saw, and chop saw equipment, engine stands and metal material storage units.

The mechanized agriculture program in the Plant Science Department is overseen by John Williams, a 2008 Fresno State agricultural education graduate and former student of Heupel's. Williams has served as a part-time faculty member since January 2015, and he was elevated to full-time faculty after Heupel's retirement in August.

Heupel had directed the program since 1997, and his 51-year vocational teaching career also included 25 years at Merced College and six years at Manteca High School.

"Thanks to Ken's hard work and vision, our curriculum is essential in preparing students to safely operate and maintain a wide variety of modern production agriculture equipment," Williams said. "Students from ag education, plant science, viticulture, industrial technology, ag business and our campus farm develop skills from the hands-on labs that will be essential for the rest of their careers."

Fresno State is the only California State University campus that offers a mechanized agriculture emphasis for agriculture education majors. Its curriculum includes six classes in small gas and diesel engines, power equipment safety, advanced farm machinery, tractor topics, mechanized agriculture skills and basic agricultural machinery. A permanent fabrication class is also planned so students will get experience building and designing equipment and projects.

The laboratory also provides students with applied learning experience by helping conduct Future Farmers of America high school state judging contests in farm power and machinery, small gas engines and mechanized agriculture.

To discuss potential partnership opportunities to fund further research or academic programs, contact Alcidia Freitas Gomes at alcidia@csufresno.edu or 559.278.4266.