



## Upcoming Events:



May 17, 2007

## Online Features:



### May/June 2007 Meeting Calendar

Exec Bd Mtg	May 17	6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	May 31	6:00 p.m.
Exec Bd Mtg	June 21	6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	June 28	6:00 p.m.

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Meet the individuals behind the various aspects of agriculture throughout LA County

## Where do cut flowers come from?

By Victoria Gerginis

I got into my car and drove until the canyons opened up to reveal a small farming community in the town of Acton. *The Kilcoyne Lilac Farm* is located in the high desert of the Antelope Valley (fifty miles north of downtown Los Angeles). High up in the foot of Parker Mountain, the hot desert days and the chilly desert nights make the perfect climate for lilac flowers to thrive.

As I closed the car door, I was greeted by Elizabeth (*lilac farmer* and the wife of the LACFB's second vice president Dennis Kilcoyne) for my *lilac farm* tour. I grabbed my video camera and she led me thru the numerous rows of fifteen to twenty feet tall *lilac bushes*. We had become engulfed within the splashes of purple, lavender, and white flowers that adorned the edge of the mountainside. She pointed out that the sweet perfume like scent of the *Common (or Old-Fashioned) variety of lilac flowers* filled the air.

The bees happily hummed past us to pollen the next *lilac bush*. Above one of the towering plants, a western tiger swallowtail butterfly fluttered lazily across the sky to land on a nearby flower. It was not hard to see why Elizabeth had decided to quit her job and, as a new mother at the time, fully pursue *lilac farming*. To get her name out to the vendors, she had passed along her business cards and flower samples from the back of her Nissan Hatchback.

Fifteen years later, the *Kilcoyne Lilac Farm* is now a six acre paradise with 3,000 *lilac bushes* that thrive in this area's natural alkaline soil. Elizabeth described these plants as being deciduous (losing their leaves in the winter). She reduces their water intake in September as the plants reach their dormant stage. In order to remember when to stop watering your *outdoor lilac plants*, look for the mountains of Halloween candy displays at your local grocery store. At this point, *lilacs* do not require water until winter ends. Besides the amount of watering, other problematic aspects of *lilac farming* include gophers and weather changes. It has taken lots of determination, maintenance, and pruning to have these perennial plants endure in perfect condition year after year (visit Elizabeth's website for further information regarding the care of *lilacs* at <http://www.kilcoynelilacfarm.com/care.htm>).

The Kilcoyne's hard work is rewarded when the *lilac bushes* bloom. For three weeks between the months of March and April the foot of the mountainside, hidden within the canyons, comes to life. The beautiful *lilac plants* can be seen towering in the sky.

As I walked back to my car, Elizabeth handed me a bouquet of flowers and some potted plants. She said the best part about being a *lilac farmer* was sharing her flowers. The breathtaking arrangement adorns our office, filling the room with its perfume aroma. It symbolizes all the love and hard work that goes into the various aspects of agriculture. The cut *lilac plants* and potted flowers are a treasured reminder.

We thank you for sharing!

For any information with regard to lilacs, or if you would like to purchase cut lilacs or potted flowers please visit [kilcoynelilacfarm.com](http://kilcoynelilacfarm.com)

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR L.A. & ORANGE COUNTIES

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
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Lancaster, CA 93534  
(661) 945-2604 ext. 3

### Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Directors' Meeting Attendance 2006

DIRECTOR	Feb	Mar	Apr
Casey Alesso	P	E	*
Gloria Alesso	E	P	*
Jess Baker	P	P	*
Ralph Bozigian	P	P	*
John Calandri	P	P	*
Steve Godde	P	P	*
John Goit	P	P	*
Dennis Groven	P	P	*
Scott Harter	P	E	*
Dennis Kilcoyne	P	P	*
Gailen Kyle	P	P	*
Julie Kyle	P	P	*
Ray McCormick	P	P	*
Richard Miner	P	P	*
Terry Munz	P	P	*
Eugene Nebeker	P	P	*
Roy Pursche	P	P	*
David Rizzo	P	P	*
Steve Rodrigues	E	P	*
Jeff Siebert	P	P	*
Craig Van Dam	P	E	*
Jessie White	P	P	*

\* indicates that meeting has not taken place at time of printing



Vol. 9 Issue 14

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

May/June 2007

## Farm Bureau News

**FARM BUREAU NEWS** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 41228 12th Street West, Suite A, Palmdale, California 93551-1400, (661) 274-9709.

### GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

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**Kurt E. Floren**-Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner  
Weights and Measures.

**Jae Lee**-NRCS District Conservationist.

**John Valentine**-Director of Relations for Nationwide Insurance.

**Brian Watson**-Farm Bureau Group Manager.

### LAY OUT DESIGN AND FIELD RESEARCH REPORTER FOR FACES OF LACFB:

**Victoria Gerginis**-LACFB Office Staff

**Please Note:** The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers for products advertised in Farm Bureau News, nor does the Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than those expressed in editorials or articles showing authorship by an officer, director, or employee of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

## President's Message:

# WELCOME

### TO OUR FIRST ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!

The goal for our newsletter is to continue to bring agricultural issues to the forefront. Since our audience comes from various backgrounds (some being directly involved in the production of agriculture, whereas others are educators or enthusiasts) we have decided to make our Faces of LACFB a permanent section highlighting the individuals that make up our farm family.

Readers will now get a different perspective of the various types of agriculture in a more personable light. Last issue featured agriculture from a cowboy's perspective (if you missed that issue please refer to <http://www.lacfb.org/printMarchApril.pdf>), and in this issue you read about Victoria's (one of our office staff) lilac farm tour courtesy of our second vice president's wife Elizabeth.

In the spirit of our "new" newsletter, I have written a short biography of how agriculture fits into my life:

What a year to be a dry land farmer in southern California!

My family farm is in North Los Angeles County (yes there is still farming in LA). We are located west of Lancaster, just outside of the California State Poppy Reserve. My family has farmed in this area since 1898, and I've had bad years before, but never quite this bad. What do you expect when you dry farm on the edge of the Mojave Desert!

As a dry land farmer, I rely totally on rainfall with no irrigation. I plant around five hundred acres of barley, oats, and wheat for hay or grain. My average annual rainfall is about 11 inches, but this year the area had only 2.8 inches. We did not receive more than a half inch in any one storm, making this the driest year since 1951.

In March our area received a little over an inch of rain within a ten day period, so I did manage to plant about one hundred acres. My plans were to get some cow feed for my forty head of hungry beef cattle because their pastures were getting scarce. Thus far, my grain planting has made wonderful wildlife feed for the local squirrels and birds. Soon, I will have to make a decision on what to do with my cattle, either buy the high priced feed or send them to market.

I still consider myself lucky because the last two years were pretty good. However, some good comes out of a year like this. It has allowed me to catch up on repairs and maintenance of buildings and equipment, and to play a few more rounds of golf. I'm also lucky my wife works as a nurse at the local hospital to support my farming habit. We've survived bad years before, so I guess with perseverance we'll do it again. I just hope next year brings a lot more rainfall; the farmers in southern California desperately need it!

Thank you for joining us online. We hope you like our new format; your continued support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, or our organization, please feel free to contact our office staff at (661)274-9709.

*Terry A. Munz*

From the desk of  
Agricultural Commissioner

*Kurt E. Floren*

Director of Weights and Measures  
Los Angeles County Department of  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Weights and Measures



Moths, particularly their larvae or caterpillars, are one of the major agricultural pests in many parts of the world. Widespread damage to northeastern U.S. forests has been caused by the caterpillar of the notorious *Gypsy Moth*. Infestations in those states have been extensive and costly, having defoliated millions of acres of forest since 1980. The *Codling Moth*, whose caterpillar, the "apple worm," is a household name, damages walnuts, pears, and other tree fruits and nuts, but primarily focuses on apple crops.

Recent findings of the *Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)* in several San Francisco Bay area counties have stirred new interest and significant concern among agricultural circles in California. A retired UC Berkeley entomology professor in Alameda County found two of the moths in a black light trap on his property in February of this year. Since then, over 170 adult *LBAMs* have been found in detection traps in San Francisco Bay area counties. Our trading partners in other states and countries are beginning to express great concerns, as well. Many questions are being asked regarding the pest's origin, the threats it poses, how it compares to other moth pests, and what can be done to combat it.

### What does its presence really mean?

For starters, *LBAM* has a very broad host range of over 250 plants. It feeds on and damages a wide array of plants and trees, more varied than that attacked by *Gypsy Moth* (mostly hardwoods and conifers). The *Codling Moth* affects primarily orchards. But, our new invader, *LBAM*, has such a wide host range that California's fruit and vegetable crops as well as nurseries and woodlands could be affected.

California's citrus and grape crops may prove especially vulnerable to *LBAM*. Research shows that a single larva of *LBAM* can destroy 30 grams of mature grapes (Bailey, 1997). In Australia, *LBAM* is a major citrus pest that scars the fruit and may cause it to drop. As a result of the pest presence, all major overseas markets place Australian oranges on quarantine lists.

*LBAM* is native to Australia and New Zealand, but has become widely distributed in the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Caledonia, and Hawaii. Now that it has entered our state, fears are rising that this moth could be devastating to California agriculture.

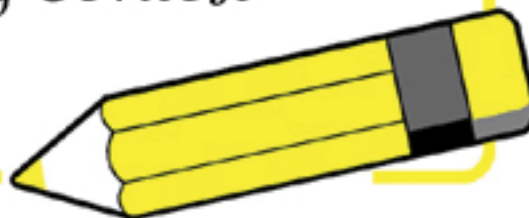
### What can individual residents and growers do?

Monitoring for pest presence is a first step. As *LBAM* larvae may be present through much of the year, individuals can check leaves for webbed nests similar to those of many other so-called "leafrollers." Constructed by the *LBAM* larvae as a shelter to protect it while feeding, a nest formed of the leaf is also used to pupate. Damage is most common in the lower half and central parts of the tree. Larvae are light to dark green with a darker central stripe. In the adult stage, the moth appears variable in color. The basal half of the male's forewing is yellow to light brown, contrasting with a darker tip of the wing. Females are more uniformly light brown and are typically larger than the males. If a suspicious specimen is found, call your local County Agricultural Commissioner.

## Teacher's Corner:



AG Art-Writing Contest  
AG Events



## LACFB's First Annual Art-Writing Contest

### LACFB's First Annual Art-Writing Contest



Calling all teachers in Los Angeles County

**Bring the talents of your aspiring artists and writers together. Let your students' creativities shine, as they learn more about the hard work and benefits of agriculture.**

**Contest rules** This contest is designed to be a collaborative classroom project. As a collaborative piece, we would like to see your students' create artwork and a fictional story with regard to agriculture by including the following criteria:

The artwork must be original and reflect the written story in some way. Any media is acceptable (i.e. drawing, painting, computer art, sculpture, mixed media, etc.) Artwork can be as small or large as your students' imaginations allow.

AND

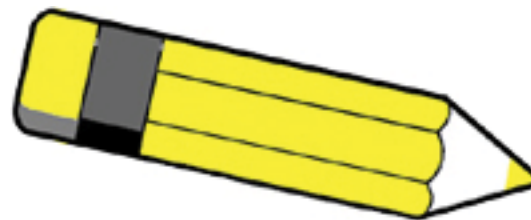
The fictional story must also be original and reflect the artwork in some way. It must contain at least four agricultural facts (please cite your sources) and at least 500 words.

**Deadline** will be October 7, 2007. No entries will be accepted after that date. Please mail or drop off your class entry at the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau office located at 41228 12<sup>th</sup> Street West, Suite A, Palmdale, CA 93551. Please include your name, school address, grade level, and email address.

**Winner** The teacher of the winning class entry will be notified October 31, 2007. Your students will receive an EarthBox, so that they can experience firsthand the benefits of agriculture by producing their own fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://www.earthbox.com/> for more information. In addition, the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau will donate \$100 for additional gardening items. The winning entry will also be featured on the cover of our electronic newsletter.

**Questions?** Please contact the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau office staff at 661-274-9709.

Please note that at this time our AG DAY LA event has reached its maximum capacity and we cannot make additional reservations. However, you can submit your contact information via our website in case there are cancellations.



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today!

## AG Event-

### Agricultural Education in LA County



#### Organized by:

Los Angeles County Farm Bureau  
Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures  
California Women for Agriculture  
48<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association

#### Who attends?

We are inviting **all 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and their students, from L.A. County**, who would like to **join us on an Adventure**. You and your students will learn how **agriculture** completes the many pieces (**water, plants, bees, fiber, food, and dairy**) that form the puzzle of our everyday lives. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, **agriculture affects us ALL**.

#### What is it?

**AG DAY LA** is filled with **valuable hands-on educational experiences to grade school students in L.A. County schools**. It provides a *fun* and *exciting* way for teachers to address **State Standards**, as well as to **promote agricultural literacy**. **AG DAY LA** is an *eye-opening event* for many kids who don't know **where their food comes from** or have never seen a **live farm animal**. For more information, please visit us at <http://www.agdayla.com>

#### When and Where?

**AG DAY LA 2007** will take place at the following venue:

**Event:** 48th DAA Schools' Involvement Fair

**Location:** Fairplex, Pomona

**Date:** May 17, 2007

**Time:** 9-1

#### Why AG DAY LA?

In the Los Angeles area **most children**, as well as adults, **know very little about the connection** between **our health, our food supply, natural resources, and the maintenance of our environment**. If future generations are going to care about **agriculture, farming** and the **preservation of a healthy food supply**, they must be directly exposed to the **people and places that produce their food**.

#### How to join:

Please **RSVP** for this event by one of the following methods:

- 1) **Via electronic form at [www.agdayla.com](http://www.agdayla.com)**
- 2) **Mail reply form to: Cindy Werner, 12300 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia, CA 90604**
- 3) **Fax form to: (626) 443-6652**

Please note that teachers **must** provide adult chaperones for this event. It is also advised that students bring a brown bag lunch. This invite is accepted on a **first come first serve basis**. We thank you for your time and **look forward to meeting you** on our **Adventure**.

#### Teacher Reply Form for **AG DAY LA 2007**

Teacher Name:

School Name:

Grade Level:

School Address:

Number of Students:

School phone number:

Cell number:

E-mail:



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## Nationwide named Most Trusted Company

### Ponemon Institute, TRUSTe release Most Trusted Companies for Privacy study

*Columbus, Ohio* — Nationwide is pleased to announce that it has been named one of the Most Trusted Companies for Privacy for the second time by the Ponemon Institute and TRUSTe. Nationwide was named to the Top 10 list, as well as being named the top company in the insurance industry.

The Web-based research study asked respondents to name one to five companies in 23 industries listed in the study they believed to be the most trustworthy when handling their personal information. Company names were not provided in the survey instrument to allow participants to freely select the organizations believed to be most trusted for privacy. Nationwide was also named to the list in 2004.

"Being named a Most Trusted Company is a great honor for Nationwide," said Kirk Herath, Chief Privacy Officer at Nationwide. "We pride ourselves in being a company that works hard everyday to protect our customers' information."

"With so much negative publicity related to data breaches, our annual Most Trusted Companies survey demonstrates that there are many organizations that place a premium on responsible data stewardship," said Larry Ponemon, chairman and founder, Ponemon Institute. "These companies understand that an investment in effective security and privacy practice has a payoff in building brand loyalty and a stronger, more profitable customer relationship."

The survey was conducted in two stages. Nationwide was rated a most trusted company in an unaided consumer survey and then through an expert review where policies, practices, and execution were tested for consistent care with regard to privacy issues. More information about award criteria is available at [www.truste.org](http://www.truste.org).

Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the world, with more than \$158 billion in assets. Nationwide ranks #98 on the Fortune 100 list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions and long-term savings plans. For more information, visit [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com).

**NATIONWIDE, the Nationwide Framemark and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.**

## Use **Caution** when working with batteries

By Brian Watson  
Farm Bureau Group Manager

**Batteries play an important role on a farm or ranch. Because they contain toxic or acidic metals and chemicals, it is important that they be handled properly.**

There are several different types of batteries, the most common being the lead-acid type. Others include gel cells and lead-calcium batteries. Most batteries contain sulfuric acid and lead. Because they contain chemicals, chemical reaction byproducts and an electrical current, care must be taken in their use.

Most batteries and/or vehicles containing batteries come with a service manual that describes specific instructions for their care, as well as hazard identification. It is important that persons handling batteries be trained in proper handling procedures. For example, never lean over a battery while boosting, testing or charging it.

The sulfuric acid in batteries is highly corrosive. Exposure to it can lead to skin irritation, eye damage, tooth enamel erosion and respiratory irritation. If acid splashes on the skin or in the eyes, immediately flood the area with cool running water for at least 15 minutes and seek medical attention immediately.

To avoid splashing acid in the face or other skin areas, the person handling the battery should wear personal protective equipment, especially chemical splash goggles and a face shield. It is also recommended that acid-resistant gloves, apron and boots be worn. Don't tuck pant legs into boots because spilled acid can form a pool in boots.



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State Compensation Insurance Fund is not a branch of the State of California.



**FARM BILL 2007 HIGHLIGHTS**

By Jae Lee, District Conservationist

**"AFTER YEARS OF BEING LEFT OUT OF THE U.S. FARM PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA FRUIT, NUT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS COULD FINALLY GET THEIR DUE IN THE 2007 FARM BILL,"** according to a February issue of Ag Alert, a Farm Bureau weekly publication.

The end of federal fiscal year 2007 in September marks the sunset of the 2002 Farm Bill which brought noticeably increased Conservation Program Title dollars into the western states including California. Programs offered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) brought hundreds of millions of dollars to western farmers and ranchers to improve water use efficiency, conserve top soil, improve air quality, and improve livestock and wildlife habitat.

On the January 31st announcement of the Bush administration's proposals for the new 2007 Farm Bill, the Los Angeles Times declared this "...a potential windfall for California farmers..."

Along with Conservation Programs, the omnibus bill which mandates much of the activities of the individual agencies in the Department of Agriculture would offer programs that promote cellulosic ethanol and bio-fuel development, organic agriculture, and specialty crops.

**FARM BILL 2007 HIGHLIGHTS**  
continued/ page 8

**A New Threat Wings Its Way Into CA**

ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

**A**s might be expected, all governmental entities relating to agriculture are on alert and establishing game plans to address and combat the **Light Brown Apple Moth**. USDA, CDFA, and County Agricultural Commissioners are developing interim regulatory action plans in anticipation of establishment of quarantine action on the pest. Nurseries, both wholesale and retail, will be inspected and compliance agreements may soon be put into place to ensure that only pest-free plants are sold. CDFA is requesting landscapers to haul green waste from infested communities only to approved areas and homeowners in affected areas are being asked to not remove any plant material from their properties.

What are we doing locally?

Los Angeles County pest detection inspectors have been quickly mobilized and have already deployed nearly 2,000 traps throughout the county to detect any presence of this new pest. The traps are standard fruit fly Jackson traps, each of which is a tent-like cardboard "delta" trap into which is placed a sticky-board and baited with a pheromone lure. A rubber septa, about the size of a slip-on pencil eraser, is impregnated with the pheromone and emits the scent over time. Over 3,000 additional **LEAM** traps will be deployed in the next two weeks. Each trap is hung in a tree with at least five feet of unencumbered space below it and enough space around it so that the male moth can easily fly in. As of this writing, approximately one-half of the traps have been serviced and, thankfully, no **LEAMs** have yet been found in Los Angeles County.

CDFA estimates that a widespread infestation could result in \$100 million or more in losses to California agriculture. In the event of an infestation, control methods to be implemented would involve Integrated Pest Management practices using a wide variety of methods including insecticide applications, biological control, and mating disruption. We are working diligently to determine whether or not Southern California has been invaded by **Light Brown Apple Moth** and monitoring will continue. The hope, of course, is that none are found. The key to minimizing its impact, should the pest succeed in reaching our area, is in early detection and prompt reaction, so all are asked to keep an eye out for signs of this unwanted traveler.

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## Use **Caution** when working with batteries

ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

**Chemical reaction byproducts contained in batteries include oxygen and hydrogen gas, which can be explosive at high levels. Flammable gases can also be created when a battery is overcharged.**

If you find that it is necessary to work on a battery, the first order of business is to disconnect the battery cables. To avoid sparking, always disconnect the negative cable first and reconnect it last. Battery maintenance tools should be covered with several layers of electrical tape to avoid sparking. When cleaning battery terminals, use a plastic brush because wire brushes could create static and sparks. The electrical voltage created by batteries can ignite flammable materials and cause severe burns.

Careful thought should be given to proper storage of batteries when they are not in use. They should be stored in a well-ventilated work area away from all ignition sources and incompatible materials. Because of the possibility of buildup of explosive gases, cigarettes, flames or sparks could cause a battery to explode.

Battery casings are brittle and can break or crack easily. When installing a battery in a vehicle, make sure it is securely anchored and upright. If the battery shows signs of damage to terminals, case or cover, replace it immediately and dispose of the old battery in a proper manner.

Accidents involving exploding batteries can be very serious, but proper care and maintenance can go a long way toward making sure it doesn't happen on your farm or ranch.

## FARM BILL 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

By Jae Lee, District Conservationist

ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

This would be the first Farm Bill with a Title for Energy Programs, together with Commodity, Conservation, Nutrition, Trade, Credit, Rural Development, Research, and Forestry Programs. Within the Research, Forestry, and Energy Titles alone, there could be up to \$3.4 billion in funding, grants, and loans for research on alternative bio-energy technology.

Specialty crop could receive \$1 billion in research funding for advanced plant breeding, genetics, and genomics. Food assistance, school meal, and market access programs could see \$3.5 billion to promote purchase of more fruits and vegetables. The proposal also increases Technical Assistance to specialty crops through \$68 million in project grants.

Operating loan and direct ownership loan programs would be improved to increase access to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers through first year payment deferrals, reduced down payment requirements, as well as, lowered interest rates.

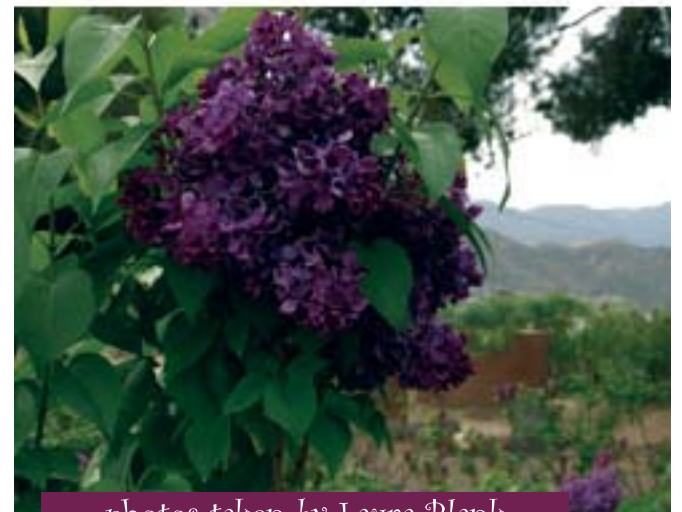
EQIP, CSP, and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are all reauthorized and bolstered through merging of other programs, streamlining, additional funding, and other improvements. A strong emphasis will be on the development of a single Conservation Plan for participants to address multiple concerns rather than piecemeal conserving of our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

Stay ahead of the game and come visit us so we can help you develop your Conservation Plan, your roadmap to improvements for your farm, ranch, and private properties. Our **address is 44811 N. Date Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534**. Our **phone number is (661) 945-2604, ext 3**. You can also **email jae.lee@ca.usda.gov or visit our California NRCS website at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov**.

## Lilac Farm Tour Photos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE PHOTOS

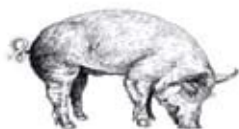


photos taken by Laura Blank

# Advertising Arena

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19235 West Ave C in Lancaster

April 28, 2007

#### Lamb Sale

Preview 10-11

Sale 11-11:30

#### Pig Sale

Preview 12-1

Sale 1-1:30

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Saturday, May 12, 2007

and

Sunday, May 13, 2007

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### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**50th District Agricultural Association**  
2511 West Avenue H  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
(661) 948-6060

**Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency**  
6500 West Avenue N  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
(661) 943-3201  
E-mail: avekwa@aol.com  
General Meetings - 2nd and 4th  
Tuesdays of the month

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

(continued)

**Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District**  
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