



California Association of Wheat Growers

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## Newsletter

November 12, 2010

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Upcoming Events

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**-December 14 CAWG and CWC Board of Directors Meetings**

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### **Farm Service Agency Administrator Urges Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections That Begin on Friday, Nov. 5**

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Release No. 0586.10

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 4, 2010 - Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Jonathan Coppess announced today that the 2010 FSA county committee elections will begin tomorrow, Nov. 5, with USDA mailing ballots to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices is Dec. 6, 2010.

"All eligible farmers and ranchers can make a difference by voting in this year's county committee elections," said Coppess. "County committee members will provide input and make important decisions on the local administration of new disaster and conservation programs under the 2008

Farm Bill. I particularly encourage minority and women producers to get involved so that county committees fairly represent the producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction."

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support loans and payments; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; emergency programs and payment eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. Agricultural producers in each county submitted candidate nominations during the nomination period, which ended on Aug. 2.

Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can obtain ballots from their local USDA Service Center. Dec. 6, 2010, is the last day for voters to submit ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers. Ballots returned by mail must also be postmarked no later than Dec. 6. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2011. Close to 7,900 FSA county committee members serve in the 2,244 FSA offices nationwide. Each committee consists of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. More information on county committees, such as the new 2010 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

APHIS Removes Quarantine Areas in California

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FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2010-53

November 10, 2010

SUBJECT: *Tilletia indica* (Mitra) Mundkur(Karnal Bunt)- Removal of Quarantine Areas in California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the remaining Karnal bunt quarantine areas in California.

Based on results of the 2010 Karnal Bunt National Survey, APHIS determined that the remaining 17,827 acres of Riverside County in California meet all requirements of the APHIS Karnal bunt eradication program. Accordingly, restrictions on the interstate movement of Karnal bunt regulated articles from these areas are no longer required. Following this action, there will be no remaining Karnal bunt quarantine areas in California.

The specific changes to the quarantine areas are described in the attached Federal Order and documented on the following website:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/kb/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/kb/index.shtml)

In April 2010, APHIS issued a Federal Order adding and removing areas from the Karnal bunt quarantine area, which included removing a portion of Riverside County, California. It is important to note that the interim rule codifying those changes was published in the November 10 *Federal Register*, but will not reflect the changes described in today's Federal Order. APHIS plans to publish another interim rule codifying the changes detailed in the attached Federal Order.

For additional information you may contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, National Program Manager, at (301) 734-7228.

**/s/David Kaplan for**

Rebecca A. Bech

Deputy Administrator

Plant Protection and Quarantine

## **Committees in Limbo, House Transition Begins Next Week**

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House transition from Democrat leadership to a Republican majority has begun with the expected jockeying among members for leadership slots, committee chairs and other positions of power. House Speaker-presumptive John Boehner (R, OH) put a 22-member transition team in place, which includes a number of newly elected members, and plans to begin a series of formal announcements next week during the lame duck session beginning November 15. Boehner's team is looking at the possibility of reducing committee size - but has made no final decision - as a means of improving efficiency, but his first challenge is committee leadership and membership assignment. Both parties hold their leadership elections next week.

On the Democrat side, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D, CA) said she'll run for minority leader, but she's been targeted by over two dozen Democrats to step aside and allow for new leadership after the loss of majority in last week's election. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D, MD) is in a horse race with Rep. James Clyburn (D, SC) for minority whip.

Boehner has ordered incoming committee chairs to begin outlining what will likely be several months of committee oversight hearings to review Democrat-approved measures, such as health care, climate change and food safety; pending rulemakings and other issues so leadership can put together its legislative target list. House and Senate agriculture committees are beginning their post-election transitions, with the House Democrat side of the aisle decimated by last week's elections, and the Senate ag panel left without an obvious chair. On the House side, the heavy lifting will be done by the Democrats as the ag panel lost 15 - and it could be 16 if Rep. Jim Costa's

(D, CA) race goes down -- of its 28 members, the GOP side lost none. The heavy loss of veterans and the fact most House members don't put the ag panel at the top of their committee wish list, means the ag panel is the likely new home for a number of the freshman coming into the 112th Congress. Rep. Frank Lucas (R, OK) becomes chair, a conservative who favors traditional farm programs and has demonstrated a vocal distrust of this administration's actions out of EPA, OSHA and USDA. The influx of committee freshman going into a Farm Bill will be a challenge for both Lucas and sitting chair Rep. Collin Peterson (D, MN), and Lucas has announced he'll expand the number of Farm Bill hearings held by Peterson so far. In the House Energy & Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over all FDA issues, the chair is the prize in a three-way race among current ranking minority member Rep. Joe Barton (R, TX), who will need a leadership waiver to take the gavel because of caucus term limit rules; Rep. Fred Upton (R, MI), a well-respected senior member of the panel who's been attacked by Barton as too liberal given his votes with Democrats on some big ticket issues, and Rep. John Shimkus (R, IL), an unexpected challenger.

On the Senate side where the Democrats remain in control, the ag committee lacks an obvious chair. While Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D, MI) covets the seat following Sen. Blanche Lincoln's (D, AR) defeat, it's still unclear if Sen. Kent Conrad (D, ND) or Sen. Ben Nelson (D, NE) will make a bid for the gavel. Stabenow is criticized for not having the Farm Bill battle experience coming from a state more known for its specialty crop production than mainstream farm program crops, especially with Lucas chairing the House ag panel. Conrad, chair of the Senate Budget Committee, is noncommittal, saying during the last Farm Bill he "drove the legislation" from his budget committee chair so he doesn't need to chair the ag panel. However, observers say going into his 2012 reelection race in a staunchly red state, he'd be in a stronger position with his rural constituency by chairing ag. Nelson, who was widely rumored to be considering a party membership change, assured Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D, NV) he has no intention of defecting to the GOP, and it's possible the ag panel chair could be a reward for loyalty.

President Comes Up Short on Korean FTA

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Reports from the G20 economic summit in Seoul, Korea, indicate President Obama was unsuccessful in getting final agreement on a U.S. - Korea free trade pact, and the President quickly announced negotiations will continue over the next several weeks. The failure to get agreement takes the agreement off the congressional lame duck agenda. Sticking points in the negotiations included a U.S. push for concessions for Ford and Chrysler sales to Korea. The automakers joined with organized labor to oppose the current text of the trade treaty. Also high on the list of unresolved items was U.S. insistence on Korea opening its market to U.S. beef. Obama had hoped to cap his successful trade development trip to India and Indonesia with an agreement with Koreans on the free trade pact, a treaty which has languished for over three years in Congress. This week a coalition of business interests led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urged American and South Korea officials to finalize the pact and promised to work to get the votes in Congress for ratification.

### **Funding Available for Wheat, Rice Breeding Doctoral Students**

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Applications for the third round of funding from Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International

Scholars Program are being accepted now through Feb. 1, 2011.

Funding through the program is available for scholars pursuing a doctorate in wheat or rice plant breeding.

The program is administered by Texas AgriLife Research and funded by Monsanto through 2012 with a \$10 million grant.

The program honors the accomplishments of its namesakes, Drs. Henry Beachell and Norman Borlaug, who pioneered plant breeding and research in rice and wheat, respectively.

Students participating in the program can be from anywhere in the world and can complete their Ph.D. programs at any university in the world that grants a Ph.D. in rice or wheat breeding.

However, students enrolled in a developing country university are required to complete part of their research program in Australia, Canada, the United States or Western Europe, and students studying in those countries must conduct at least one season of field work in a developing country.

Applications for the fellowships will be reviewed by an independent panel of global judges, with decisions made in May.

Students interested in applying for the program can find more details at www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars.