



ENERGY \$\$\$

LOANS

MEETINGS

Energy \$\$\$

The electrical energy crunch experienced this summer has pushed energy saving ideas onto the front page, and some attractive opportunities exist for dairies. Agricultural customers of California's three major investor-owned utilities are now eligible for up to \$1.5 million in financial incentives, under the **Standard Performance Contract (SPC) Program**, for energy saving projects at their facilities. Unlike traditional rebate programs, in which dollars are paid for specific measures from a pre-approved list of energy-saving equipment, SPC offers financial incentives for custom designed projects.

Projects like variable frequency drives for vacuum pumps and other energy-saving purchases at your dairy can be eligible. Savings are measured and verified, so customers can be sure that the projected savings are actually realized (cents per kwh saved).

For more detailed information call the Customer Solution Center (SCE), 800-634-9175, or Business Customer Center (PG&E), 800-468-4743. Mention you need assistance for the SPC Program. Also, there will be an information booth at the next South Valley and Mid-Valley Dairy Days in Tulare and Modesto.

Loans

The California Energy Commission Agricultural Energy Loan Program is now accepting applications for loans. The loans are for purchase and demonstration of energy efficient equipment and services. Projects may include energy saver fans, efficient lighting, and variable speed drive pumps for the dairy, as well as precision farming and irrigation equipment, renewable energy sources, electrical demand management, and other emerging technologies. Loans are for up to \$200,000 per project per applicant and the interest rate is 4.4%. Online application is http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/2000-09-25_ag_program.html, or call (916) 654-4019, or fax (916) 654-4304, or e-mail ramon@energy.state.ca.us.

The Consolidated Farm & Rural Development Act, Sections 311 and 319, contains a term limit requirement for direct and guaranteed Operating Loans (OL's). On 6/20/00 the President signed into law the Agricultural Risk Protection Act 2000. Section 255 of this law suspends all OL term limits through 12/31/02. Any applicants affected by the term limit suspension have an opportunity to apply for direct and guaranteed loans through 12/31/02 by calling the Farm

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For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

Loan Team, 734-8732, ext. 2. Also, there are loans for on-farm grain storage structures that include both vertical and flat structures that are new or improvements to existing facilities. Call the same number for details.

Meetings

Fertilizer Research and Education Conference

Nov. 14, 2000 • 8:00 to 4:30
Edison AgTAC Bldg., Tulare
CCA/PCA credits will be available.

Program Focus: Advancing fertility and water management in field crops; update on non-nutritive metals; comprehensive nutrient management plans; total maximum daily loads in Southern California; precision agriculture for the San Joaquin Valley; nutrient/pest interactions in cotton and pistachios; and hands-on demonstrations in fertilizer and water management.

Registration fee before 11/1/00 is \$45, afterward \$55. Call Edison AgTAC, 1-800-772-4822, for registration and program details.

Pesticide Worker Safety Training

Identical Sessions
Nov. 14 • Exeter Memorial Hall
Nov. 15 • Dinuba Memorial Hall
Nov. 16 • International Agri-Center, Tulare

Identical sessions 8:30 a.m. to noon in Spanish and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. in English. Program focus is for pesticide applicator employee: laws and regulations; pesticide toxicology and safety; training and information sources; and driver safety. Fee is \$5 per person, checks payable to UC Regents. Mail checks by 11/10 to Pesticide Worker Safety Training Program, UCCE, 2500 W. Burrell Ave., Visalia (specify names of attendees). Also, registration is possible at the door. Certificates issued upon completion of morning or afternoon session. Call 733-6363 for more details.

2000 National Alfalfa Symposium

Dec. 10-12 • Las Vegas Hilton, Nevada

Program Focus: Industry trends; water transfers; pest management; soils & irrigation; marketing; forage quality; biotechnology and regulation.

Registration forms at local UCCE offices, or e-mail ndpicanco@ucdavis.edu, or call 530-752-0700. Fees: Pre-Symposium Field Tour, \$48; registration \$120 by 11/17 or \$160 afterward (includes admission, proceedings, lunches and refreshments). Extra lunches are \$24 and additional proceedings \$12. Las Vegas Hilton hotel reservations, 1-800-732-7117. For additional program information call 733-6363.

South Valley Dairy Day

January 24, 2001 • Edison AgTAC, Tulare

Mid-Valley Dairy Day

January 25, 2001 • County Ag Center
Crows Landing and Service Road, Modesto

Meetings are identical and topics include: strategies to improve employee relationships; where does money come from on the dairy; current outlook for BVD & neospora control; lameness prevention and hoof health; demonstration on functional hoof trimming and healing lame cows. Plus there will be posters in the lobby displaying results of UC Davis Animal Science Dept. and UCVMTTC and farm advisor dairy research.

Meetings are free but pre-registration by phone is required for lunch. Call local UCCE offices or 559-733-6363 for Tulare and 209-525-6800 for Modesto meetings.

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