



California Association of Wheat Growers

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## Newsletter

August 19, 2011

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Upcoming EVENTS

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**Wednesday, August 31, California Association of Wheat Growers and California Wheat Commission Board of Directors Meetings. Meetings are to start at 8:00 a.m.**

**Location: Please note the Location of the Meeting has Changed and will not be held at the California Farm Bureau Offices but at the University California at Davis. The building and room number are indicated below.**

**University of California at Davis, Plant and Environmental Sciences Building Room 2005.**

**Map Link [HERE](http://campusmap.ucdavis.edu/?buildingselect=-1) (campusmap.ucdavis.edu/?buildingselect=-1) - You can search by Building name and print a Downloadable MAP.**

## **REDISTRICTING Commission RELEASES Final MAPS**

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The California Redistricting Commission released their final district maps for the California Assembly, Senate and Congressional seats this week. California's most recent experiment with government reform has taken one more step. The results do include several more "competitive seats" which are seats that are not completely dominated by one party or the other. Because the maps were drawn without regard to where sitting politicians live, several incumbents have been nested in the same district - setting up interesting primary challenges, or forcing members to move to a neighboring district.

Because the maps more appropriately represent California's population than traditional "gerrymandered" districts, there are more districts where specific ethnicities are a majority, leading to the belief that future legislators and congressional delegations will be more culturally diverse. Additionally, with the increasing numbers of decline to state voters and reduction in the membership of the parties - especially the Republican Party, it is estimated that Democrats will be able to pick up additional legislative seats and possibly even gain a 2/3 super majority by the 2014 election. Each party will focus on voter registration in key districts this fall and next year in order to increase their chances in competitive districts.

These new districts, incumbents nested together and the adoption of the "top two primary" system will make this next election cycle memorable. Attached is a link to a website that has the boundaries of each district, but also includes past voting data and insight on who may run for each seat. <http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/districts/>

GOVERNOR Appoints JOBS Advisor

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Michael E. Rossi, 67, of Pebble Beach, has been appointed senior jobs advisor in the Office of the Governor. In this role, Rossi will be the point of contact between California's business and workforce leaders and the Administration and he will advise Governor Brown on regulatory, legislative and executive actions needed to drive job growth.

He is a retired finance professional with a long history of serving in various senior finance positions and on boards of several corporations. Most recently he was vice chairman and chief risk officer of BankAmerica Corporation and was the chairman of its Fiduciary and Investment Policy Committee. Previously, he was BankAmerica's chief credit officer and held various executive positions including running BankAmerica's Commercial Banking, Global Private Bank, Asia, Latin America, Commercial Real Estate, Corporate Real Estate, Personal and Corporate Trust and Cash Management divisions. Rossi received a Bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

## **USFRA Announces FIRST Food DIALOGUES**

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The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) announced this week it will hold its first public event - "The Food Dialogues" - on Sept. 22, online via webcast and live in Washington, D.C., New York City, Fair Oaks, Ind., and at the University of California-Davis. The town hall

discussion will be designed to address the biggest questions consumers have about farming and ranching and the future of food. The coalition said more details will be posted soon at www.USFRAOnline.org.

CANADA'S FTA with COLOMBIA Goes Into EFFECT

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Canada's free trade agreement with Colombia went into effect this week even as a similar agreement between the United States and Colombia, which was signed in 2006, continues to await action by the Obama Administration and Congress. U.S. Wheat Associates has estimated U.S. wheat producers stand to lose up to \$100 million in sales per year without quick passage of the U.S.-Colombia FTA, in large part because of competition from countries with more preferential access, including Argentina and, now, Canada. For more from U.S. Wheat on this week's development, please visit <http://bit.ly/mTUytU>.

## **CAWG and NAWG Support the AGRICULTURAL Trade Facilitation ACT**

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CAWG and NAWG along with 44 other agricultural organizations signed letters of support for the Agricultural Trade Facilitation Act authored by Rep. Devin Nunes. The bill's intent is to establish a uniform science based adoption of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures in the context of negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and future free trade agreements.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement is an Asia-Pacific regional trade agreement currently being negotiated among the United States and eight other partners. The United States' TPP negotiating partners are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The eighth round of negotiations will take place in the United States sometime in September.

For more information on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement click [here](http://www.ustr.gov/tpp) (www.ustr.gov/tpp)