



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
May 1, 2009
Twentieth Edition**

- * Annual International Meeting in Reno, NV - volunteers
- * Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Codifies ASABE Standard
- * Sponsor Highlight - AIM, INC.
- * Sponsor Highlight - John Deere Water Technologies
- * 1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight - Greg Norris, PE, USDA NRCS
- * Ag Engineering Exam Review
- * ASABE Co-Sponsored Event: Farming Systems Design 2009, August 23-26, 2009, Monterey, Calif.

- * Annual International Meeting in Reno, NV - volunteers

The ASABE AIM is fast approaching this June 21-24 in Reno, Nevada. If you would like to volunteer some time helping run the meeting for a full or partial refund of your conference registration, please send an e-mail to aimvolunteers@asabe.org.

- * Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Codifies ASABE Standard

California became the first known state to require recycling plastic pesticide containers in accordance with ANSI/ASABE S596, Recycling Plastic Containers from Pesticides and Pesticides-Related Products. According to Senate Bill 1723, effective on January 1, 2009, California requires every person who first sells an agricultural or structural use pesticide product into California, which is packaged in high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers, to participate in a HDPE recycling program. ASABE S596, initiated and developed with Crop Life America, covers this process and is specifically required by the bill. Additionally it was reported at the recent annual meeting of The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) that the US EPA is evaluating national requirements for recycling these containers and plans to reference ASABE S596 should this move forward. (Originally published in Inside ASABE, March 2009)

- * Sponsor Highlight - AIM, INC.

AIM, INC. has provided innovative product design and manufacturing for its agricultural and industrial customers since 1979. Vineyard mechanization has been a key focus with the development of mechanical grape harvesters and pruning equipment. Unique applications of fluid power are a trademark of AIM-developed equipment. Located in the center of the Lodi winegrape Appellation in California, AIM has customers throughout the West Coast and in all of the major wine grape growing regions of the US.



1 – AIM’s Golden Retriever pipe moving machine



2 – AIM’s GH9000 Grape Harvester.

* Sponsor Highlight – John Deere Water Technologies

John Deere Water Technologies is the world’s most valued provider of products and services in the water industry. Our products and services play a key role in the application of water and help to improve water quality, water efficiency, and quantity and the quality of crop yields. We lead the industry with one of the most comprehensive line of irrigation products and services and deliver them around the globe.

* 1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight – Greg Norris, PE, USDA NRCS

Greg Norris has been a Registered Civil Engineer in California since 1997 and has worked for NRCS in California for 17 years. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering in 1990 from Cal Poly, Pomona and an M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1992. He has had the opportunity to plan and/or implement conservation projects in 29 of California's 58 Counties. He provides specialized technical support to California NRCS in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and participates on a national cadre as an instructor for new NRCS engineers. His work on emergency conservation projects has been substantial and has received recognition from the Secretary of Agriculture as well as the Chief of NRCS. His favorite part of the job so far has been when engineering science intersects with the practical knowledge of ranchers and farmers to develop ideas that make differences in conserving California's natural resources.

One - piece of advice I'd give new graduates:

1 - Never burn a bridge; you may need to cross it again someday.

Two - things I learned on the job that I didn't learn in college:

1 - Money is the greatest driving force in any project.

2 - Completed projects are directly related to good relationships.

Three - concepts I learned in college that I use regularly:

1 - Neatness counts.

2 - Pay attention to detail.

3 - Take deadlines seriously.

Four - favorite technical aspects of my job:

1 - Manipulating computer models to represent real life conditions.

2 - Strategizing with other disciplines on how to address problems.

3 - Investigating and identifying how resource issues develop on watersheds.

4 - Developing value-added alternatives and ideas to address resource concerns.

Five - places I've been or things I've seen in my career:

- 1 - A San Joaquin kit fox ran right by me while I was working on the Carrizo Plains in San Luis Obispo County.
- 2 - Downtown San Francisco while analyzing a slope stability project for S.F. Recreation and Parks Department.
- 3 - Redwoods near Santa Cruz while working on emergency watershed projects.
- 4 - The All American Canal and inverted siphon structures in the Imperial Valley, California.
- 5 - A fish elevator at Pyramid Lake, Nevada.

* ASABE Co-Sponsored Event: Farming Systems Design 2009, August 23-26, 2009, Monterey, Calif.

Leading international scientists will assemble to share ideas, results, and research. Topics to be discussed are important issues for the global agricultural community, including: food security, environmental impacts, climate change, and management alternatives for enhancing natural resources. Learn more at <http://www.asabe.org/meetings/farmsystems09.pdf>. (Originally published in Inside ASABE, March 2009)

* Agricultural Engineering Exam Review

If you're planning on taking the Agricultural Engineering Professional Engineering exam next October and you need study help, check out ASABE's Professional Engineers' Institute website at <http://www.asabe.org/pei/PEwebinar.html>.

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- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership group, please let us know.