



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
May 6, 2013
Forty Fourth Edition**

- * **UC Davis to Host 3rd Annual Engineering Design Showcase – June 6th, 2- 4:30pm**
- * **Cal Poly BRAE Hosts FFA Ag Mechanics State Finals Contest**
- * **ASABE Annual International Meeting, Kansas City, MO – July 21- 24**
- * **Farmer Veteran Coalition**

- * **UC Davis to Host 3rd Annual Engineering Design Showcase – June 6th, 2- 4:30pm**

The 3rd Annual Engineering Design Showcase will be held at UC Davis ARC Pavilion on June 6th from 2:00-4:30PM. This showcase gives the students a chance to present their work in senior design courses, engineering clubs, and undergraduate research at UC Davis. It allows outside organizations, companies, and industry professionals an opportunity to review the extraordinary achievements of the engineering students and the quality of the engineering education at UC Davis. Please contact Alin Wakefield (amwakefield@ucdavis.edu) or Pam Swartwood (pcswartwood@ucdavis.edu) with any questions.

- * **Cal Poly BRAE Hosts FFA Ag Mechanics State Finals Contest**

On Saturday May 4th, the Cal Poly Department of BioResource & Ag Engineering hosted the FFA Ag Mechanics State Finals Contest. 24 of the top qualifying schools from all over the state attended. Qualification comes from having attended multiple "field day" contests over this past year. These were held at several locations such as Arbuckle High School, Fresno State University, and UC Davis. Teams of three high school students competed for high team and high individual awards. The sub-competitions included plumbing, electrical, welding, a written exam, tool identification, problem solving, and woodworking. This is traditionally a grudge match between many of the schools from around the state. It is significant to our technical profession because it is some of the first exposure many of these young men and women have to engineering mechanics, hands-on skills, and a variety of college campuses around the state. Many of the alumni of FFA judging competitions students have moved on to attend college at Ag Engineering schools in California and beyond. The State Finals Ag Mechanics Contest has been held at Cal Poly for well over 40 years, and has been chaired by Mark Zohns for at least 20 of those years. Indispensable to making this contest happen are the 50+ student volunteers, many of whom are members of the Cal Poly ASABE student chapter. We thank them for their help!

- * **ASABE Annual International Meeting, Kansas City, MO – July 21- 24**

ASABE 2013 presents a forum to expand awareness of current industry trends, promote and acknowledge innovations in design and technology, and provide opportunities for professional development - all with a focus on the economic, political and societal impacts facing the industry. Join us for 4 days this summer in Kansas City! Be sure to check out the activities and events occurring in your technical division and within your membership group.

* **Farmer Veteran Coalition**

The Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) provides a wide variety of resources designed to assist veterans of all eras who are interested in transitioning into the agricultural sector. We provide resources to assist those already pursuing careers in food and farming and those aspiring to hold positions in the agricultural industry.

FVC offers job referrals designed to match veterans with opportunities in the agriculture. We network with the agriculture industry to determine employment needs and gaps that can be filled by veterans. FVC's mentorship opportunities are designed to provide veterans a chance to ask questions and seek guidance from industry professionals. Our Farmer Worksheets are designed to assist FVC staff in order to determine appropriate resources for a specific Farmer Veteran. FVC offers a wide breadth of informational resources on land access, funding opportunities, agricultural organizations, production questions, etc.

FVC also works with veterans looking to build their knowledge base through hands-on means. FVC's internship and apprenticeship placement opportunities allow veterans with little or no agricultural background to access knowledge and gain experience outside of an academic or collegiate setting while focusing on practical application of everyday farm operations. We also partner with other farming organizations to host retreats, workshops, and conferences.

Finally, FVC offers a small grants program called the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund. This program provides Farmer Veterans with financial assistance to be used for equipment purchases or trainings. For more information, visit <http://www.farmvetco.org/>.

- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Carolyn at 707-678-1655x117 or carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov.
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know.