



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
June 25th, 2014
Fifty First Edition**

- * **Wine Country Truck & Tractor Pull, Napa Valley Expo, June 28th**
- * **Gladiola Flower Harvest Aid by Cal Poly ASM & BRAE Students**
- * **Napa County RCD Resource Conservationist Position – closes July 11**
- * **CSU Fresno 37th Annual Ag Boosters BBQ, Borba Ranch, September 7th**
- * **UCD BAE Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist Position Proposal**
- * **The Dust Bowl: Memories of Those Who Experienced It, by Bill Chancellor**

* **Wine Country Truck & Tractor Pull, Napa Valley Expo, June 28th**

It's full throttle forward with wheelies and front tires leaping as some of the state's most qualified tractor drivers compete to pull the heaviest and farthest on a 300-foot track! Locals are invited to bring your own 4x4 stock trucks or tractors for the competition! It's a \$40 fee to enter (cash only, please; fee goes to Maxx Kahl Powersports), no modifications necessary, just show up for weigh-in at 1 pm. Show up early to see the antique tractors on display at the Expo. Gates open 4 pm. First Pull at 5pm. Kids 5 and under are FREE!!! FREE parking! Limited box seats/pit passes available, please call us or send us an email to purchase box seats: (707) 224-5403 or info@napafarmbureau.org

The Pull is a fundraiser for the Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers, Napa and Saint Helena FFA, and Napa 4-H.

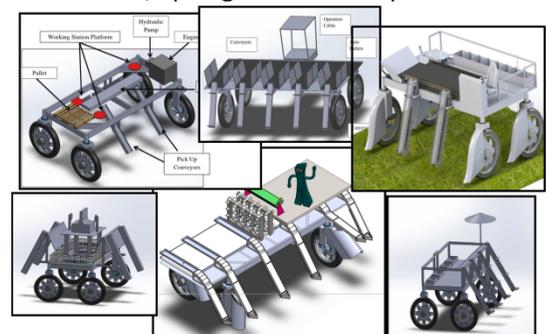
* **Gladiola Flower Harvest Aid by Cal Poly ASM & BRAE Students**



The Ag Systems Management (ASM) & BioResources and Ag Engineering (BRAE) students from the BRAE 418/419 & 421/422 project courses came together to work on the Gladiola Flower Harvest Aid. Their design problem this year was to develop the leveling frame as well as the steering axle assemblies. Thirteen students pursued the conceptual design, prototype fabrication and final assembly during Fall and Winter quarters of the 2013/14 academic year. The system as it stands has a wheelbase of 18' x 8', has a deck of 24' x 11.5', and has a 74" ground clearance for traveling over gladiola flower spikes as they are removed from the field after hand harvesting. Use of CAD/CAM and CNC technologies were instrumental in ensuring that the design progressed into the rolling chassis seen in the photos below.



BRAE 320, Spring 2013: Conceptual Ideas



*** Napa County RCD Resource Conservationist Position – closes July 11**

The Napa County Resource Conservation District is accepting applications for the position of Resource Conservationist. We are looking for an individual with demonstrated expertise in engineering, agricultural sciences, landscape architecture, soil science, geology, and/or related skills and abilities to carry out erosion control plan review and winterization inspections for vineyard developments in Napa County. The Resource Conservationist will join a dynamic team of professional staff who work together to empower the community to voluntarily conserve, protect, and restore natural resources in a landscape that supports agriculture, urban areas, and wild lands. Additional information about the position and how to apply is included in the attached announcement.

The position is open until filled but applicants are encouraged to submit materials by 5:00 PM on July 11, 2014. Full details are at <http://www.naparcd.org/documents/ResourceConservationist61614.pdf>.

The Town of Yountville also has a Deputy Public Works Director position open until July 10, 2014. Full details are at <http://www.townofyountville.com/index.aspx?page=31&recordid=40>.

*** CSU Fresno 37th Annual Ag Boosters BBQ, Borba Ranch, September 7th**

This year marks the 37th annual Ag Boosters BBQ! The committee has been busy planning an enjoyable afternoon for you and other industry representatives from throughout the Valley while raising support for higher education through Ag One at Fresno State and California Women for Agriculture (CWA). For the eighth year in a row, Mark and Peggy Borba have generously opened up Rancho Vista del Rio (Borba Ranch) for the event. This year's BBQ will be on Sunday, September 7th. We hope you will choose to support education by being a sponsor for this year's event. Higher education plays an important role in shaping future leaders. Your support will ensure that bright students can pursue their educational dreams and goals.

The BBQ is a wonderful environment to visit and network with colleagues in the agricultural industry. Last year, nearly 1,000 guests enjoyed music, samples of Fresno State student-produced farm products such as sausage, cheese, grapes and raisins, plus award-winning wine. The CWA Country Store showcased farm fresh produce as well as home-made baked goods and craft items. There were also spirited silent and live auctions, and this year's offerings will be no less exciting! Further details are at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/jcast/agonefoundation/boostersbbqinfo.html>

*** UCD BAE Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist Position Proposal**

The UC Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources is seeking input on the creation of a new collaborative faculty position on campus. This position, one of the four anticipated new BAE faculty positions, will be housed in the UCD Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and will address safety and health challenges within the entire agricultural system in California, starting with jobs in the field (planting, maintenance, harvesting, etc.) and ending with postharvest activities (packing, processing, shipping and handling, etc.). The CE Agricultural Safety and Health Specialist will develop partnerships with growers, worker groups, processors, equipment manufacturers, and various State agencies to assist the agriculture industry in maintaining safe and healthy working environments and practices. General areas of research include field equipment safety (e.g., tractors and implements), worker's safety and health (e.g., heat illness and agrochemicals exposure), development of engineering controls for safety and health hazards mitigation, and safety of existing and newly developed mechanized systems and operations. Candidates must have strong background in safety and health as well as engineering, with a Ph.D. in Safety and Health Engineering or a closely related field, or a B.S. in Engineering with a PhD in an agricultural safety and health field. They must have the ability to conduct independent and cooperative research related to safety and health, and the ability and willingness to disseminate results to clientele.

To read the full position description and provide comments, visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/2014_Call_for_Positions/?propnum=3154.

Other position proposals may be viewed at http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/2014_Call_for_Positions/?

*** The Dust Bowl: Memories of Those Who Experienced It, by Bill Chancellor**

On May 9, 2014 the members of the UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department Retirees Group met to hear a noontime program featuring two of the 26 Dust Bowl survivors interviewed in the Ken Burns' four-hour documentary about the Dust Bowl. The program was organized by Dr. Douglas Williams, Professor Emeritus of Agr. Eng from Cal Poly, whose late father had told Doug of his dust-bowl experiences during their days on their Kansas home farm, and whose second cousin, Mrs. Irene Beck Hauer of Hayward, was one of those interviewed by Burns.



The other dust bowl survivor, Mr. Calvin Crabill, a retired Davis mathematics teacher, who had taught the elder brothers of Dorothy Kepner (Retiree Group member and daughter of UC Davis Prof. Bob Kepner) also told of his experiences. These memories were related to the Group after a showing of video clips of the parts in which the two afore-mentioned survivors appeared in the 4-hour program.

Besides members of the Group, the gathering was attended by Carolyn Jones, P.E. who represented the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA, the forerunner of the Soil Conservation Service. These organizations played a key role in finding the cause of this large, man-made ecological disaster, and also effecting solutions in bringing it to a close. However, Mr. Crabill explained that upon his recent visit to the OK-KS-NM-CO area, that what he saw led him to believe that with the current drought situation, that dust-bowl-prone conditions could return again.

- 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.