



News Release

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE **AND NFACT TO HOLD SESSIONS ON 2002 FARM BILL**

Sacramento—The California Department of Food and Agriculture and NFACT will hold nine facilitated forums across the State of California focusing on the 2002 Farm Bill. Congress uses the Farm Bill as a guide for directing federal agricultural policy. These forums will provide California's farmers, ranchers and the public an opportunity to provide input into the development of this important document.

NFACT is a coalition of the New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, California and Texas Departments of Agriculture. The group was formed in 1999 to bring due attention to specialty crop and livestock issues. Priority issues to be discussed at each forum will include animal and plant health, conservation, international and domestic marketing, research and risk management. There will also be an opportunity for public comment on any other issue impacted by the Farm Bill. These comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person, with sign-up the day of the forum.

All forums will start at 8:00 a. m. at the following locations:

- Fresno November 14, 2000, Big Fresno Fairgrounds, 1121 South Chance Avenue
- Salinas November 20, 2000, Richard W. Nutter Agricultural Center, 1428 Abbott Street
- Costa Mesa November 30, 2000, Orange County Fair Expo, 88 Fair Drive
- Anderson December 7, 2000, Shasta Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs Street
- Ukiah January 9, 2001, Redwood Empire Fairgrounds, 1055 North State Street
- Ventura January 12, 2001, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 West Harbor Boulevard
- Imperial January 23, 2001, CA Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta Grounds, 200 East Second Street
- Woodland January 30, 2001, Yolo County Fairgrounds, 1250 East Gum Avenue
- Paso Robles February 8, 2001, CA Mid-State Fairgrounds, 2198 Riverside Avenue

For more information regarding NFACT, visit CDFA's website at www.cdfa.ca.gov.

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