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Press Release

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### Small Farm Regulatory Compliance— OSHA and Labor (Free Workshop)

**Where:** UCCE-Fresno County, 1720 S. Maple Ave, Fresno, Ca 93702  
**When:** 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

To promote Agriculture, Economic Development, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity laws, a workshop and listening session is being sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension-Fresno County, Lao American Foundation, and U.S. HUD to help small farmers, business and homeowners to better understand the regulations and the resources available to them.

The workshop will be held at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 1720 S. Maple Ave. (near the fairgrounds) on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 p.m.

We expect a large turnout. Our special guest speaker will be California State Senator Leland Yee, Ph.D. who authored the bills such as SB 677 to exempt family farm owners from carrying workers compensation insurance.

Other speakers will include representatives from Cal/OSHA, State Compensation Insurance Fund and U.S. HUD-Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

#### Background:

There has been tremendous confusion and anxiety over the labor code laws and definitions, especially among the 1,300 Asian refugee farmers in Fresno County. But this confusion extends to other minority groups and even second and third generation farmers in California. Since 2004, farmers in Fresno have been cited for not having workers compensation insurance, inadequate wage statements, no IIPP program, lack of heat illness training, not enough drinking water, insufficient bathrooms, and more. Fines from these unannounced sweeps have been as high as \$36,000 for one farm. Representatives will explain the laws and the reasons for the enforcement.

The workshop will also address housing issues, particularly, loan fraud modification and predatory lending which are hot items among socially disadvantaged communities.