

On September 19, at Close Pegase in Calistoga, the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at UC Davis recently presented its first Outstanding Achievement in Farm Health and Safety Recognition Award to the Sacramento County Farm Bureau in honor of its efforts to promote farmworker health and safety.

The WCAHS Farm Health & Safety Award was developed to recognize an individual, group, organization, association or business that consistently strives to reduce agricultural workplace injuries and improve overall health on the farm and in their communities.

"We feel that it is important to recognize the unsung heroes going the extra mile to improve health and safety in the agricultural workplace," said Marc Schenker, a professor of public health sciences and the center director. "There is usually little recognition when injuries don't occur or when workers don't get ill, and, yet, prevention of injury and illness is the foundation of the center's work."

The recognition award, accompanied by the \$1,000 prize donated by the Western Growers Association, was accepted by Executive Director Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau.

The Award reception was sponsored by the Zenith Workers Compensation Insurance Company. In attendance at the ceremony was Stuart Presson, Vice President, from Zenith's Pleasanton offices, and Kevin Reeves, Territorial Manager, from their Sacramento offices.

The farm bureau was honored for demonstrating "exceptional involvement in promoting practices not only on the farm, but within communities through health fairs reaching farm workers, their families, and children."

Annually, the Sacramento County Farm Bureau hosts a major safety seminar for farm workers, employers and supervisors, with classes offered in Spanish and English. In recent years, the organization also has expanded its activities to include a health fair for families, providing free medical testing and basic health training.

The Honorable Mention certificate was awarded to the Silverado Farming Company for their on-going employee training and education, extraordinary employee benefits and community outreach. Pete Richmond, founder and president, along with partners Arnulfo Solario and Stan Zervas accepted the award.

Though unable to attend, Hank Giclas, vice president of science and technology, said, "Western Growers is proud to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety to present the first ever Outstanding Achievement in Agricultural Health and Safety Award. We

wholeheartedly support the center's mission and efforts to reduce agricultural injury and illness through focused research, education and intervention, and believe that this award, which recognizes exemplary efforts to improve health and safety on the farm, helps us all to foster a culture that reduces workplace injury and improves overall health."

The Call for Nominations for the 2009 Outstanding Achievement in Farm Health and Safety Recognition Award will go out in January.