

Thursday, June 2, 2004, Hanford Sentinel

Home & Garden: Lawnmower discount coupons are still available

By Sentinel Staff

For a few more days, Kings County and Central Valley residents can still obtain a coupon for a hefty discount on an air-friendly lawnmower.

The lawnmower discount program kicks off the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's ninth Spare the Air season, which starts June 8.

While supplies last, any resident of the district's eight counties including Kings County can receive a coupon for significant savings on a clean-running, electric or reel (push) lawnmower. The coupons are redeemable at Orchard Supply Hardware Saturday through Tuesday.

With the discount, retail prices for the four models of mowers range from \$34.99 for a reel mower to \$141.99 for a corded, electric mower.

The air pollution control district, OSH, Black & Decker and American Lawnmower Company are teaming to sponsor the discount program.

Anthony Presto, the SJVAPCD public education representative in Modesto, is coordinating the program. "We've gotten an excellent response to the offer," Presto said. "We've still got a few coupons left on a first-come, first-served basis."

Spare the Air is the district's voluntary summertime program that addresses ozone, or smog, pollution. The district issues a notification prior to each day air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, which encourages people to adopt air-friendly, non-polluting behaviors such as carpooling instead of driving solo; reducing the number of vehicle trips taken that day; using an electric briquette lighter instead of starter fluid for a barbecue; using non-aerosol pump sprays, etc.

And, of course, using an air-friendly electric or push mower in place of a gasoline-powered model.

Spare the Air notifications will be issued a day before a Spare the Air day is forecast. There are typically upwards of 30 Spare the Air days each season, which runs from early June through September.

For more information on obtaining a lawnmower coupon, log onto www.valleyair.org or call the district office in Fresno at (559) 230-6000.

Thursday, June 3, 2004, Visalia Times-Delta

Tulare residents smell burning manure pile Dairyman will handle putting out the fire

By Luis Hernandez
Staff writer

TULARE -- A fire inside a 100-ton manure pile is expected to burn -- and smell -- for a few more days.

The fire at a dairy at 3143 W. Prosperity Ave. was reported early Wednesday but had been burning for several days, Tulare County fire Battalion Chief Mike Davidson said. The burning smell was detectable throughout the city.

Firefighters had neither the water nor personnel to put out the fire, Davidson said, and will let property owner David Bixler handle the situation.

"They have the personnel to fight the fire," Davidson said. "They have the equipment to spread [the pile] out."

The fire is being attributed to spontaneous combustion.

Fighting a manure-pile fire is different than taking on a blaze at a house or building, fire officials said. In the case of manure fires, the animal waste first is spread out and then water is poured on top, Davidson said.

Several Prosperity Avenue residents said they noticed the smell Wednesday, but Glen Lewis said he wasn't worried about it.

"Accidents happen," he said. "I have no problems with the fire."

Lewis said he first noticed the smell of smoke about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, about two hours after it was reported to firefighters. Lewis thought it was a grass fire.

"It smelled like weeds burning," he said.

Tulare police received two calls Wednesday morning about the smell.

[Thursday, June 3, 2004, Porterville Recorder](#)

Asthma program may be shut down

By The Porterville Recorder staff

A program that has helped 800 children avoid asthma attacks in San Joaquin County may have to shut down for lack of funds, authorities said.

In the Yes We Can asthma program, American Lung Association nurses counsel parents on how the disease works, where to find asthma triggers in their homes, and how to prevent attacks in a county where more than 10 percent of the children have asthma.

The program's records show that after three counseling sessions with nurses, children had fewer attacks. But the grants that fund the 3-year-old program will run out soon. The money covering the counseling services for children younger than 5 will end in August 2005.

[Thursday, June 3, Modesto Bee, Editorial](#)

Fuel conservation drive needs to go farther

Several years ago, Californians were told to "flex your power," a slogan urging energy conservation in the face of blackouts and soaring electricity prices.

Last week, the Schwarzenegger administration introduced a variation -- "flex your power at the pump." The initial message was aimed at state employees and California businesses, urging them "to conserve gasoline, save money, help the economy and the environment." The informal goal is to save 15 percent of fuel costs through efficient driving habits.

On his Web site and in an e-mail to state employees, the governor listed five specific suggestions to improve gas mileage:

- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Observe posted speed limits.
- Accelerate and break smoothly.
- Properly maintain vehicles.
- Minimize idling times.

All are good advice. But we wish he'd given more emphasis to the most effective and obvious strategies for saving gas: Leave the car in the garage and walk, bike, take public transit or car pool.

Such strategies not only reduce gasoline consumption and save money, they also relieve road congestion and cut air pollution -- which in our valley is essential.

The state campaign also is encouraging people and businesses to turn to fuel-efficient and less-polluting vehicles. In spite of the thousands of gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles on the road, there are growing signs of interest in smaller vehicles. Modesto Toyota has a waiting list for its gas/electric hybrid; customers wanting a Prius, which gets about 55 miles per gallon, will wait three months or longer.

Even transit agencies are going to less-polluting vehicles. The new trolleylike buses running between Riverbank and Oakdale are powered by compressed natural gas. Stanislaus Regional Transit is buying seven CNG buses for its intercity fleet.

Gov. Schwarzenegger has used his remarkable popularity to his political advantage; we think he should now use it to promote conservation to the general public.

As a Hummer owner and driver, he will be subject to accusations of living the double standard. Nonetheless, the message is important and he can carry it as effectively as anyone. Fuel conservation will benefit both the pocketbook and the health of Californians. What could be more important?