



**LOIS WOLK**

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN 8TH DISTRICT**

**News**

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## **Governor signs legislation to strengthen California's right-to-farm law**

**SACRAMENTO**—Yesterday evening, hours before his midnight deadline to sign bills into law, the Governor signed legislation by Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis) to protect farmers from unwarranted nuisance suits.

Assembly Bill 2881, which one top farming advocate called “the most important pro-agriculture bill of the legislative session,” will ensure that anyone purchasing real estate within one mile of farmland is fully aware of the state's right-to-farm laws.

“When housing and other non-agricultural development extends into agricultural areas, there can be a lot of confusion about the actual uses of the surrounding land, and farmers can become the subject of unwarranted lawsuits,” said Wolk. “The purchaser is often unaware that the state of California has laws to protect a farmer’s right to perform customary farming activities, some of which are dirty, noisy, or lead to unpleasant odors. This measure ensures that anyone purchasing land in an agricultural area is made aware of the laws in place to protect farming in California, the most productive agricultural state in the nation.”

“There has been a significant rise in the number of people moving from the city to the country, and many of these new or prospective landowners don’t understand that some aspects of farming operations can extend beyond a farm’s boundaries, through water runoff and irrigation ditches, for example,” said Karen Stone, a rancher, agricultural realtor, and member of the Yolo County Ag Futures Alliance (AFA), which is sponsoring the bill. “This measure will help ensure that potential buyers have the information they need before deciding to purchase land in an agricultural area, thus helping avoid disputes between farmers and their new neighbors.”

AB 2881, which is supported by the Farm Bureau and many counties throughout the state, will take effect January 1, 2009.

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