

The Stanislaus Farm News

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Celebrating Camp Sylvester and Stanislaus County 4H Youth

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To serve as the voice of Stanislaus County agriculture at all levels of government, while providing programs to assist its farms and family members and educate the general public of needs and importance to agriculture.

Camp Sylvester

By Vicky Boyd

While the tents that dotted Camp Sylvester in 1927 are long gone, the goal of providing farm groups and youth clubs with affordable, quality facilities in Pinecrest remains the same. The year-around 10-acre venue in Tuolumne County now boasts 31 permanent buildings, of which 21 are cabins that can accommodate up to 195 “campers,” said facilities director Ken Peterson.

Originally founded for 4-H’ers and the farming community, Camp Sylvester has morphed into much more, said Tim Sanders, a Ceres almond grower and Stanislaus County Farm Bureau board member who is Camp Sylvester Committee chairman. It’s grown into a destination for a number of youth groups as well as community organizations and business retreats. And the facility holds a special place in Sanders’ heart.

“The thing that got me really involved was one of my daughters met her husband up there,” he said. “They were campers up there and then became camp counselors up there.” Of his five daughters, three attended 4-H camp at Camp Sylvester.

Named after long-time 4-H Youth Advisor Henry Sylvester, the camp remains invaluable to 4-H activities, said Stanislaus County 4-H Advisor Yolanda Cruz. Each year during the summer, county 4-H’ers spend six days and five nights at the facility.

“We have one of our largest annual get-togethers where we get all of the kids from all of the clubs together, and it gives us an opportunity to do some educational things,” she said. “And it lets the kids get to know one another outside of 4-H projects and outside of the fair. It gives them time to both grow together and make new friends.

“It really is a huge, huge thing for 4-H. The kids look forward to it. I know I do, and I’ve been doing it for eight years.”

Cruz said similar personal growth holds true for adult leaders and chaperones, who get to know one another and build relationships.

To help foster communication and social interaction, cell phones and the Internet are not allowed. This also applies to adult camp staff, she said.

“It’s an opportunity to have no Internet,” Cruz said. “Let’s bond together. Let’s not bury our face in our phones as we do at home.”

Sanders said Camp Sylvester also offers youth a chance to experience the outdoors and learn the art of relationship building.

“Forget your cell phones and your computers,” he said. “Enjoy the human experience and the outdoor experience.”

During the winter, high school 4-H’ers may spend three days at the facility for snow activities like sledding or snowboarding at nearby Dodge Ridge.

A successful partnership

Owned by the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Camp Sylvester is actually a non-profit charitable organization that works closely with Farm Bureau to operate the educational and recreational facilities. In addition to the cabins, Camp Sylvester is home to multiple dining halls and commercial kitchens, group lodging, a recreation building, an outdoor theater, an outdoor dining area and sports areas.

The camp only operates the facilities. Counselors, chaperones, instructors, food providers and other personnel are the renters’ responsibility.

Although the camp went through some tough times in the mid-2010s and was nearly sold, Peterson said Camp restructured operations and is now financially sustainable.

Thanks to the revised structure and the generosity of volunteers and sponsors over the years, Peterson said they’re also able to keep down overhead costs.

“We want to keep our guest rates low for the community we serve,” he said. “The donations go directly to the improvements and the campers’ experience. The more we can raise, the better chance we have of keeping our rates low.”

By comparison, Peterson pointed to the nearby University of California, Berkeley, alumni’s Lair of the Golden Bear, a one-week stay there may cost up to four times as much as Camp Sylvester.

Sponsors help fund large projects

Maintaining the camp in the High Sierra is an ongoing challenge. To fund larger proj-



Camp Sylvester is located only a short walk from the shores of Pinecrest Lake, where students are able to rent canoes and kayaks.

From "CAMP" on page 3

ects, Peterson said he turns to sponsors.

Among the recent ones have been the Mary Stewart Rogers Foundation, Hilmar Cheese Co. and an anonymous individual donor from the Modesto Beckwith Road area. "We're always doing a new renovation — it never stops," Peterson said. "How big a project we can take on depends on what sponsors are willing to support."

A current undertaking involves renovating the restroom facilities and replacing the showers. Another long-overdue project involves razing the nurses, health and safety cabin and rebuilding it to meet today's Americans with Disability Act standards. Because the building dates back to the 1940s or 1950s, he said it would be less expensive to tear it down and build a new one from scratch than trying to refurbish the existing one to meet current requirements.

The building still is in use, but a number of groups are unable to attend Camp Sylvester because they need ADA-compliant facilities. Peterson said the estimated replacement cost is \$200,000.

Volunteers roll up their sleeves

Volunteers also are crucial to keep down the rates. Twice a year, the Camp hosts a friends and family volunteer weekend where participants receive free lodging and meals. In return, they provide labor. The next volunteer weekend is Oct. 25-27. Among the projects are processing firewood, cleaning off cabin roofs, rebuilding the archery range area, demolishing the lower girls' west shower room area and installing decorative rock planter borders.

A group of young 4-H staff leaders, who are at least 21 years old, have already spoken for the archery area, Cruz said. Since they're the ones that lead archery, recreational activities, arts and crafts during 4-H summer camp, the young adults have a personal interest in maintaining the sports site.

Well-kept secret no more

For several years, Camp Sylvester was a well-kept secret. But in the past few years, Peterson said an increasing number of groups have discovered the facility nestled in the Stanislaus National Forest and a short walk from the shores of Pinecrest Lake.

And the waiting list continues to grow, he said. Preference is given to non-profit organizations, such as 4-H and FFA, as well as those that help underserved and low-income populations or at-risk youths. Local groups from Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Tuolumne counties also are given priority.

Camp Sylvester has begun partnering with Run for Fun Camps, which offers four week-long overnight camps for children ages 7-13 each summer. Participants don't have to be affiliated with 4-H, FFA or other


groups to sign up through Run for Fun.

In 2023, the last year for which figures are available, Camp Sylvester welcomed more than 4,580 guest campers, with the vast majority participating in an overnight camper program. Camper numbers are up this year, but final figures won't be available until after Dec. 31.

Weddings, on the other hand, are being phased out. While Peterson said nuptials helped fill scheduling gaps in years' past when camp attendance was down, participation by the target youth groups has rebounded and now competes for reservations.




Camp Sylvester caters to a wide variety of youth groups, providing them with new outdoor and personal growth experiences.



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From the Fields - Darrell Cordova

By Darrell Cordova, Stanislaus County tree nut farmer

We're trying to get some weed spraying done in our almonds. We're also trying to get rid of all the gophers and squirrels that seem to have multiplied this year.

Harvest was a little light. Even though we kept the water on it all the time, the heat just dried them up. The weight is definitely down. The heat brought on the mites, which were a real issue this year. Other bugs increased too, like the navel orangeworm. We saw high trap counts. We had to spray for navel orangeworm and mites in some fields. We had to do that on walnuts as well. The bug issue and having to keep water going all the time added to the overall cost.

Another problem we had this year was broken branches because of the weight of the nuts or we had a lot of wind. We have to go through and clear all the rows before we could do anything else. After we finished harvesting, we cleared the rows before we added any water.

We try to maintain the quality. With the heat, there was even some burning of the leaves and on the outside (of the nuts), so we had to increase the water to maintain the fullness of the nut. The pistachios are on drip and don't require a lot of water, so that wasn't bad at all. We did put some fertilizer on the pistachios. Before too long, we'll be putting on compost as well.

Almond prices are starting to move up a little bit, but they're still not very high.

We'd like to see them a lot higher because all our costs have gone up so much. Our harvest cost is higher. The fertilizer cost was huge compared to last year. Everything had gone up except for our commodity prices. That makes it hard because you're running on a tighter budget, so it makes for a very challenging year.

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California Farm Bureau voices support for disaster relief plan

U.S. Reps. David Valadao, Jimmy Panetta, Jim Costa, Mike Thompson, Doug LaMalfa and other members of the California delegation today introduced the Agriculture Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, which would provide \$14 billion to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in support of natural disaster assistance programs for losses experienced in 2023. Earlier this year, economists at the American Farm Bureau Federation indicated that major disasters and severe weather events led to more than \$21 billion in crop losses last year alone.

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass voiced support for the legislation, noting the challenges natural disasters create for farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers.

“Californians have faced a unique and broad range of disasters across the state in recent years—including floods, drought and wildfires. Unfortunately, only a quarter of the roughly 400 commodities grown in California are covered by a direct crop insurance program, meaning thousands of farmers are unable to access critical risk management tools to recover from disasters,” Douglass said. “This has led to our reliance on resources such as the Emergency Relief Program, which is currently oversubscribed and underfunded. We are appreciative of the attention and leadership Rep. Valadao, Rep. Panetta and others have shown in addressing this shortfall by introducing this supplemental ap-

propriations bill.”

Under the legislation, USDA would distribute funds to producers for losses of revenue, quality or production due to natural disasters. The legislation also expands eligibility for livestock producers, making additional disaster types, livestock relocation, feed crop losses and shelter-in-place procedures eligible for funding.

In addition to these legislative efforts, California Farm Bureau continues to work with other industry groups to raise awareness of the impact of natural disasters on agricultural producers, Douglass said. Today, California agricultural groups sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging support for additional natural

disaster funding.

California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members.

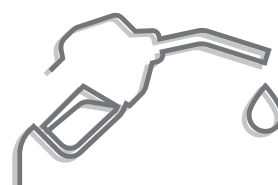


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I am Camille Dowdell, a senior 4-H'er and former County Ambassador. My favorite projects in 4-H are horse, song/story writing, baking, fine arts, and up-cycling. All my crafts, literary, culinary, and fine arts entries placed 1st and this pencil drawing won Best of Show at the Stanislaus County Fair. The second photo is of me showing primary members how to handle the animals in the Farmyard Experience. 4-H has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am thankful to give back wherever I can. If you're thinking of joining 4-H, do it! You will be starting the journey that will forever change your life in a positive, fulfilling, productive, and rewarding way.



Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Olivia Casey and I will be serving as the Newman 4-H Club President for the 2024-2025 program year. I am currently a Stanislaus County Ambassador, an Executive Council Governor and the President of the County Hi 4-H Program. I have been a very active member of the Newman 4-H Club for more than 7 years; I started as a Primary Member in the 3rd grade.

My project roster is very long, I have been active in small animal projects, poultry, rabbits and cavies; I am also very active in Folkart and various foods projects, but I am best known for my public speaking skills. I have been speaking and presenting in front of various groups since I was 9 years old. My topics range from 4-H projects, to community issues and leadership opportunities.

I am happy to be involved in a County and Club that participates and supports their community and addresses and assists with issues to support change. 4-H is more than attending camp and going to the Fair. Our animal project members work all year long on their projects, learn-

ing how to properly care for and raise their animals. Safety for both the animals and the members is highly stressed at our meetings. Our Club leaders are each very knowledgeable in their areas. Our still project members work on skills needed to complete projects while learning skills that can be applied to other project areas. Again, we have a great deal of knowledge to draw from in our still project leaders.

Our Club members not only work at the Club level, but many serve as chairman for County and Regional events. These events offer our Club members the opportunity to show off the skills and knowledge that they have acquired through the 4-H program. Our members never come home from an event without a long list of honors that they have worked hard for.

The one thing that no one looks forward to is "aging out" of the program. Older members have a lot to offer to the younger members; the older members are mentors and someone to look up to when you are starting out in the 4-H program and it is hard to see them go. Many will come back as 4-H leaders and there are always those you know you can count on even if they no longer live in the area.

This year the Newman 4-H Club will have three members who will be 'aging out' of the program. These three young ladies have been great assets to our program, serving as Club officers and assisting with Club and County events. The Newman 4-H Club would like to thank Isabella Berbereia, Cailin Casey and Sophia Hayes for their dedication to the program and best wished for their future goals.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we would like to welcome anyone who has a passion for a project or skill to inquire about becoming a 4-H leader and any young person between 5 and 18 to check out our program and consider becoming a 4-H member.



The Farm Bureau Family: Who We Are and What We Do

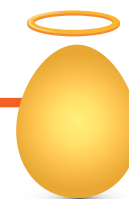
By Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

When someone says “Farm Bureau,” what comes to mind first for you? Do you think back to your first Farm Bureau meeting, remember an event your county Farm Bureau put on, or maybe you’re reminded of all the friends you have made in this organization? It can be hard to put into just a few words all that Farm Bureau means to our family, our farms and our communities, but sharing our story and inviting others to experience all that Farm Bureau has to offer is critical to the success of our great organization.

What exactly is Farm Bureau? Have you ever gotten that question? At its heart, Farm Bureau is the trusted Voice of Agriculture and the leading grassroots membership organization advocating for all farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Farm Bureau welcomes and includes all types of farmers and serves all types of farms in 50 states and Puerto Rico for the benefit of families everywhere. Our collective voice is the reason Farm Bureau can advocate effectively, enrich our communities and ensure we provide a safe and abundant food supply. And as a grassroots organization, starting at the local level, the more people we invite to join us, the stronger our voice and our organization become.

This past spring, we conducted a survey that revealed an impressive statistic, 68% of the general public trusts the Farm Bureau brand. Not only that, but three-fourths of participants also said that Farm Bureau has had a positive impact on their community. That’s an incredible achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication of our members – whether it’s through our advocacy efforts, community service or simply being there for our neighbors when they need us.

However, while these numbers did show a high level of trust, the survey also revealed that there is a sizable number of folks who know the Farm Bureau name, but not much else about us, and that makes them less inclined to get involved. That’s where each of us can make a difference, by increasing the famil-



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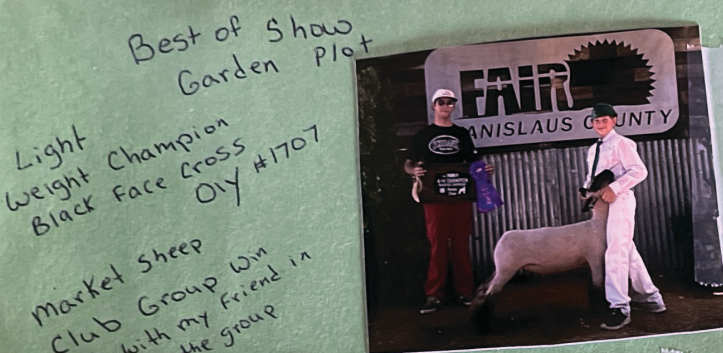
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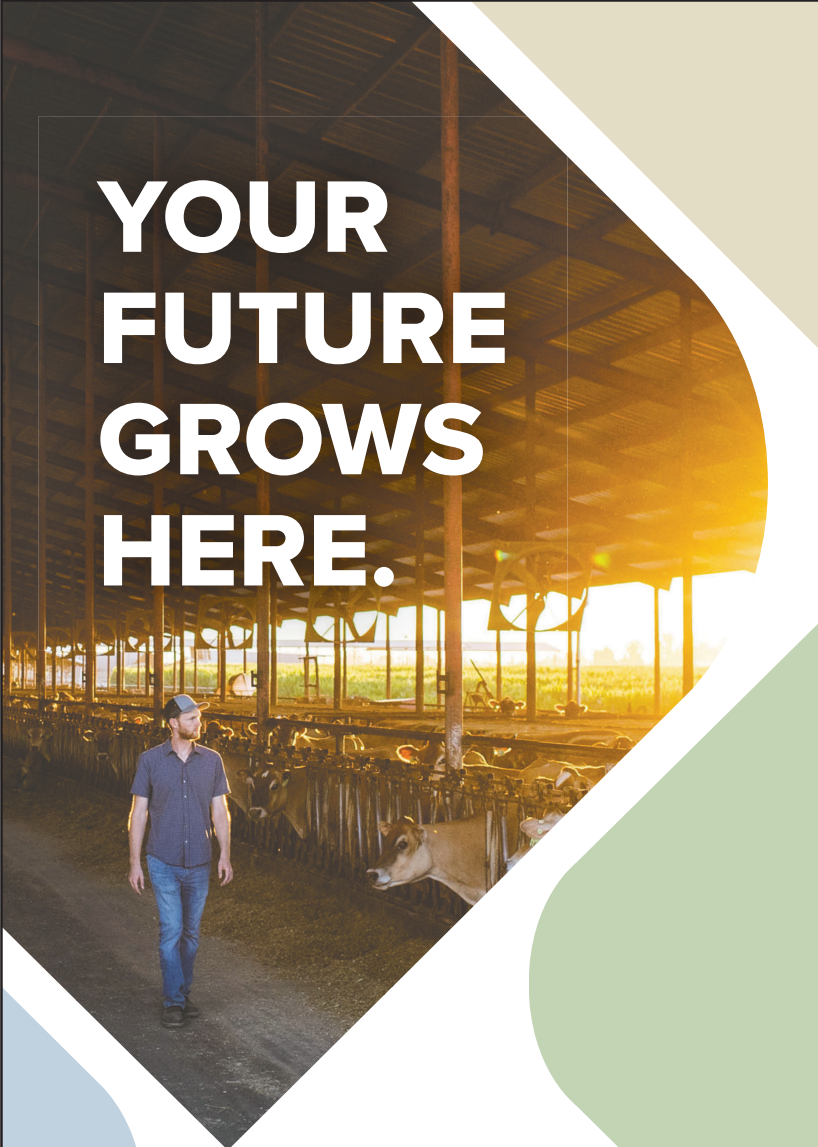


Hayli AJ
Charlie Tyler
Dakota Trevor
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Each year our organization awards merit award winners. They receive a \$750.00 check in August and they will receive another \$750.00 after they exhibit their project at the 2025 Stanislaus County Fair. Members will receive a total of \$1500 for expenses on their market beef cattle project. This would not be possible without our sponsors, listed below.

Olivia Barletta- Associated Feed
Lane Delahanty- Turlock Livestock
Anna Early- In memory of Steve Haglund
Carmen Garibay- Stanislaus Farm Supply
Dallas Haley- In memory of Dylan Linhares
Madison McDonald-
San Joaquin/Stanislaus Cattlemen
Natalie Van Ruiten- Bricchetto Family

Associated Feed, Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Stanislaus Farm Supply, and Stanislaus/ San Joaquin Cattlemen have contributed to this program since we started 11 years ago.



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Stanislaus County 4H Ambassadors

In their first Official event of the new year, Stanislaus County 4H Ambassadors Olivia Casey and Emory Harned presented an Officer training to be proud of. They would officially like to thank their training team including Miles Miller, Violet Pinney, Jody Lionudakis, Troy Lionadakis, Eve Dowdell, Tiffany Lionadakis, Debbie Eggars, Teresa Drumonde, Jose Campos and Yolanda Cruz, who helped prepare and present information on each Officer position, a mock meeting, parli- pro word scramble, recreation and icebreaker games

that officers could take back to their clubs. A big thank you to all clubs who attended and congratulations to Turlock Eagles for bringing the most participants.

Olivia is our only returning Ambassador and hopes to share her hard earned knowledge with our new team members Emory Harned, Hailey Browning and Mary Murphy. Rebecca Milligan will be joined this year by Cailin Casey as Ambassador Advisors.

- The Stanislaus County 4-H Ambassador Rank is a working honor recognizing Se-

nior members' leadership abilities. Ambassadors are liaisons between the county 4-H office, 4-H members and volunteers and the public. These 14 -18 yr olds plan and lead county events, develop plans of action, perform service projects and serve as leader role models for younger members.

- Our reporter is busy at work interviewing our newest ambassadors whom we hope to introduce to you in the near future.



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TURLOCK EAGLES 4H

My name is Lane Delahanty and I am the President of Turlock Eagles 4-H. As a proud member of Turlock Eagles 4-H, I want to share how impactful this organization has been in my life. Being a part of 4-H has offered me countless opportunities to grow both as an individual and a leader, while allowing me to give back to our community.

Over the years, I've had the chance to be involved in a wide range of projects including livestock, cooking, public speaking, etiquette, gardening and floriculture. My involvement with these projects and our club have taught me the importance of dedication, responsibility and hard work. One of my favorite aspects of 4-H is the hands-on-learning - whether it is caring for animals, growing produce or organizing community service events. All of it gives us as kids a sense of accomplishment.

But 4-H is more than just learning about specific skills. It's about the values we carry with us every day. Through our community service efforts, we learn what it means to be engaged citizens and make a positive impact on our community. 4-H also fosters a sense of belonging and friendship as we work together to reach our goals and help others.

What I love most about Turlock Eagles 4-H is the commitment to change and to implement new ideas including the ideas of the kids while at the same time maintaining the traditional values in developing the "Head, Heart, Hands and Health" of its members. This year our club is ex-



panding even more into technology.

Each month, our Turlock Eagles 4-H Officer Team puts together an extensive google slides presentation for the club meetings. This year, we are using newly donated laptops for our members to write stories about agriculture through our Ag Writing Project, to make vibrant flyers and posters for our events, and to learn how to create and update websites through our new Website Design Project. In the future, we are working to be able to offer additional tech related projects such as coding and money management.

As National 4-H Week begins, Turlock Eagles 4-H is celebrating this year's theme, "Beyond Ready," through its commitment in preparing members for the future through use of technology. The "Beyond Ready" theme perfectly captures our goal of providing the tools our members need to thrive in an ever-changing world. Our members are gaining a deeper understanding of how technology intersects with agriculture and other industries. With artificial intelligence, precision farming and



digital tools becoming central to modern agriculture as well as most other industries, understanding technology is increasingly important for all of us.

I am excited for our club to grow in the area of technology as it shows our commitment to making sure our members are 'Beyond Ready' for the future. Combining traditional 4-H values with technological skills allows us as 4-H members to be prepared for college, be prepared to be excellent employees, and to have the skills to start our own businesses.

I would encourage all to join a 4-H club in our county. While many of us are involved in Agriculture, 4-H provides so much more. It provides life skills, an opportunity to make lifelong friends and an opportunity to be involved in a club that works towards building a stronger community.



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Hi, my name is Brian Casey. I am a primary member in the Newman 4-H Club.

I raise Mini Lop and Palomino rabbits and Wheaten and Wyandotte chickens.

My chickens are my favorite project. Their names are Liberty, Everest and Skye. I have an amazing poultry project leader, her name is Ms. Seanie, she is very patient and helpful.

In 4-H, I have learned how to handle and take care of my chickens and rabbits.

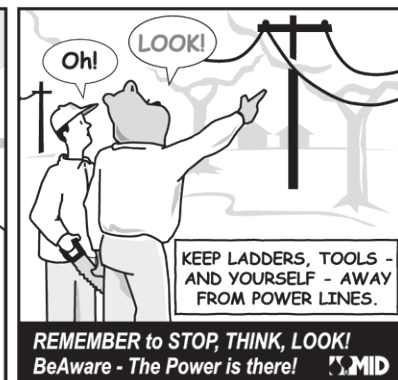
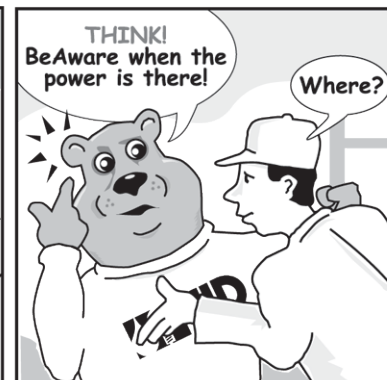
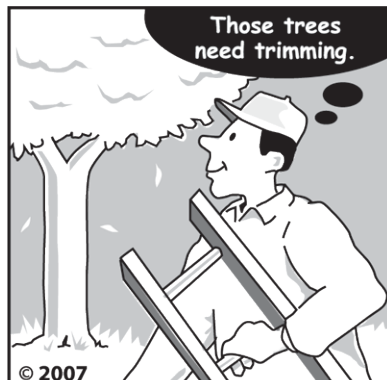
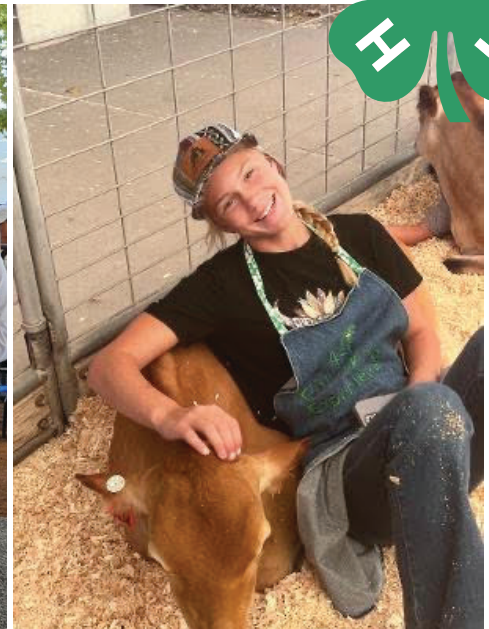
I learned how to keep cages and equipment clean and sanitized. I also learned how to feed the right feeds and give my chickens and rabbits fresh water every day.

My favorite 4-H event is Primary Camp. There were so many things to do and so much to learn, it was a lot of fun. I think every primary member should go to primary camp.

I think that more kids should join 4-H. It is a lot of fun and you learn so much.



NEWMAN 4H



REMEMBER to STOP, THINK, LOOK!
BeAware - The Power is there! MID

NEWMAN 4H

Hi, my name is Isabell Hayes and I am the Newman 4-H Club's Reporter/Historian. I currently publish the club newsletter and submit club articles and information to our

local newspapers, following club, county, regional and state events. I do my very best to keep the public aware of what our club members are involved in.

Like most clubs in our county, we have an active group of small animal, dairy and livestock members. These members raise and care for their animals under the guidance and supervision of their adult project leaders and youth teen leaders. Not all of our projects are animal projects. Our club also has a very active group of still project members. These members are involved in foods projects, including baking, nutrition and food preservation; there is also an active group of arts and craft members, horticulture, photography and shooting sports, and of course, a primary member project for members 5 to 8 years of age. For the older members, our club has a current County Ambassador, and officers and members in the county Hi 4-H program.

Our club members are very involved in

public speaking, and have presented at county, regional and state levels, as well as speaking to various organizations outside of the 4-H program. We have an active community service project that assists when needed in our community and county.

If there is an organization that would like more information about our program, or you would like to have a 4-H member speak at one of your meetings, you may contact our Community Club Leaders and they will be sure to help you out. You can find our club contact information on the Stanislaus County 4-H website.

There are projects and opportunities for all in the 4-H program, you just need to take the time to research the program, contact our county office and find a club that offers the projects you are interested in.

Isabell Hayes
Newman 4-H Reporter/
Historian



SIERRA 4H



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- **Turlock Walnut Co.**
Turlock 668-0955
- **Travaille & Phippen**
Manteca 599-6111

Restaurant

- **Medlen's House of Beef**
Oakdale 847-4379
- **The Fruit Yard**
Modesto 577-3093
- **Rodin Ranch**
Modesto 577-3224

Safety

- **AgSafe**
Modesto 526-4400
- **Cal Ag Safety**
Oakdale 351-7092

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- **Adian Equine**
Oakdale 847-8258
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Ballot measure threatens Sonoma County dairies and poultry farms

As voters cast their ballots in the coming weeks, farmers in Sonoma County say the future of the region's dairy and poultry farms is on the line. Measure J, a ballot initiative in Sonoma County, would within three years cap the number of animals each farm can raise, banning larger farms or forcing them to downsize. "If some of the larger farms in our community are no longer able to operate, it may lead to a collapse of the entire sector," said Albert Straus, owner of Petaluma-based Straus Family Creamery.

Irrigation districts work to enhance Tuolumne River salmon habitat

Partnering with fisheries agencies, Central Valley irrigation districts, whose water users face flow reductions under the state's Bay-Delta water quality plan, are enhanc-

ing habitat along the Tuolumne River to improve conditions for struggling fish. The \$7.8 million habitat restoration project, happening downriver from the La Grange Dam in Stanislaus County, includes a \$5.5 million grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and \$2.3 million invested by Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District and the San Francisco

Public Utilities Commission.

How bird flu spreads among dairy cows remains a mystery

With cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cows rapidly rising in California, animal health officials continue to try to contain the spread, even as they remain flummoxed by how the virus moves

2024 General Election • Tuesday, November 5

The California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors adopted the following recommendations on statewide ballot measures that will be before California voters in the Nov. 5 general election.

PROPOSITION	POSITION
<p>PROPOSITION 2: Issue \$10 Billion in Bonds to Fund Construction and Modernization of Public Education Facilities</p> <p>New construction and modernization of education institutions will cost \$8.5 billion for K-12 and \$1.5 billion for community colleges.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p><i>REASONING: California is already paying off billions in bond debt, all at a cost to the general fund to service the debt payments.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 3: Removes Outdated Language Regarding Marriage from State Constitution</p> <p>Repeals the unenforceable constitutional provision that marriage only between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California.</p>	<p>NO POSITION</p> <p><i>REASONING: CAFB does not have policy on this topic.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 4: The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act</p> <p>Allows for the issuance of \$10 billion in bonds to fund safe drinking water; drought, flood, water resilience; wildfire and forest resilience; nature-based climate solutions; climate-smart, park creation and outdoor access; and clean air programs among other programs. Allows for funding to be shifted from the state budget to bonds for ongoing programs.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p><i>REASONING: Shifting government program costs from general tax revenues to additional public indebtedness through bond issuance to mitigate budget shortfalls is bad fiscal policy.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 5: Lower Supermajority Requirement to 55% for Local Bond Measures to Fund Housing and Public Infrastructure</p> <p>Amends the constitution to lower the threshold from 2/3 vote to 55% to allow a local government to impose a parcel tax for the purpose of issuing bonds to build or rehabilitate public infrastructure and affordable housing, including downpayment assistance, or permanent supportive housing.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p><i>REASONING: The 2/3 vote for taxes and fees is paramount and should not be weakened.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 6: Amend the California Constitution to Bar Involuntary Servitude in Correctional Facilities</p> <p>Removes a constitutional provision allowing jails and prisons to impose involuntary servitude as criminal punishment. It prohibits the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from disciplining inmates for refusing work assignments while allowing inmates to voluntarily accept work assignments for credits to reduce their sentences.</p>	<p>NO POSITION</p> <p><i>REASONING: CAFB does not have policy on this topic.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 32: \$18 Minimum Wage Increase</p> <p>Increases the minimum wage from \$16 per hour to \$18 per hour by January 1, 2025.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p><i>REASONING: California is already a difficult and costly state to do business in without an increasing minimum wage.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 33: State Limitations on Local Rent Control</p> <p>Allows a city or county to enact rent control by repealing the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995.</p>	<p>OPPOSE</p> <p><i>REASONING: Private property rights are paramount.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 34: Restrictions on AIDS Healthcare Foundation Support</p> <p>Ensures that health care providers spend 98% of revenues on direct patient care if their spending on items other than patient care exceeds \$100 million over 10 years.</p>	<p>NO POSITION</p> <p><i>REASONING: CAFB does not have policy on this topic.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 35: Permanent Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax</p> <p>Makes permanent the existing tax on managed health care insurance plans, currently set to expire in 2026. The revenue generated pays for health care services for low-income families with children, seniors, disabled persons and other Medi-Cal recipients.</p>	<p>NO POSITION</p> <p><i>REASONING: CAFB does not have policy on this topic.</i></p>
<p>PROPOSITION 36: Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment-Mandated Felonies</p> <p>Allows for felony charges and increases sentences for certain drug and theft crimes, including organized theft.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p> <p><i>REASONING: Law enforcement should have all the tools necessary to prevent crime from occurring.</i></p>

WATERFORD IRRIGATION

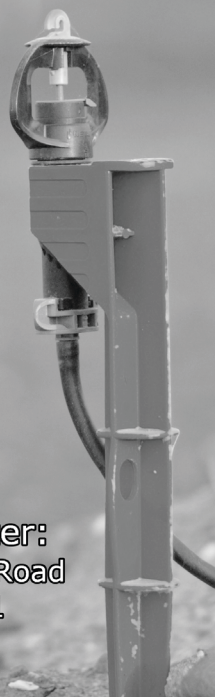
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among herds. “The truth is that we don’t really know how this virus spreads exactly,” said Deniece Williams, head clinician at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. As of Sept. 30, 43 dairy herds in the state—all in the Central Valley—have been confirmed with H5N1.

Input costs cut into ranching profits as beef prices hit record highs

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discusses conditions that have caused the U.S. cattle inventory to decrease to its lowest levels in more than 70 years. Drought, deteriorating pasture conditions, inflation and high costs for feed and other inputs reduced herd sizes in recent years, causing beef prices to hit record highs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The episode also covers a rise in bird flu cases in Central Valley dairies, challeng-

es related to new regulations for organic livestock certification and date harvest in the Coachella Valley.

‘Brutal’ wine market leaves farms in peril

A downturn in wine sales worldwide has shaken California’s winegrape sector. After years of growth, U.S. sales have declined for three straight years. The shrinking market has left wineries oversupplied and California’s vineyard acreage out of step with demand. This year, many growers could see their entire crop rot on the vines. “It’s leaving some guys in some very precarious positions,” said Jeff Bitter, president of Allied Grape Growers, a grower-owned marketing group that sells winegrapes for 400 growers across California. Certifiers among those affected by new organic rules

New federal rules meant to prevent organic fraud have been praised by organic farmers for helping to protect the integrity of the national organic label. But the rules have also brought unintended consequences as smaller operations struggle to keep up with the new requirements. Those struggling include government agencies that inspect and certify farms to ensure they comply with standards of the National Organic Program.

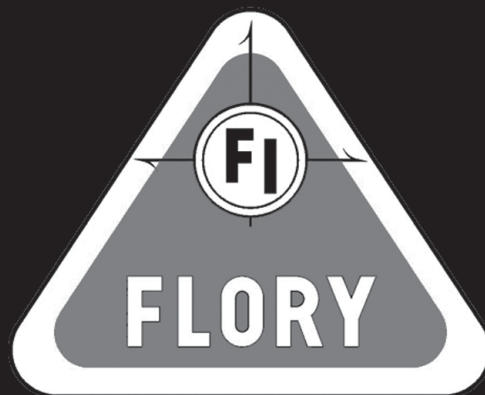
State water board agrees on probation for Tule Subbasin

Last week, the California State Water Resources Control Board placed the Tule Subbasin in Tulare and Kern counties in probation under the state’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The board said state intervention was warranted because plans submitted by most of the subbasin’s groundwater sustainability agencies failed to adequately address problems such

as land subsidence. Under probation, some farmers who rely on groundwater in parts of the subbasin will be required to monitor their water use and pay extra fees.

Wolves and mountain lions prey on livestock

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discusses wolf and mountain lion attacks on livestock. The episode also covers a Sonoma County ballot measure, sponsored by animal activists, that would bar certain poultry and livestock farms from operating in the county, phasing them out within three years. Poultry and livestock farmers say the measure, if passed, would threaten their businesses and the region’s farm economy.



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MID Modesto Irrigation District **The Power to Grow**

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From ZIPPY on page 10

arity of Farm Bureau and sharing with our communities who we are and what we do for farmers and rural America.

The Power of Sharing Our Story
 I often say that one of our biggest strengths is sharing our story and the same goes for showing people how Farm Bureau is the right place for them. These days, especially with our younger generations, people want to align themselves with organizations that match their personal values and know they can have a role in making a difference. That's where each of us can make a difference. Telling someone about Farm Bureau doesn't require a sales pitch or formal invitation, either. Many times, it's just about telling your personal story and helping someone else see themselves in our organization. It can be as simple as sharing about how Farm Bureau has helped you navigate through an issue, the connections you made at an event or even the leadership skills you've gained through our programs. By sharing what Farm Bureau means to you personally, you can help someone to see how their values align with our mission.

What We Do
 The next step of sharing what we do is the easy part, and your local, state and American Farm Bureau have you covered. At every level, Farm Bureau's strength is in bringing members together to speak with a united voice, support one another and give back to our communities. If you are looking for more ideas to share about Farm Bureau, you can head over to our Who We Are and What We Do pages, to learn more about what we focus on as an organization and what's available to our members. Who knows, you may even find the next step in

your own personal Farm Bureau journey. I encourage you to check in with your local and state Farm Bureaus about what resources or opportunities are available to learn more about who we are, what we do, why we do it, and who we serve. We are so appreciative of the growing collaboration with our state and local Farm Bureaus on these efforts and I am excited to see how this new approach will invite more folks into our Farm Bureau family.

Why We Do It

The final piece of sharing the Farm Bureau story is why we do it. We all depend on the success of American agriculture, and Farm Bureau stands with farmers and ranchers as we work together to keep our nation's food, fiber and renewable fuel supply safe, sus-

tainable and secure. It's a mission that isn't just meeting today's challenges, but one that is working to support agriculture for generations to come. The decisions we make, the policies we advocate for and the members we welcome into our organization all help shape that future.

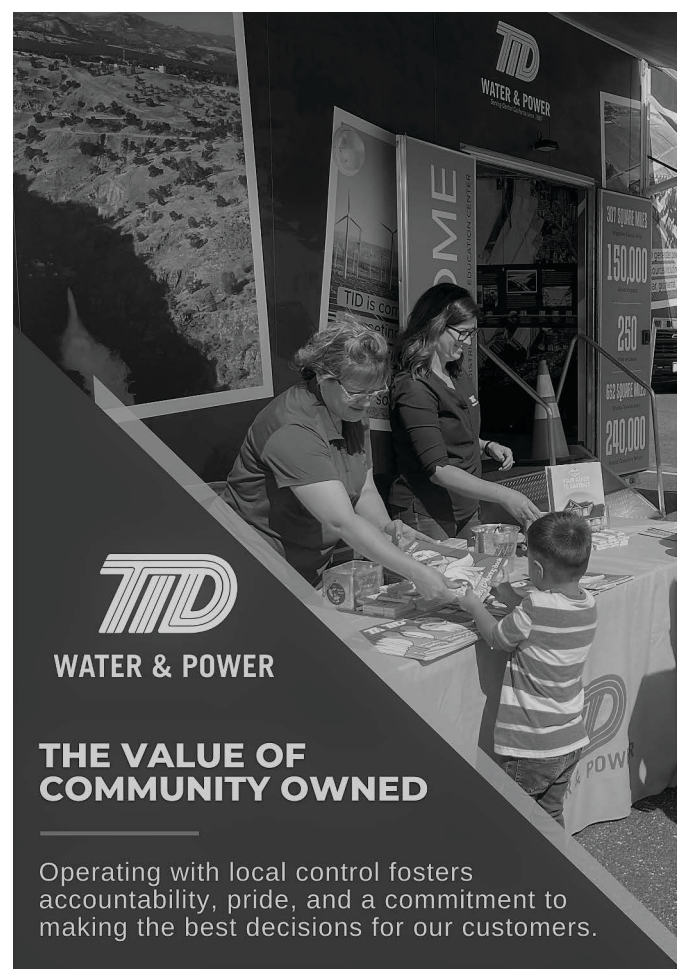
At the end of the day, Farm Bureau's strength lies in our membership. Every engagement and experience someone has with us helps build their understanding of how the Farm Bureau family is here to support them and their communities. Let's continue inviting others to join along by sharing who we are, what we do and why we do it.



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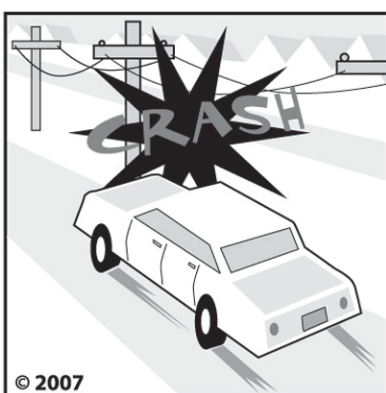
MID's BeAware BEAR

STOP, THINK, LOOK!

MID MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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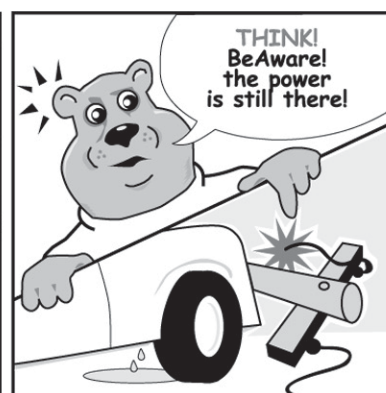
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STOP! A power line is down stay away!

Why?



THINK! BeAware! the power is still there!



LOOK! You should report this.

I'll Call 911.

POWER LINE DOWN? STAY AWAY - CALL 911

REMEMBER to STOP, THINK, LOOK! BeAware - The Power is there!

MID

WESTPORT 4H



4-H makes me (Jody Lionudakis) Beyond Ready, by teaching me new skills and tools that I can use to solve problems that get in my way. Not only that, but I get to make new friends and have lots of fun. 4-H has taught me a lot. I'm thankful for all the fun I'm having and skills that I'm learning along the way.



When I, Troy Lionudakis, show my steer, it boost my confidence, that's how 4-H is making me Beyond Ready. Thank you, Escobar and Bryson families, for the continued support.



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Westport 4-H Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 24,
2024

\$15.00 Adult

\$10.00 Child

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Westport Fire House

5160 S. Carpenter Road, Modesto



Hi, we are Westport 4-H. Actually, this is Heartlyn and Jody from Westport 4-H. We've been members of Westport 4-H for a couple years. Here are some things that you should know about Westport 4-H. Not many people may know who we are or what we do. We are a Youth Development program that helps kids learn life skills. We teach some about animals but we also have lots of hands-on activities (projects) that don't involve animals. At Westport 4-H we want everyone to feel welcome. Now that you know about who and what we are, we can talk about national 4-H week. National 4-H week is a week where all 4-H clubs participate in activities. Each club has their own activities but Westport's are: a window display at Les Schwab Tire Center - Ceres (Thanks for letting us borrow the window Les Schwab!), themed dress up/challenge days all week and we are hoping to wrap it up with a game night. Would you like to join 4-H and find your spark or just make some new friends? Registration is still open!



Contact us at Westport4h.modesto@gmail.com. Also, there is a Creed contest at the Stanislaus County Center in December. Google 4-H Creed to get a better understanding about what 4-H is about. Not only that but there is also Proficiency Day at MJC which will be in January, were

youth test their knowledge and skills on the animals they are learning about. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at the Westport Elementary School next to the Westport fire department. Hope to see you there.



Hi, I am Hailey, I am 16 years old and I am part of Westport 4-H. I have been in 4-H for 7 years and this is my second year in the Dairy Goat project. Last year I learned how to give an ultrasound on a goat and I was able to be there to watch a baby goat be born. I'm looking forward to this year and being able to learn new and fun things about dairy goats.



“TopSafety made it simple and easy for us to implement the Workplace Violence Prevention program for our employees. The training materials and templates provided, allowed us to quickly be in compliance.”
 -Daniel Bays, FB Member

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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Wednesday, November 13th

8:00-12:00pm - English

1:00-5:00pm - Spanish

\$550.00 per person for Farm Bureau Members, with an in class discount on training curriculum and program

\$650 non-member

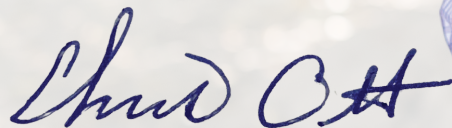


CHRIS OTT

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I'm running because I believe that MID ratepayers deserve to come first. I want to restore transparency to the MID Board. Farmers deserve to have their voices heard and to know how decisions at MID impact them. I would be honored to have your vote by November 5th.



“Chris's business acumen and moral compass is second to none. I fully support him for MID Board.” -*Erik Durrer*

“I firmly believe Chris has MID's best interests in mind and will do what's necessary to maintain low rates for everyone within the district.” -*Hans Wagner III*

“Chris is a 3rd generation Modesto farmer and both an electric ratepayer and water user. Chris will bring a fresh perspective and his personal experience to the challenges MID is facing.” -*David Couchman*

Visit www.ottformid.com to learn more and connect with Chris.

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is a trusted leader who fights for the ratepayers of Turlock Irrigation District.

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- ✔ Protected our water from the State's repeated attempts to take more water out of our rivers



Call your relatives and friends who live outside TID and compare your water and power rates. Michael Frantz has done a great job ensuring that our rates are among the lowest in California.

Stanislaus County Supervisor
VITO CHIESA



Michael Frantz knows the importance of our agricultural economy to our quality of life. He is steadfast in his support for farmers, ratepayers, and our collective future. He has earned our enthusiastic support.

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Executive Director
CAITIE DIEMEL



Every day, people in Sacramento try to take our water. Michael Frantz is a ferocious defender of our rights. I trust Michael to fight for us. We need to keep him on the job.

Stanislaus County Sheriff
JEFF DIRKSE