

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture

STANISLAUS COUNTY



For the **good** of your **food**.



**Official Publication of Stanislaus
County Farm Bureau
Vol.75 No.19 November 22, 2024**

See Bays Family Ranch, page 3
Wishing you a Wonderful Thanksgiving

Published Fridays by the
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

PHONE (209) 522-7278

FAX (209) 521-9938

email: farmnews@stanfarmbureau.org

advertising@stanfarmbureau.org

Stanislaus Farm News (ISSN: 8750-4960) Copyright © 2023 is published 24 times per year by the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau 1201 L St. Modesto, CA 95454. Call (209) 522-7278 to subscribe. Application to mail at Periodicals postage prices is pending at Modesto, CA.

The Stanislaus Farm News will publish on the following dates in 2024: Jan 12, Feb 2, Feb 16, March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26, May 17, May 31, June 21, July 5, July 26, Aug 9, Aug 30, Sept 13, Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 8, Nov 22, Dec 13

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354. Stanislaus County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in the Stanislaus Farm News. Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau.

Staff

CAITIE DIEMEL
Executive Manager
MARY CLEMENTS-HARRIS
Administrative Assistant
ANNA GENASCI
Communication & Education Director
ABIGAIL DIRKSE
Membership Director
LARRY MURRAY
Advertising Sales
TOM ORVIS
Governmental Affairs Director
MELISSA SOMMERVILLE
Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres: Kelly Fogarty202-870-3342
1st VP: Vance Ahlem 535-4521
2nd VP: Vince Dykzeul480-5900
Sec: Corinne Santos 265-6075
Tres: Daniel Bays681-6510
Past President: Eric Heinrich.....605-3663

NORTHWEST:

Joey Gonsalves765-1142
Stuart Layman652-7822
Dave Van Klaveren595-4606
Keri Layne 402-7289
Tom Ulm402-9870
Paul Vermeulen988-3661

NORTHEAST:

Rod Gambini996-6294
Jacob DeBoer 805-704-5304
Ryan Valk 840-0231
Pete Dykzeul872-7080
Kurt Hoekstra 765-2932
Ray Lial Jr.327-3232

EASTSIDE:

Jeff Daniels602-0628
Alex VanderStoel775-217-1942
David Absher531-4915
Tim Roos 209-499-6722
Randy Weststeyn 499-9775

SOUTHERN:

Adam Crowell 610-6306
Tim Sanders 606-3739
Ray Souza678-1871
Trevor Cordova 402-3203
Arby Hoobyar505-0555
Darrell Cordova 765-6298

WESTSIDE:

Matt Maring602-1390
Jessica Filippini 648-8236
Bill Cox404-8897
Rob Brooks 765-2628
Jerry Goubert 531-3790

YF&R:

Miranda Blagg 202-4898

AT LARGE:

Ron Peterson606-8021

CFBF DISTRICT 13 REP.:

Jake Wenger484-9343

STANISLAUS COUNTY



**FARM
BUREAU**

See Your Membership in Action!

STANISLAUS COUNTY NUMBERS

We are a **GRASSROOTS** organization that advocates for Farmers & Ranchers. Your Farm Bureau staff **ADVOCATES** for you while providing members with useful **DISCOUNTS**, **TRAININGS** and in house **PUBLICATIONS**.

Your **VOICE** is one of

1,600

Members that **ADVOCATES** for Farmers & Ranchers in Stanislaus County.

Our **MEMBER BENEFITS** offer a total

\$8,200+

potential savings every year.

20 TRAININGS were offered to growers to keep you in compliance with laws and regulations.

52



PUBLICATIONS created **IN HOUSE** to keep you informed on advocacy work and local stories.

150+



SOCIAL MEDIA posts that keep Farm Bureau Members up to date on current and upcoming events.

SCFB MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Bays Family Ranch

By Vicky Boyd

For three generations, the Bayses have served on various commodity and water district boards, bringing agriculture's voice to the table.

"If you're going to farm, you need to be involved in whatever you're doing, whether it's water or Farm Bureau or advisory boards for different crops," said Ken Bays, who farms with his father, Gene Bays, and son Daniel Bays.

Together they run Bays Ranch and grow a diverse mix of tree and row crops near Westley and Patterson. Joining them are Ken's wife, Michele, and

Daniel's wife, Rebecca, who handle many of the financial duties.

Ken has served on the West Stanislaus Irrigation District Board since shortly after he graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in farm management. He also is a board member of the Westside Hulling Association, of which the family is a charter member, and served several terms on the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau's board.

Ken's commitment to service was instilled in him by Gene, who was on the Del Puerto Water District's board for more years than he can count. When Gene felt it was time to step down, he encouraged grandson Daniel to apply for the open seat. Daniel currently is vice-chair of the Del Puerto board.

During Gene's tenure, the board successfully developed a project with the cities of Turlock and Modesto to purchase and transfer about 20,000 acres-feet annually of tertiary treated recycled municipal wastewater for use by the district's farmers.

The additional water proved a savior during the recent drought, when the federal Central Valley Project — which provides water to Del Puerto — made zero allocations for two straight years, Ken said.

During a number of other dry years, the CVP reduced allocations, and the recycled wastewater helped tide them over.

The Bayses farm in five or six different water districts, including Del Puerto. Although they prefer to use surface water because of its quality, Ken said they also have wells as insurance to serve as back-up.

During those years with zero allocations, they idled much of their row crop ground and used what

See BAYS on page 4



Bays Ranch near Westley dates back to 1957, when Gene Bays, his wife and three children moved north from Ventura County.

License# 276660



I.J. Larsen Pumps, Inc.

MODESTO
(209)529-2020

HILMAR
(209)634-7276



Agricultural
Residential
Industrial
Commercial



10% Discount for Farm Bureau members

Discount on New Pump Or Tank only. Discount does not apply to labor or parts.

From BAYS on page 3

water they had to keep their trees alive.

With ample surface deliveries in 2022 and 2023, the Bayses never ran their pumps.

This year, Ken said they used them sparingly in the fall just to keep them operational.

A history of leadership

Daniel, who currently serves on the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau's board, became involved when he joined Young Farmers & Ranchers shortly after college.

In 2016, he received the YF&R Achievement Award and represented California at the American Farm Bureau convention.

Daniel also was a YF&R district representative before eventually joining the county Farm Bureau board when a seat representing the Westside opened.

As an individual farmer, Daniel said he can't keep up with all of the daily political and regulatory happenings in Sacramento, so he relies on the state Farm Bureau to advocate on his and other farmers' behalf.

On the local level, Daniel pointed to the strong Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, its staff and the relationships they've cultivated with county leaders over the years.

"They do a good job of being involved and aware of things," he said. "I think they're doing the best job they can of keeping farming and ag at the forefront of what they do and what they represent. They're well respected within county government."

In addition to Farm Bureau, Daniel sits on the county Water Advisory Committee, the state Broomrape Board and Patterson High School's Agricultural Advisory Committee. (*Broomrape is an invasive yield-robbing parasite of tomatoes and several other crops.*)

He said he believed it was important to be active to "help shape some of the rules and policies that affect where you work. It's not always a lot of fun, but you have to make those tough decisions."

Those convic-

tions were born during his middle and high school days, when Daniel was active in 4-H and FFA and learned the value of leadership. Once he graduated college, he continued to hone his skills by participating in Blue Diamond Grower's young leaders program, the Almond Board of California's leadership program and CFBF's Leadership Farm Bureau.

"Part of that was to improve myself, but a big part of it was to learn more about these different organizations," Daniel said.

Evolving with the times

Bays Ranch dates back to 1957, when Gene, his wife and three children were getting crowded out by Ventura County subdivi-

THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF OAKDALE TRADITION IN THE
Cowboy Capital of the World
OAKDALE, CA
Cowboy Christmas
NOVEMBER 29TH & 30TH

UNIQUE WESTERN ART
& CRAFT EXHIBITORS
A FREE FAMILY EVENT

FRIDAY 5pm-8pm
SATURDAY 9am-4pm

COME TAKE YOUR
PICTURE WITH
COWBOY SANTA
From 10:00am to 2:00pm
on Saturday

At the
GENE BIANCHI COMMUNITY CENTER
110 S. 2nd Ave.



(from left) Daniel Bays, his grandfather Gene Bays and his father Ken Bays run the family farming operation that produces a diverse mix of row and tree crops near Westley and Patterson.

sions and moved to Westley. He had looked at ground as far north as Woodland but settled in western Stanislaus County where he knew people.

Although Gene said he let his children decide their career paths, Ken said it was always his plan to return to the farm after college graduation.

"I just like being out in the field and growing things," Ken said. "I've never wanted to have a job where I'm locked up in an office all the time. I just really wanted to come and do what I grew up on."

For Daniel, who received a bachelor's degree in bioresource and agricultural engineering from Cal Poly SLO, there was never any doubt either. His father and grandfather encouraged him to work other places to experience having supervisors who were

not family. Daniel had internships with Colorado and Oregon agricultural operations and at a local water district before returning to the farm.

"It's great to see them come back," Gene said.

Over the years, the Bayses have grown a variety of crops, starting with primarily apricots and almonds. As markets ebbed and flowed, they changed their mix, adding walnuts, processing tomatoes and lima beans. They also have added custom brush shredding more recently.

Gene remembered when the state's apricot growers routinely harvested 180,000 to 200,000 tons of fruit each season. In 2024, they picked just 50,000 tons.

In the past, much of the apricot crop went

to canning or drying. But consumers are not eating as much canned fruit as they once did, and cheaper, imported dried apricots have crowded out California product on grocery store shelves.

Nevertheless, the Bayses continue to advocate on behalf of the orangey, oval stone fruit and its producers. Daniel is president of the Apricot Producers of California, a commodity group of which they're charter members.

Never ones to become complacent, the Bayses at one time tried apples and nectarines, but the markets weren't kind. More recently with soft prices for almonds and walnuts, they've planted some canning peaches and olives for a Tracy cannery.

"Over the years we've tried apples, tried nectarines and tried other different things," Ken said. "Sometimes they work, sometimes they don't."



Mahindra

MASSEY FERGUSON

ROXOR

WM Weiss McNair
NUT HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

J·M·EQUIPMENT
Co. Inc.

PARTS | SERVICE | SALES | LEASING | RENTALS | USED EQUIPMENT | NEW EQUIPMENT

ALSO HANDLES

- AGCO HESSTON HAY EQUIPMENT
- COMPACT TRACTOR RENTALS
- PEERLESS DRYING EQUIPMENT
- DONALDSON FILTER
- SCHMEISER TILLAGE/ORCHARD EQUIPMENT
- JAYLOR FEEDING EQUIPMENT
- PARTS & SERVICES ON MOST BRANDS OF EQUIPMENT

321 Spreckels Ave. Manteca, CA 95336 • (209) 522-3271 • Highway 33 Patterson, CA 95363

MID's **BeAware**
BEAR

STOP, THINK, LOOK!

MID
www.mid.org

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

STOP! Before you start a project that requires digging, BeAware!

© 2007

THINK! BeAware of power lines underground!

LOOK! Can't you see them?

No!

That's my point.

BE SAFE- CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-642-2444

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

FREE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

As another membership service, Farm Bureau members are offered FREE classified advertising in the Stanislaus Farm News. Ads must be 18 words or less and only one ad per month per membership (membership number required.) Ads may be MAILED to the Stanislaus Farm News, or BROUGHT to the SCFB office, 1201 L Street, Downtown Modesto. NO PHONE-IN OR FAX free ads will be accepted. Free ads are restricted to farm machinery or equipment or unprocessed farm products. Farm jobs wanted or offered will also be accepted. No real estate ads and no commercial items or services will be accepted. 209-522-7278

Classified Ad's \$4.40 per run.

COPY DEADLINE: MONDAY 12 NOON

RATES: Display rates on request. Terms are cash. Ads should be paid for at time of first insertion or immediately after receipt of bill if order is placed by telephone or mail.

ERRORS: The Stanislaus Farm News will not be liable for more than one incorrect insertion. Errors must be called to the attention of the Classified Advertising Department not later than 4 p.m. on the Tuesday following publication of the ad. Claims for adjustment must be made within 15 days. We reserve the right to reject or revise any advertisement.

120 SPECIAL NOTICES**REPLACEMENT WINDOWS CUT YOUR ENERGY BILLS ELIMINATE DUST & NOISE**

Lowest Prices Guaranteed! Largest Selection in the Valley! Windows, Doors, Skylights, Soundproofing, Licensed, Bonded & Insured.
Visit Our Showroom:
1050 Kansas Ave., Modesto
Cal Comfort Insulating Windows, Inc.
Contractors Lic. #51317 Class C17B
209-527-1310 (TFN)

500 FARM EQUIPMENT**For Sale:**

Heavy Duty Ripper - \$2500
Contact Arby: 209-505-0555 or text: 209-602-1400

Spring tooth with attached following harrow. 8 ft wide, 3 point hook-up asking \$1000
Brush rake. Rear push. 9ft wide adjustable spacing for 4 or 5 forks asking \$1000
Text or leave VM for 209-505-1731

For Sale:

John Deere 5100ML low profile with Exact cab
Vrisimo flail mower - 12' & 8'
PBM 500 gallon sprayer with electric valves (never used)
Durand Wyoming 500 gallon sprayer
Domries float leveler - 12'
Call Joe: 209-404-3326

Trailer axle with springs \$50, has two new tires 80" tread, Call 209-537-9491

Verisimo Might Max fail mower. Model # SC-100 asking \$5000
Orchard float roller 9ft wide asking \$1000
Text or leave a VM 209-505-1731

3/4 inch METAL PIPE, 10 FOOT SECTIONS, 700 PCS.
Tom (209) 402-9870 or Bob (209) 402-9873

Ford 3400 runs well
12 attachments, Diesel
Needs a new home
\$9000/obo
Call 209-479-6214

Weiss McNair 9800 Calif Special PTO almond pickup machine
Thomas discharge cart
4 super carts
Thomas elevator
Duran Wyland 500 gal PTO air blast sprayer
Kubota M9960 tractor
Schmeiser 10 foot float
10 foot orchard float
PBM HAV 300 weed sprayer
10 foot offset disk
Cotton trailer
Call Lane, 209-484-0882

510 LIVESTOCK

Kenyon Organic Services
Organic Consulting Services
Crop and Livestock
Carol Kenyon
(209) 484-1097
ck.cattle23@gmail.com

Sale Alfalfa. Best price, great quality. Bigger Bales especially suited to horses. Cook Valley Angus Ranches Modesto 209 996 7365 & Available May- Oct

800 For Rent

Dairy for Rent
Permitted for 614 Cows
With Flush and Freestalls
400 head open heifer facility
Turlock, Ca
Call 209-678-2632

1000 SERVICES

Electrical and Refrigeration Service
No job to small. Troubleshooting, upgrades on home, ranch, dairy, and commercial buildings.
209-648-7748

Martin Reyes

Land leveling, Discing Chiseling
Lic.#954989
(209) 605-4079

Noeller Farm

farm & ranch management
Almond, Peaches, Walnuts
custom Almond & Walnuts
(209) 883-2417 or
(209) 606-2084

Need help with your Farm Labor?

Call Lencioni Farm Services
209-537-2186

Rene's mobile notary
Notary Public
Certified loan signing agent

Call for a quote
Cal 209-252-4641
Insured Bonded Certified

Orchard/Vineyard removal Attrition piles too Davis Ag
209-670-5278

1000 SERVICES

PROAG Commercial Ag. Spraying
Orchard, vineyard \$ herbicide applications
209-613-6355 Pat, 209-678-8072
Matt, 209-613-3227 Justin
Visit proag.webs.com

RON MARTELLA
Custom Nut Harvesting
SHAKING, SWEEPING AND HARVESTING
883-4819 or 883-0690

Woodbridge Spraying
Field Spraying
Orchard Spraying
Backhoe
380-0727 (TFN)

We haul Rock, Sand, Gravel, Demolition Clean Up & Removal, Tree Holes, Irrigation Lines & More.
Lic. # 884701
Home-(209) 848-0538
Cell (209) 525-7715 (TFN)

Wilson Portable Welding
Structural • Fabrication • General Repair
• Dairy Repair • Ag Repair
• Mobile - 765-3596
• Shop - 524-3016 (TFN)

Hampton Ranch, CA
Almond, walnut, kiwi grower
Almond Firewood
150-20 lb. trays of kiwi fruit
\$25/tray = \$1.20/pound
No minimum required,
Delivery available
(209) 648-3249 or (209) 874-4894

Premier California Properties Ag/Investment Properties
Marcus Haney
Realtor #01917446
Contact me at 209/605-6727
www.premiercaproperties.com

Orchard & wild land tree piles. Smokeless conversion to biochar on site. Davis Agriculture
(209) 670-5278

1100 MISCELLANEOUS

METAL BUILDINGS
Provided & installed, interior upgrades available, fully engineered, references available.

Active Industrial Contracting
Michael Frost - 613-3548.
Lic. #735904 (TFN)

LOW COST HOUSING Largest Inventory in Valley of Preowned Mobile Homes. Approx. 100 to choose from. Priced to fit your Budget. Transportation Available. DLR. 209-632-0854.

Wanted:
Cash paid for OLD Barn and Shop items; vintage tools, unwanted junk, old bottles & oil cans
209-774-6582

For Sale
'67 2T Chevy Truck w/16' Bed, 21' Trailer \$12,000
'60s Yale 5k Forklift \$6,000
Bin Trailers \$1,500/ea
Contact: 209-988-0700

ROOFING • FENCING • PLYWOOD • SIDING

Let's Build Together
Since 1953

Denair Location: (209) 632-2494

Riverbank Location: (209) 869-4424

www.DenairLumberCo.com

HARDWARE • INSULATION • WINDOWS • O.S.B.

Neto's
Catering
Commitment to Excellence

FRED NETO & SONS
(209) 669-FRED
Fax (209) 669-0545

Specializing in:
B.B.Q Steaks - Ribs
Pork - Chicken
Seasoned Meats
Fred's Portuguese Beans
Party Platters
Deli Spreads

ALL OCCASIONS / FREE ESTIMATES
1318 N. Golden State Boulevard, Turlock, CA

VAN DE POL
1947 - 2022
ANNIVERSARY
75TH

VAN DE POL
FUELS & LUBRICANTS

Celebrating 75 years of serving the San Joaquin Valley!

We're your strategic partner - delivering great service with roots in the local community.

Performance delivered.

Fuels | Lubricants | Renewable Diesel
Industrial Fluids | Diesel Exhaust Fluid
209.667.0236 | vandeol.us

A Time of Thanksgiving

Source: Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

As Thanksgiving approaches, families across America are getting ready to gather with loved ones, share favorite dishes and reflect on the past year. For our family, we continue a long tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving in my grandfather's barn. Over the years, that barn has seen countless gatherings, but each one feels a little richer as we welcome new generations to the table. It's such a blessing to watch my children and grandchildren laugh, play and make memories in the same place I once did. That's what makes this season so special, a reminder of how our love ties us all together.

For many farms, this season marks the end

of the year with harvest but also brings us a time to reflect on the work we do to provide safe and abundant food for families across the country. It's a chance to look across the Thanksgiving table and celebrate the fruit of our labor, while also being mindful of the families struggling to put food on the table.

This year, the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey shows the average price of a holiday meal is down 5% from last year, which also saw a similar-sized decline in costs. But even with this relief, inflation and the cost of food remain top of mind with prices still 19% higher than in 2019. Farmers and ranchers are feeling that pressure too, dealing with high interest rates, steep costs for labor and other business expenses, and a year marked by devastating natural disasters across the county. We need Congress

to pass a modernized farm bill to ensure we can keep doing the job we all love in the face of these challenges. Disaster relief and extended tax provisions will also help keep our food supply secure and affordable for all Americans.

While the challenges our farmers and ranchers are facing can feel very heavy at times, this holiday season offers a time to reflect on why we press forward. When we look around the table at our families and loved ones, thinking about those who came before us and those who will come after us, we're reminded of what it's all about.

This holiday season also presents an opportunity for us to reach out to others. Many of our neighbors and community members are still dealing with the effects of natural

See THANKS on page 13

FLORY

LEADERS IN NUT HARVESTING EQUIPMENT



34 Series Sweeper



860 PTO Harvester



SINCE 1936



8770 Self Propelled Nut Harvester



ST14 Shuttle Truck

For the finest in Agriculture Equipment and Metal Fabrication

See all our products at goflory.com

209-545-1167 Salida, CA

RAYCO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1969

Air Compressors
Used Tool and Machinery Dealer
Steam and High Pressure Cleaners
Metal Working Tools and Machinery
Power Tools, Wood Working Tools and Machinery
Hand Tools, Abrasives, Saw Blades and Safety Supplies
Automotive Tools and Equipment, Shop Heaters and Coolers

Sales and Service

California Contractors License 708487

The Largest Selection of Heavy Duty Shop Tools and Machinery In Northern California

Modesto (209) 529-8984

512 RIVER ROAD

Turlock (209) 632-2315

712 LANDER AVENUE

RUMBLE

ORCHARD SERVICES

Topping & Hedging
 (Fall 2021: Hedging Down to 2')

Skirting

**Dual Mechanical
Brush Stacking**

**Almond/Walnut
Conditioning**

**Orchard
Management**



Phil Rumble:
 (209) 996-1517

Matt Rumble:
 (209) 996-8161



Port of Oakland continues to be an agricultural export powerhouse

The Port of Oakland continues to be one of the most important gateways for U.S. agricultural products. As of October, the port has exported nearly \$8.5 billion in agricultural commodities this year, ranking No. 1 in the nation in the volume of international refrigerated exports. "Agricultural exports are especially important commodities for our port's business," said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. "In any given year, agricultural products comprise between 37% and 45% of total exports from Oakland."

Virtual fencing 'game-changer' for ranchers grazing cattle

After the Caldor Fire destroyed 7 miles of fencing on their cattle ranch in 2021, Leisel Finley and her family needed to replace the fence. Finley, a sixth-generation rancher at Mount Echo Ranch in Amador County, learned about a pilot program for virtual fencing that uses GPS enabled collars to monitor each animal's location in near real time. Livestock producers can draw a perimeter on a map of their pasture using a laptop or smartphone application and send those instructions to the collar. The collar then uses audio and tactile cues to contain the animal in the area.

Farm families emphasize importance of mental health

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discussed the importance of mental health on farms. Tricia Stever Blattler, executive director of the Tulare County Farm Bureau, spoke with host Gary Sack about losing her husband, Robert, to suicide, and about the need to speak up about mental health in farming communities that face many stressors. "We have to keep normalizing and bringing that conversation forward," Stever Blattler said. The episode also covers efforts in California to combat the oriental fruit fly and a message from the California Farm Bureau to president-elect Donald Trump and other newly elected leaders.

Probiotics and prebiotics: hype or health?

Consumers may have noticed a recent trend in food and beverage products labeled pro-

biotic or prebiotic. The products often say they "support a healthy gut" or "boost your immune system" by providing good microbes that are often missing from people's diets. But how can consumers know if these products are really good for them? A new episode of the University of California, Davis, podcast *Unfold* took a closer look at the proliferation of probiotics and interviewed Maria Marco, a microbiologist and professor in the department of food science and technology at UC Davis.

Sonoma County farmers celebrate Measure J defeat

The defeat of a Sonoma County ballot measure last week brought relief for farmers in the county. As of Friday, more than 85% of voters had voted against Measure J, which within three years would have banned large dairies and poultry farms in the county. The measure would have capped the number

of animals each farm can raise, banning large farms or forcing them to downsize. Doug Beretta, owner of Beretta Family Dairy in Santa Rosa and president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, said he was "ecstatic" so many voters had sided with the county's farmers. "The community came together to fight for agriculture," Beretta said. "When those results came in, it really showed."

Agencies identify organized farm equipment theft ring

As part of a monthslong investigation known as Operation Tractor Pull, California law enforcement agencies have uncovered an

organized agriculture equipment theft ring that targeted San Joaquin Valley farms. After conducting extensive surveillance operations throughout the San Joaquin Valley, authorities said evidence collected accounted for 24 pieces of stolen equipment valued at more than \$2.25 million. Authorities recovered \$1.3 million worth of equipment. "This is a large-scale theft ring impacting our farmers, our ranchers and our agricultural community," said Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux during an Oct. 29 press conference.

Brussels sprouts nab more acreage as demand grows

As Brussels sprouts have become trendy on social media and restaurant menus during the past several years, California farmers have been able to cash in on the vegetable's popularity. "The market's really grown, especially the fresh market, and a lot of

WHOLESALE TIRES & WHEELS

Commercial/Passenger/4x4/SUV
Semi Truck / Farm & Dairy

Open 6 Days a Week—Monday-Saturday




1030 W. Main St.
Turlock, CA 95380
Corner of W. Main St. & Davis

DHILLON
Tel (209) 668-1074
Cell (209) 277-3546

OAKDALE CHEESE & SPECIALTIES

National Award

Winning Cheeses

- Free Samples & Tours
- Specialty Foods & Gifts
- Picnic & Pond Area
- Animals to Feed

10040 State Hwy 120,
OAKDALE (209)848-3139



Open Daily
9am-6pm



Custom Gifts!



We Ship Anywhere in the US!!

that has to do with the food shows on TV and chefs' artistic abilities," said Monterey County-based vegetable grower Jeff Hitchcock. "It's really put Brussels sprouts on the map." U.S. per capita consumption of Brus-

sels sprouts increased from 0.33 pounds in 2011 to 0.78 pounds in 2019, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

Turkey supplies ample heading into Thanksgiving

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discussed turkey supplies heading into the Thanksgiving holiday season. Bill Mattos, president of

the California Poultry Federation, said on the podcast that despite millions of turkeys being lost to bird flu across the country during the past two years, "I think you'll find plenty of turkeys for Thanksgiving," including fresh California turkeys. Mattos said prices may be slightly higher on average this year, but that many grocery stores offer steep discounts on Thanksgiving turkeys to get shoppers into their stores. The episode also covered the efficiency of autonomous sprayers, water flow standards for the Scott and Shasta rivers, and crop damage estimates resulting from hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina.



"Agriculture is the engine that drives Stanislaus County. Thank you to all of the hard-working farmers and ranchers and their employees who fuel that engine! Stanislaus County salutes you! I am proud to be a farmer!"
Vito Chiesa Supervisor District 2



PBM Supply & MFG., INC.

Quality Agricultural Spray Equipment, Parts and Supplies
www.pbmsprayers.com www.pbm tanksupply.com

-Sprayers- -Tanks- -Liquid Delivery Trailers- -Parts & Accessories-

PBM Supply & Manufacturing is a local agricultural manufacturing company that specializes in the design and construction of sprayers, tank trailers, and chemical handling equipment. Give us a call to find a dealer near you.



HAV Self-Propelled Sprayers



Chemical Mixing Trailers



Walking Beam Sprayers



Injection Plates



UTV Sprayers



Parts, Accessories, Repair Kits & More



RAKE SWEEPER TINES



COIT AND HEWES, LLC
 PREMIUM QUALITY HARVEST SUPPLIES

719 E Grayson Rd
 Modesto, CA
 95358



209 531 9891
 M-F 8-4PM



SHAKER PAD OVAL AND ROUND

Replacement Parts for
**WEISS, FLORY, OMC,
 ORCHARD RITE, COE**



HARVESTER PICKUP BELTS



SWEEPER PADDLES



SWEEPER BEARINGS



SHAKER SLING PADS



Fowler Store
 877-688-1334
 3732 S. Golden
 State Blvd.
 Fowler, CA 93625

Cattle called

Burlap Bovine gets holiday shoppers in the moo'd

Story by Caitlin Fillmore

Photos by Fred Greaves

Fall 2024 California Bountiful magazine

Who says delayed gratification no longer exists? Malorie Walker's handmade leather goods are worth the wait.

"My customers will tell me, 'I've waited four years to be able to order this from you!'" says Walker of her custom graduation cap toppers, the top-selling product at her online store, Burlap Bovine.

From agriculture majors crossing graduation stages around the country to local shoppers looking for special stocking stuffers, Burlap Bovine's cheerful founder offers an ever-evolving product line that

ensures her customers follow her inspiration to "differ from the herd."

An unexpected path

Walker's one-of-a-kind leather accessories cater to an underserved community of agriculture enthusiasts: lovers of beef cattle.

"One of the reasons I took off with leather was because people would get me gifts and it would always be a Holstein, ugh!" jokes Walker of ubiquitous dairy cow merchandise. "I always wished it was a Hereford or a Black Baldy."

Burlap Bovine combines two aspects of Walker's personality close to her since youth: beef cattle and crafting. Walker grew up on a ranch in Livermore, in Alameda County, where her family operated a small cow/calf operation. She nurtured a passion for agriculture by serving in leadership roles in 4-H and FFA and studied agricultural communication at Cal Poly, San Luis

Obispo.

Walker was always a crafter. She remembers going to scrapbooking parties in the 1990s and learning to crochet from her aunt. When a friend asked Walker to make a beef cattle-themed baby mobile, an opportunity was revealed.

However, an artistic life was not always Walker's goal. "I've always been creative, but (Burlap Bovine) wasn't something I had in the plan," she says. After a few years dabbling with an Etsy shop part-time, Walker transitioned her crafty ideas to a full-time business seven years ago.

Malorie Walker's custom-made graduation cap toppers have become popular with graduates who hear about the novelty by word of mouth.

A personal touch

A one-woman business, Walker handcrafts every whimsical earring, ornament and cuff bracelet. She works from a spare room and garage of her home in the Placer County community of Lincoln, accompanied by her cat, Pepper.

Walker buys leather from various U.S. companies and works with other makers to source scraps. This choice is not only eco-friendly; it allows Walker the flexibility to create a wider range of products in a variety of patterns and colors. Her "on the edge" collection displays the raw edge of the scraps she repurposes. "These designs mean I can use every piece," Walker says, and result in products with "much more character."

When Walker first began 10 years ago, she cut everything by hand. She has since upgraded to a clicker press and cow-shaped steel dies. The press exerts 4 tons of pressure on the dies, stamping out the shapes in the leather.

While the clicker press has streamlined



See BOVINE on page 20

YOUR FUTURE GROWS HERE.

COMMITTED TO SERVING YOUR NEEDS.

The change in agriculture today is just a glimpse of what lies ahead. It's why, more than ever, we are committed to being the partner you can trust, who understands your needs and delivers value to help you achieve your goals.

Wherever agriculture goes, we'll be there, alongside you, as you lead the way.




**American
AgCredit**

Your future grows here

Visit agloan.com/growyourfuture



SCAN ME

A Part of the Farm Credit System.  Equal Opportunity Lender.

Compost Giveaway

Are you a business operating in the unincorporated areas of Stanislaus County?

- 5,000 tons of compost is available to local businesses
- Each eligible recipient can receive up to 500 tons of compost from Recology for free*
- Compost is available in 25-ton increments
- Applications must be submitted by November 15, 2024

Applications can be requested via email or by visiting www.stanislausrecycles.org/compost
For more information please contact Wallace Low at 209-525-6741 or wlow@envres.org



*Compost recipients are responsible for all shipping and handling charges for product delivery



STRONGER TOGETHER

*Annual Meeting and
YF&R State Conference*

Registration Open Now!

• December 7–10, 2024 •
Monterey Conference Center
and Monterey Marriott



Featured Speaker
Mary Heffernan
of Five Marys Ranch

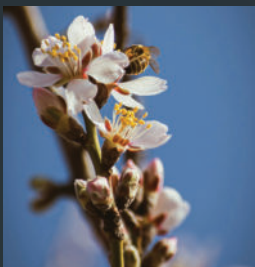
*Ensuring your best
farm and ranch future*

For more information, visit cfbf.com/annualmeeting





ROOTED TOGETHER THE ALMOND CONFERENCE



DECEMBER 10-12, 2024

SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION CENTER
DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO

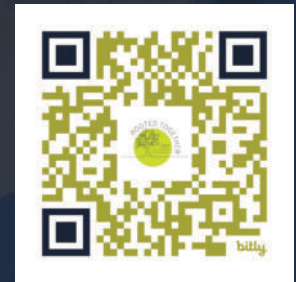
The Almond Conference brings together growers and other industry stakeholders to serve as the premier gathering for networking, education and research in the almond industry.

Don't miss out on the largest gathering of the year for California almonds!

VISIT [ALMONDS.COM/CONFERENCE](https://almonds.com/conference) TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE.



© 2024 Almond Board of California. All rights reserved.



AGRICULTURE



ESTATE
PLANNING



CLIENT
ACCOUNTING



Reap the benefits of expert ag accounting season after season.

Your agricultural business deserves the best. At Grimbleby Coleman, we specialize in tree, vine, and row crop accounting, offering tailored solutions for your unique needs. With over 50 years in the Central Valley, our team is committed to nurturing your success. **Partner with us.**



200 West Roseburg Avenue Modesto, CA 95350 | (209) 527-4220
gccpas.net

From THANKS on page 7



covery efforts, sharing a meal or simply offering support, we can all make a difference for those in need. Also, if you are looking for a way to give back this season, then I encourage you to check out our Hurricane Relief page to learn how you can help support the efforts of our state Farm Bureaus to assist farm and ranch families impacted by the disasters.

Throughout this year, we've seen countless examples of Farm Bureau members stepping up to support their communities, and I have no doubt that spirit of generosity will shine even brighter this holiday season. It's that collective strength and commitment to one

another that makes us a community, and I trust that, no matter what's ahead, our dedication to agriculture and our fellow Americans will remain strong.

This Thanksgiving, as we gather around the table, let's all take a moment to appreciate those bonds that bring us together, the hard work that fills our plates, and the support we offer each other along the way. It's a time to be grateful for what we have and look forward to the new moments and memories that await us.

From my family to yours, may you have a safe, blessed and joyous Thanksgiving.

disasters or facing other hardships, and this is a great time for us all to keep lending a hand. And whether it be helping with re-



RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic. 0499798

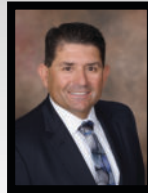
"Proudly celebrating over 55 years of excellence in our industry"



BOBBY ROSA
(209) 856-8820
broosa@rppins.com



LUCIA FARAO
(209) 856-8846
lfarao@rppins.com



LEROY ROCHA
(209) 856-8839
lrocha@rppins.com



TAMMY GRAY
(209) 856-8885
tgray@rppins.com



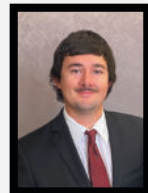
LESLIE MACHADO
(209) 856-8814
lmachado@rppins.com



COLLIN STRASSER
(209) 856-8831
cstrasser@rppins.com



ALEX GULLIEN
(209) 856-8856
aguillen@rppins.com



JONATHAN WEATHERRED
(209) 856-8849
jweatherred@rppins.com

Call us today for a personalized Insurance Consultation!

(800) 399-7473 • (209) 854-2000 • www.rppins.com



A festive advertisement for a Poinsettia Sale at Modesto Junior College. The background is decorated with a wreath of pine branches and red berries. The text is centered and reads: "Modesto Junior College Nursery Poinsettia Sale". Below this, it says "When? Friday, Dec 6th 2pm - 6pm" and "Saturday, Dec 7th 9am - 12pm". To the right of the text is a circular inset image of a red poinsettia plant. At the bottom, it says "BEHIND THE EAST CAMPUS AG BUILDING AT COLDWELL AVE. & COLLEGE AVE." and "Questions? Contact schmidigk@mjc.edu". Logos for Modesto Junior College and the School of Agriculture are also present.

Thanksgiving Dinner Costs Are Down Again

Americans stocking up for this year's Thanksgiving dinner will see a dip in their grocery bills for the second year in a row. The 39th annual American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Thanksgiving dinner survey finds that the classic feast for 10 will run you \$58.08, down 5% from last year. However, this is still 19% higher than five years ago. While consumers are getting some much-needed relief after years of elevated retail prices, these grocery bills also reflect some hard conversations around the dinner table for farm and ranch families.

The Thanksgiving Dinner Survey For one week each year, volunteer shoppers from all 50 states and Puerto Rico visit their local grocery store (or local store's website) to survey the prices of items used in a classic Thanksgiving feast. Since 1986, these volunteers have collected price data on turkey, cubed stuffing, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, frozen peas, fresh cranberries, celery, carrots, pumpkin pie mix and crusts, whipping cream and whole milk.

The classic dinner's grocery bill is a mixed bag of savings and squeezes. Seven items dropped in price this year, including turkey, sweet potatoes, frozen peas, a vegetable tray of carrots and celery, pumpkin pie mix, pie crusts and whole milk. However, the remaining four items –dinner rolls, fresh cranberries, whipping cream and cubed stuffing – rose in price.

Prices for ham, Russet potatoes and frozen green beans were added to the survey in 2018 to reflect more Thanksgiving favorites, with all of them showing a year-over-year reduction in price. When including the additional items, the meal cost rose to \$77.34, or \$7.73 per person, with more leftovers, of course. The updated Thanksgiving dinner nearly doubled the cost savings of the classic basket – an 8.7% decrease in price from 2023.

Turkey – Carving the Grocery Bill
Over the span of the AFBF Thanksgiving survey, turkey has accounted for an average of 43% of the total dinner cost. This year is right on the mark – a 16-pound turkey accounts for 44.2% of the classic 10-person feast. Given its large share of the total dinner bill, differences in the grocery bill year-over-year closely follow the change in turkey prices. This year's 6% decrease in turkey prices is a bit of an anomaly. According to USDA's Turkeys Raised report, farmers raised 205 million turkeys in 2024, down



Helping our Members Prosper



LOCAL AGRICULTURE FINANCING

MODESTO
TURLOCK
PATTERSON

MERCED
LOS BANOS
OAKDALE

yosemitefarmcredit.com



DAIRY LOANS • ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT • LAND PURCHASES • CROP LOANS • EQUIPMENT LOANS

See **TURKEY** on page 18



Building Better Digital Solutions For Your Agricultural Business

We are more than just an online marketing company - we're your comprehensive digital partner/family. From assessing your online digital footprint to designing or redesigning your website, managing Paid Online Advertising, and implementing effective SEO strategies, we handle it all. Our goal is to create an affordable, tailored solution that fits your budget and meets your business needs. With us, you'll find the right choice for achieving your digital success.

- ✓ Website Design
- ✓ Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
- ✓ Social Media Posting
- ✓ Digital Paid Marketing

www.sisbroinnovation.com (800) 291-9102 or (719) 237-9155 info@sisbroinnovation.com



Grateful for you. Since 1867.

When we opened our doors in 1867, our goal was to provide the highest level of service and innovation for our customers.

Now, 157 years later, we remain ever committed to providing the tools, convenience and banking services needed to help your business and your family thrive.

Thank you for being a part of our Bank of Stockton family. Happy holiday season!



BANK OF STOCKTON
ESTABLISHED 1867
WITHSTANDING THE TEST OF TIME®



bankofstockton.com

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM NEWS



Tuolumne County Farm Bureau hosted their Annual Dinner on Saturday, October 19th at the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse Grounds.

of our events and their catering is second to none. The prime rib was absolutely perfect and all of the sides were perfect for a lovely fall evening.

This team does so much work to make the evening so smooth and we are so appreciative of this great catering team. We always so enjoy our time at the Posse Grounds and wanted to thank the Sheriff's Posse for the use of their wonderful venue. They host us each year and it is a great spot for our event! We appreciate their team coming in early for our set up, running the bar and of course, helping us get broken down and cleaned up!

We owe George Croft a big shout out. He is an incredibly talented man and provided

fantastic entertainment for the evening. His mix of covers and original songs was absolutely perfect.

We host the Ag in the Classroom Silent Auction each year, and each year everyone really shows up and supports this great program. Funds raised here support our scholarship program that goes to students who wish to pursue a career in agriculture. Thank you so much to everyone who donated wonderful items and showed up to support our ability to educate the next generation.

Thank you to our Sponsors:

Chicken Ranch Casino, Yosemite Farm Credit, Terri Arington, El Dorado Septic, and Left Coast Land Clearing.

It was a great evening of fellowship with members, an amazing prime rib dinner and we thoroughly enjoyed George Croft's wonderful music throughout the night.

We wanted to thank our many members for attending!

We also need to thank Mike Quinones and team for another amazing dinner. Mike and his team come in for each

"I am proud and excited to see that our Tuolumne County Farm Bureau has exceeded our membership goals for the year. We will continue to work diligently to make Tuolumne County and its issues well represented at the local, state, and federal levels."

Tuolumne County Farm Bureau President, Colton Gaiser

TUOLUMNE COUNTY BUSINESS MEMBERS



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

- **A L Gilbert Company**
 - Oakdale, (209) 847-1721
- **Armstrong Logging**
 - Twain Harte, (209) 586-1384
- **Aspen Meadow Pack Station**
 - Sonora, (209) 965-3402
- **Benton Roberson CPAs LLP**
 - Sonora, (209) 586-5236
- **Blue Mountain Minerals**
 - Columbia, (209) 533-0127
- **California Reforestation Inc**
 - Sonora, (209) 840-1326
- **Canepa & Sons Well Drilling**
 - Sonora, (209) 532-1136
- **Cedar Ridge Apple Ranch LLC**
 - Sonora, (209) 533-9463
- **Conifer Communications Inc**
 - Sonora, (209) 532-5859
- **Covers Apple Ranch**
 - Tuolumne, (209) 840-2674
- **Crook Logging Inc**
 - Groveland, (209) 962-7716
- **Diestel Turkey Ranch**
 - Sonora, (209) 532-4950
- **Doherty Tire of Sonora**
 - Standard, (209) 532-3484
- **DSRS Inc.**
 - Sonora, (209) 993-8146
- **Fulton Trucking Inc.**
 - Groveland, (209) 962-4350
- **Hurst Ranch**
 - Jamestown, (209) 984-3016
- **Joe Cover & Sons Inc**
 - Tuolumne, (209) 840-2674
- **Lockhart Appraisal**
 - Soulsbyville
- **Mountain Oasis Purified Water LLC**
 - Sonora, (209) 533-9000
- **Left Coast Land Clearing**
 - Sonora, (209) 536-9174
- **Sierra Resource Management Inc**
 - Sonora, (209) 984-1146
- **Tuolumne Utilities District**
 - Sonora, (209) 770-8902
- **Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware**
 - Twain Harte, (209) 586-3571
- **Valley Pacific Petroleum**
 - Stockton, (209) 948-9412
- **Yosemite Clean Energy**
 - Mariposa, (209) 800-2831
- **Yosemite Farm Credit**
 - Turlock, (209) 667-2366



**WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND
THANK FARMWORKERS IN
STANISLAUS COUNTY!**

**This program will honor farmworker nominees
during a luncheon on
April 1, 2025. Nominees will be interviewed for the
Farm Bureau News and winners will receive**

CASH AWARDS! UP TO \$3,000!

Please have your nominations in by 1/17/2025

*This program is brought to you by Stanislaus County Farm
Bureau and Modesto Rotary.*

**Questions or additional information?
Call Farm Bureau
at 209-522-7278**



Scan to nominate!



From TURKEY on page 14

6% from last year and the lowest since 1985. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is responsible for the decline in turkeys raised. Typically, fewer turkeys would mean an increase in price, but demand for turkey fell in 2024. USDA estimates per capita demand for turkey is 13.9 pounds per person, down a pound from 2023. This drop in demand has caused prices to fall.

The Rest of the Thanksgiving Dinner Table Most ingredients in our survey decreased in price including fresh vegetables and the centerpiece of our Thanksgiving table, the turkey. Overall price volatility in vegetables pulled fresh vegetable prices down, including those on the celery and carrot relish tray. Favorable weather conditions for dairy cows and feedstuffs led to a 14% decrease in the price for a gallon of whole milk. It's important to note that milk prices varied significantly between regions across the country.

The largest increases in your Thanksgiving dinner bill this year come from processed products. Dinner rolls and cubed stuffing both increased over 8% from 2023. Nonfood inflation and labor shortages have driven up costs for partners across the food supply chain. Fresh cranberries had the next-largest price increase at 12%.

This is a stabilization of prices after a significant 18% drop in prices from 2022 to 2023. Despite the year-over-year price increase, cranberries are still more affordable than historical averages. In fact, when adjusted for inflation, this is the lowest price for cranberries since 1987.

Regional Differences – More than Dressing vs. Stuffing Thanksgiving staples, and what you call them, are not the only things that vary as you move across the United States. For those celebrating in the West, your grocery bill will be at least 15% steeper than the rest of the country: \$67.81 for a party of 10. The other regions

of the U.S. are lower by 9 dollars or more. Southern dinners will cost the least at \$56.81, followed closely by the Northeast at \$57.36 and \$58.90 in the Midwest.

When looking at the expanded Thanksgiving basket, the West also has a divide from the rest of the country. The South, Northeast and Midwest can add ham, Russet potatoes and green beans for a basket total of \$81.07, \$81.37 and \$83.03, respectively. However, the expanded Thanksgiving basket in the West costs \$94.09, over a dollar



Since 1986

- **State of the Art Equipment**
- **80' Truck Scale**
- **Maximized Returns**
- **Owner Operated**
- **Inshell line complete with Satake color sorter**
- **High Capacity dryer for bin or bulk loads**

Peter Verdegaal Office
209-628-1008 209-356-0210

8016 Winton Way, Winton
Serving Stanislaus &
Merced Counties



HOOBLER
Insurance Services

2025

Crop Insurance

Bill Hoobler

209-601-0418

Providing over 30 years of Crop Insurance
Protection for the farmers of the Central
Valley of CA.

Key Sales closing dates:

Almonds- 12/31/24
Pistachios- 12/31/24
Cherries- 1/31/25
Stonefruit - 1/31/25
Walnuts - 1/31/25

Hoobler Insurance Services is an equal opportunity provider

CA License #0L25066

more per person.

The Cost of Food

Even though the price tag for this year's Thanksgiving meal is down 5%, it's still up nearly 20% from just five years ago. Consumers are exhausted from years of inflation, and it will take more than the past two years' improvements to ease the pain. However, these declines are reflective of the greater affordability of food in the United States. Rising grocery bills might be a bit of a shock, but food inflation is a fraction of the hikes hitting other expenses. From October 2023 to 2024, food at home prices generally rose only 1.1%, half of the total economy's 2.6% increase in prices.

Other bills that may have even larger spikes include transportation (up 8.2%), housing (up 4.9%) and electricity (up 4.5%). When adjusted for inflation – or if your dollar

had the same overall purchasing power as a consumer in 1984, right before the beginning of this survey – this would be the least expensive Thanksgiving meal in the 39-year history of the AFBF Thanksgiving survey, other than the outlier of 2020. Even with the decreasing purchasing power of the dollar, some of the goods in our basket are at their long-term lowest prices, even in terms of the “current dollar” price. Cranberries are the second-lowest, following only last year's large drop in price, since 2015.

We can also look at food affordability in terms of wages. American consumers spent 6.7% of their expenditures on food in 2022, including food eaten away from home or takeout, the lowest percentage in the world. For comparison, the food share of expenditures is 8.5% in the United Kingdom, 16.2% in Brazil and up to 59% in developing countries like Nigeria.

pandemic, even as inflation cooled. Because average wages rose 4% from 2023 to 2024, it took 9% less work time for us to pay for this year's Thanksgiving dinner.

Back on the Farm

While consumers are seeing some signs of retail food price stability, farmers are experiencing lower and more volatile prices at the farm gate. And just like consumers, they are also victims of inflation, as their production costs rose steeply over the last few years. USDA projects national net farm income will fall by \$6.5 billion in 2024. Put simply, farmers are price takers, taking on the greater price volatility that gives the food supply price stability. On average, 9.3 cents of every dollar spent on food goes back to the farmer producing it; but this share varies from product to product.

When products are less processed, a greater share of every dollar goes back to the farmer, and consumers also experience more of the price variability that the farmer faces. Examples include products such as meat, milk and vegetables, which tend to have more price variability at the grocery store, giving consumers a taste of the price volatility that farmers experience.

Give Thanks for Supporting Farms
The farmers and ranchers who grow the food on your table this Thanksgiving face many challenges. Low crop prices, poor growing weather, disasters like the recent hurricanes and shifting international markets all threaten farmers' livelihoods. Congress has historically provided help in the form of the farm bill and in exceptional situations, disaster relief. The most recent farm bill expired this fall, already six years old and out of date; and disaster relief in recent years has been short and severely delayed, hampering recovery for farmers and rural communities. This support, when timely and effective, is one of the most important tools to

WATERFORD IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION SUPPLY & DESIGN LIC# 1004196

12500 Bentley St • Waterford, CA 95386 • 209-874-1386

Quality Irrigation Design,
Sales & Installation - with
the brands you Trust.

 **NETAFIM™**

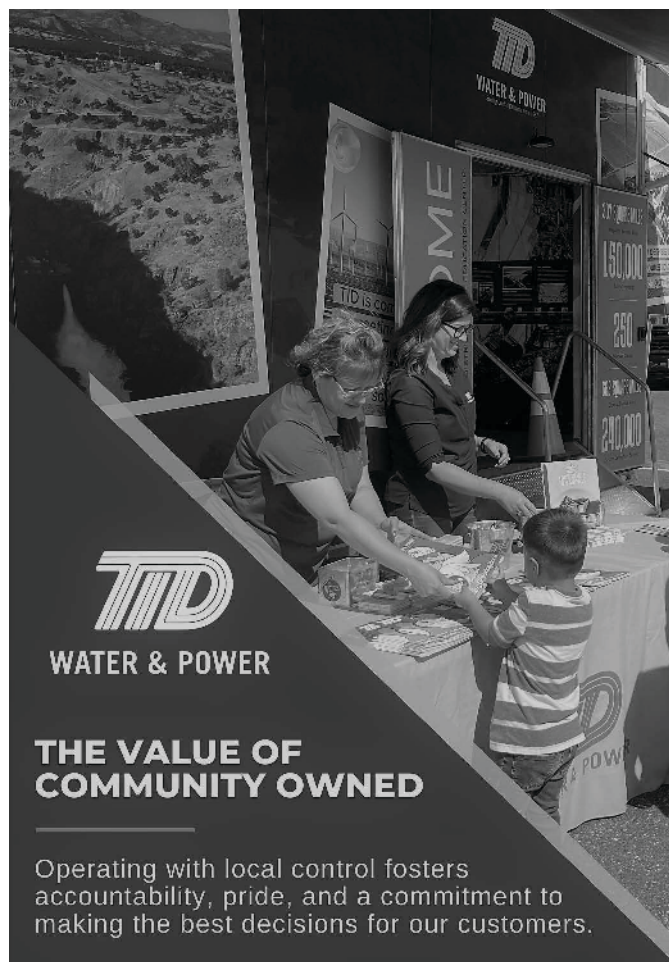
irritec

BOWSMITH®


FRESNO
Valves & Castings, Inc.

Also now in Atwater:
7016 Atwater Jordan Road
Atwater, CA 95301
209-358-1685

The average American also has to work fewer hours to buy the same meal than in previous years. Wages continued to grow faster following the COVID-19



TTD
WATER & POWER

**THE VALUE OF
COMMUNITY OWNED**

Operating with local control fosters accountability, pride, and a commitment to making the best decisions for our customers.

See **TURKEY** on page 27

From BOVINE on page 10

operations, Walker chooses to handstitch every product herself. "People think I'm crazy, but I enjoy it," she says. "It's therapeutic."

That personal touch also appears in the custom-made graduation cap toppers. Graduates choose from several options in cowhide patterns, customizations like soldered initials and graduation year, and tooled leather corners.

The cap toppers are a "100% word-of-mouth product" as graduates aspired to decorate their mortarboards like their friends' from the year before. In fact, this Sacramento-area shop boasts Mississippi State University students as her top customers, all based on Walker's friend who started the trend. "Graduates want something so unique on their special day," she says. "It's fun for me to help them celebrate their achievements."

Tooling up for the holidays

Burlap Bovine enters its eighth holiday season as the cowboy trend has lassoed the attention of popular culture. Walker welcomes the wider cultural appreciation of the lifestyle she grew up enjoying.

"I'm inspired by the Western way of life," she says. "If it trickles out to the mainstream world, we can share the true legacy the Western life provides."

Burlap Bovine's leather ornaments often draw a mainstream crowd from outside the cattle community. Ornaments in the shape of cow heads and full-body cow profiles are popular holiday gifts for ornament swaps, teacher gifts or "to

commemorate a favorite cow."

Tooling, or carving a design into the leather, is a new self-taught skill Walker is incorporating into her products this year. She has developed whimsical hand-drawn tooled designs with holiday and seasonal themes for wallets, earrings, notebook covers and patches.

"I never considered myself skilled at drawing, but I always loved the look and heritage feel that tooled leather gives," Walker says. "My husband was amazed. We didn't know I could draw — and I can't. But on leather, it just comes together."

Walker's brisk business and diligence to crack into larger farmers markets, including the nearby Fowler Ranch market, means she now sells year-round in-person and online at burlapbovine.com. But the holiday

season remains special as how this entrepreneur got her start. "The holidays are my most favorite time of year," Walker says. "I get to make the most products and share them with the most people."



**SERVING OUR
AG COMMUNITY**

MID keeps water working for you

- Dependable water supply
- Irrigation system improvements
- Promoting efficient water usage
- Sustainable use of the Tuolumne River

MID Modesto Irrigation District *The Power to Grow*

www.mid.org

Leaders in Nut Harvesting Equipment

TRADITION

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Serving the agricultural community since 1936

4737 Toomes Road, Salida Ca. (209) 545-1167
See all our products at goflory.com

VALLEY PACIFIC



- Cardlock
- Fuel
- DEF & Coolants
- Mobile Fueling
- Equipment
- Lubricants



We Fuel California

(800)266-3782 | www.ValleyPacific.com

STANISLAUS COUNTY



FARM BUREAU

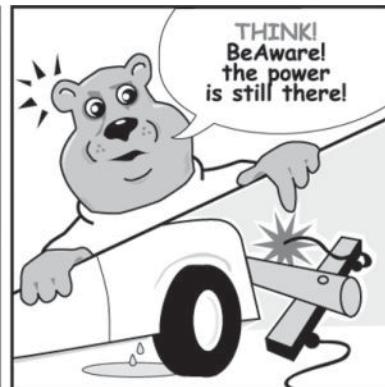
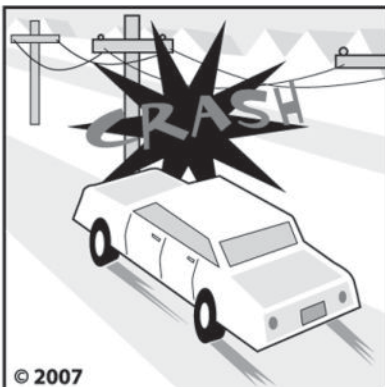


YOUR LEGACY IS OUR LEGACY

inquire now!

Nº 1-844-DWN-TREE
DWNTREES.COM

@davewilson



Modesto Irrigation District hires Paul Peschel as Assistant General Manager of Water Operations

Modesto Irrigation District (MID) has hired Paul Peschel to serve as Assistant General Manager of Water Operations. Peschel succeeds Gordon Enas who recently retired after more than 9 years of service at MID and more than 30 years in the water industry. Peschel joins MID from Hi-Desert Water District in Yucca Valley where he served as the General Manager since 2021. He previously had a five-year tenure as General Manager at Kings River Conservation District and spent more than 28 years in various leadership positions at Imperial Irrigation District.

As MID's Assistant General Manager of Water Operations, Peschel will plan, orga-

nize and direct division activities including civil engineering, water use, planning and conservation, irrigation services, construction management and Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant operations.

"Paul's leadership coupled with his vast technical experience will be an asset to upholding the District's commitment of providing the highest level of service to our customers," said MID General Manager Jimi Netniss.

Peschel received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University. He is a California-licensed civil engineer.

*About the Modesto Irrigation District (MID)
The Modesto Irriga-*

tion District, established in 1887, is a vertically integrated public utility located in California's Central Valley. MID provides irrigation water to more than 2,300 agricultural accounts irrigating close to 60,000 acres and electricity to more than 131,000 residential, commercial and agricultural accounts in Modesto, Empire, Salida, Waterford and Mountain House as well as parts of Escalon, Oakdale, Ripon and Riverbank. MID also treats, delivers and wholesales up to approximately 67,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year to the City of Modesto. For more information about MID visit www.mid.org or follow MID on Facebook (@modestoirrigationdistrict) and Twitter (@mod_irrigation).



"We are blessed with the most fertile farmland on the planet, but our most valuable assets are the farm and ranch families of Stanislaus County. Like the founders of this great nation, our county's farmers have the grit, determination and dedication to drive our local economy. Our family is proud to be part of this great industry.

The Withrow Family

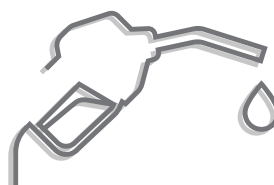


MIKE HEINRICH

209.312.4011 | MHeinrich@boyett.net

***Inventory Management Competitive
Pricing
On Time Delivery
Gas, Diesel, Renewable Diesel, and
Red Diesel Available***

***Agricultural Commercial Fuel
Truck & Trailer Delivery
Bobtail Loads Available***



Boyett Petroleum
209.577.6000 | Boyett.net
601 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 95350

USDA to Gather 2024 Crop Data from California Producers

Source: Sabrina Halvorson, National Correspondent / AgNet Media, Inc.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA/NASS) will soon start collecting information for its 2024 Agricultural Survey. Beginning in late November, over 2,000 producers across California will receive questionnaires aimed at evaluating the year's crop production, acreage, and yield. The survey will also assess quantities of grains and oilseeds in storage.

The data collected will provide valuable insights for the agricultural industry, aiding in export potential assessments and calculating crop supplies for the coming marketing year. Producers can submit their responses online at accounts.usda.gov, by

phone, or by mail. Those who haven't responded by November 29 may be contacted by NASS representatives for assistance. NASS Pacific Regional Director Gary R. Keough emphasized the importance of the survey, thanking producers for their cooperation and assuring them of strict confidentiality. Survey results will be published on January 10, 2025, in the Grain Stocks and Crop Production reports, contributing to USDA's broader agricultural outlook efforts.

For additional information, visit nass.usda.gov/Publications or call the Pacific Regional Field Office at 1-800-851-1127.



Mape's Ranch and Lyons' Investments

10555 Maze Road Modesto, CA 95358

Office: (209) 522-1762

“THE WEST SIDE IS THE BEST SIDE”

The Lyons Family supports the Farm Bureau Family

FARM BUREAU SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS

STANISLAUS COUNTY



- **Aemetis Biogas LLC**
Keyes 497-4034
- **American AgCredit**
Turlock 667-5101
- **Basi Insurance**
Oakdale (209) 847-3065
- **Bays Ranch**
Westley 894-3472
- **BBSI**
Modesto 576-0322
- **Beard Land Improvement Co**
Modesto 524-4631
- **Burchell Nursery**
Oakdale 845-8733
- **Colombo Ag Services**
Modesto 996-2488
- **Cortez Growers Association**
Turlock 632-3118
- **Flory Industries**
Salida 545-1167
- **Frantz Nursery**
Hickman 874-1459
- **Grower Direct Nut Company**
883-4890
- **Haidlen Ford**
Oakdale 847-0356
- **Heinrich Farms Inc**
Modesto 595-2207
- **Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.**
Hilmar 667-6076
- **InsureCAL Insurance Agency**
Turlock 250-0269
- **Mapes Ranch**
Modesto 522-1762
- **MidValley Agricultural Services Inc**
Oakdale 851-3200
- **Modesto & Empire Traction Co.**
Modesto 524-4631
- **Nationwide Insurance**
Sacramento (530) 701-4486
- **PG&E**
Modesto 726-6303
- **Rain for Rent**
Stockton 466-5602
- **Sierra Grain Terminal**
Turlock 667-2002
- **Stanislaus County Sheriff's Dept.**
Modesto 525-7117
- **Stanislaus Farm Supply**
Modesto 765-1142
- **Stanislaus Food Products**
Modesto 548-3400
- **TriCal**
Oakdale (831) 245-7611
- **TSM Insurance**
Modesto 524-6366
- **Yosemite Farm Credit**
Turlock 667-2366
- **Wenger Ranch Inc.**
Modesto 576-7111

Ag Services

- **Anteris**
Turlock (559) 472-6415
- **All West Select Sires**
Turlock 667-8378
- **Boyette Petroleum**
Modesto 281-7134
- **Divert Inc.**
Turlock (513) 680-4147
- **Exact**
Modesto 544-8600

Sales

- **Honda Kawasaki of Modesto**
Modesto 529-5424
- **Intero Stanislaus**
Sacramento (916) 671-2358
- **Smith Chevrolet Co Inc.**
Turlock 632-3946

Farms/Dairies

- **Ahlem Foothill Farm**
Turlock 874-2477
- **Bobby Yamamoto Farms**
Westley 835-1750
- **Braden Farms**
Hughson 883-4061
- **Brian Stewart**
Oakdale 847-8025
- **Carol Morrett**
Hughson 537-6658

Farm Management

- **Benchmark Farm Management**
Riverbank 869-4290
- **Grover Farm Management**
Modesto 602-3031
- **Lake Road Grizzly Ranch**
Pomona (909) 623-1392
- **Fisher Capitol Investments**
Modesto

Irrigation/Utilities

- **Customized Water System**
Turlock 988-4833
- **Don Pedro Pumps**
Turlock 632-3161
- **IJ Larsen Pumps**
Modesto 529-2020
- **Modesto Irrigation District**
Modesto 526-7373
- **Oakdale Irrigation District**
Oakdale 847-0341

Nurseries/Horticulture

- **Blumen Flower Farm**
Modesto 648-8995
- **California Transplants**
Newman 862-9420
- **Dutch Hollow Farms**
Modesto 287-6010

Safety

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

Construction/Engineering

- **Farm(x)**
Mountain View 559-608-4410
- **FISHBIO**
Oakdale 847-6300
- **Recology Inc**
Westley 395-9506
- **Rumble Ag Service**
Modesto 545-1848
- **West Valley Agricultural Service**
Westley 894-3121

Construction/Engineering

- **Stump Construction**
Modesto 505-9730
- **Branelle Properties LLC**
Oakdale 595-0256
- **Hawkins & Associates Engineering**
Modesto 575-4295

Insurance

- **Andreini & Company**
Modesto 512-3698
- **Arrowhead Insurance Agency**
Modesto 524-6157
- **Crivelli Ins & Fin Sv Inc**
Turlock, 668-3319
- **DiBuduo & DeFendis**
Fresno 557-2759

Irrigation/Utilities

- **Turlock Irrigation District**
Turlock 883-8374
- **Waterford Irrigation Supply**
Waterford 847-1387

Nurseries/Horticulture

- **Park Greenhouse**
Ripon 599-7545
- **Roos Tree Nursery**
Empire 847-2520
- **Morris Nursery**
Riverbank 527-5553

Veterinary

- **Adian Equine**
Oakdale 847-8258
- **Dairy Veterinary Services**
Escalon 551-3949

Attorney

- **Ross W. Lee**
Modesto 521-9190
- **Jensen & Jensen**
Modesto 529-0791

Feed/Farm Supplies

- **A.L. Gilbert**
Keyes 632-2333
- **Blue Mtn. Minerals**
Columbia, 533-0127
- **Conlin Supply**
Oakdale 847-8977
- **NuWest Milling LLC**
Hughson 883-1163

Fowl/Brother Farming

- **Fowler Brother Farming**
Waterford 409-4951
- **Glory Farms**
Waterford 522-4302
- **Hayes Ranch Inc**
Waterford 874-4448
- **Hilltop Ranch, Inc.**
Ballico 874-1875
- **Kline Ranch**
Waterford 605-7741
- **Knott Farms**
Modesto 581-2571

Misc. Services

- **Alexandria Perrin LLC**
Modesto 216-7027
- **Clark Pest Control**
Modesto 556-5200
- **Cover Specialty Services**
Modesto 988-3864
- **Diane Powers**
Modesto 494-8650
- **Drone for Hire**
Modesto 818-4109

Petroleum

- **George W. Lowry**
Salida 545-0791
- **Valley Pacific Petroleum**
Stockton (209) 948-9412
- **Hunt & Sons, Inc.**
Modesto 522-7291
- **Van de Pol Enterprises**
Keyes 667-0236

Banking/Financial

- **Agri Business Financial Inc**
Oakdale 607-0037
- **Central Valley Community Bank**
Fresno 559-323-3472
- **Edwards, Lien & Toso**
Hilmar 634-9484
- **Farmers & Merchants Bank**
Riverbank 571-4023

Equipment & Repair

- **Acosta & Daughters LLC**
Waterford 872-4815
- **Belcorp Ag LLC, John Deere Dealer**
Modesto 538-3831
- **Coit & Hewes LLC**
Modesto 985-0559
- **Garton Tractor Inc.**
Turlock 632-3931

Melvin Wheeler

- **Melvin Wheeler**
Modesto 526-9770
- **Marchy Dairy**
Ceres 537-0630
- **McManis Farms Inc**
Modesto 541-9345
- **Melo Farms LLC**
Turlock 585-7852
- **Michael Van Andel**
Modesto 531-4667

Modesto Nuts Baseball Club

- **Modesto Nuts Baseball Club**
Modesto 572-4487
- **Randal Edwards**
Hilmar 634-9484
- **R & J Avila**
Hilmar 678-1723
- **Rocha's Valley Enterprises**
Oakdale 581-1473
- **Turlock Driving School**
Turlock 916-5167
- **Quality Rodent Control, Inc.**
Modesto 225-4124

Processors

- **Grizzly Nut**
Waterford 874-5223
- **Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc**
Terra Bella 559-535-6050
- **Turlock Walnut Co.**
Turlock 668-0955
- **Travaille & Phippen**
Manteca 599-6111

Grimbleby Coleman CPA's Inc

- **Grimbleby Coleman CPA's Inc**
Modesto 527-4220
- **Moss Adams**
Stockton 955-6100
- **Oak Valley Community Bank**
Oakdale 844-7500
- **Vermeulen Company CPA**
Ripon 599-5051

G&F Ag Services

- **G&F Ag Services**
Escalon 599-8911
- **Golden State Dairy Service**
Modesto 557-9484
- **Hotsty**
Modesto 578-3925
- **Pacific Distributing Inc.**
Hughson 883-4032

Nick Blom

- **Nick Blom**
Modesto 522-6140
- **Redwood Ranches LLC**
Hughson 883-2603
- **Robert Gioletti**
Turlock 667-6024
- **Ron Martella Farms**
Hughson 883-4819
- **Schut Ranches**
Patterson 892-6226

Linda Squires Insurance Agency

- **Linda Squires Insurance Agency**
Hughson 652-
- **Nicholson Insurance Inc**
Modesto 526-2697
- **Rico Pfitzer Pires Insurance Agency**
Gustine 854-2000
- **Schut Insurance Services Inc**
Patterson 892-6226

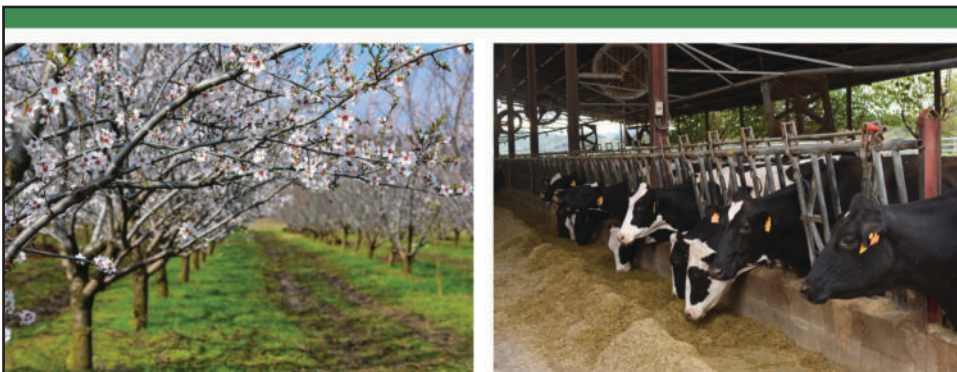
Non-Profit

- **Almond Alliance**
Modesto 559-5800
- **Almond Board of California**
Modesto 672-9743
- **CA Farmland Trust**
Elk Grove 916-544-2712
- **Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**
Modesto 789-5123
- **Modesto Chamber of Commerce**
Modesto 577-5757
- **Oakdale Chamber of Commerce**
Oakdale 847-2244

Restaurant

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

For the good of your food.

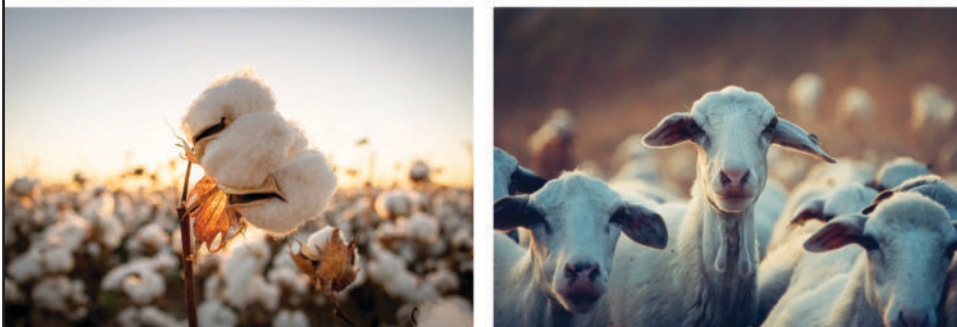


**Adelynn Battig,
Reporter for Shiloh 4-H**

For the month of October, we painted pumpkins for the 4-H County Contest. The theme was Spookiest, Ugliest and Most Creative. Afterwards, we donated them to our Local Senior Living Citizens Facility. We feel very grateful to be able to put smiles on their faces.

WESTERN VALLEY • Agriculture
INSURANCE • Commercial
Lic#0649647 • Home
 • Auto
 • Health

Offices in Turlock, Los Banos & Crescent City
 209.634.9031
www.westernvalley.com



America's Farmers and Ranchers Need Immediate Congressional Support

By: Tracy V. Sparks, President & CEO, Yosemite Farm Credit and Jill Jelacich, Head of Regional Banking, American AgCredit

America's farmers and ranchers are enduring a severe downturn in the agricultural economy, exacerbated by extreme weather events. They need the help and support of Congress to continue producing food and fiber to feed the world.

These are specific examples of the economic headwinds faced by producers in the Central Valley:

- Almond and walnut growers have recorded per acre losses of \$500 to \$1,500 per year in 2022 (Source: Terrain Ag).
- The 2022 price of walnuts was the lowest in USDA records (which started tracking in 1987) (Source: NASS)
- The cost of producing milk in California has increased 35% between 2017 and 2022 (Source: Terrain Ag)

We ask Congress to work expeditiously on two fronts before year-end. Congress must provide emergency funding for agricultural producers recovering from disasters across the US – both economic and weather-related. Further, Congress needs to enact a 5-year Farm Bill providing an enhanced safety net for farmers and ranchers.

As the leaders of your local Farm Credit Associations, we witness first-hand the challenges faced by our local customer-owners. Low commodity prices, coupled with high input costs, are creating severe losses for many producers. Experts predict the

current economic environment to continue in 2025. These challenges may cause many producers to discontinue their operations. The dairy industry is no stranger to these struggles. From 2017 to 2022, the number of dairy operations in California decreased from 1,287 to 855 (Terrain Ag).

As a cooperative and a mission-driven lender, owned and governed by our customers, American AgCredit and Yosemite Farm Credit will continue leveraging our financial strength to support U.S. producers through this difficult period.

Congress must keep in mind that current conditions are making it especially difficult for our young and beginning producers, many of whom do not have significant equity built up from long-time land ownership. Many of these producers have few remaining options as they work to continue for another growing season. We need Congress to take action to ensure the next generation of agriculture can make it through this downturn. Even experienced producers

with equity built up via rising land values also face difficult decisions about how much of their hard-earned equity to risk with no sign of profitability on the horizon. All producers need the certainty of a full 5-year farm bill with additional federal investment that reflects today's market reality.

We thank the House and Senate Agriculture Committees for working hard behind the scenes to bring relief to American farmers and ranchers.

As Congress returns to Washington, we urge them to help farmers and ranchers by enacting a strong Farm Bill and passing emergency disaster assistance this year.

Respectfully,
Tracy V. Sparks
President & CEO, Yosemite Farm Credit
Jill Jelacich
Head of Regional Banking, American AgCredit



Edwards, Lien & Toso, Inc.

Agricultural Appraisal Services

Providing Full Service Agricultural Valuation Products

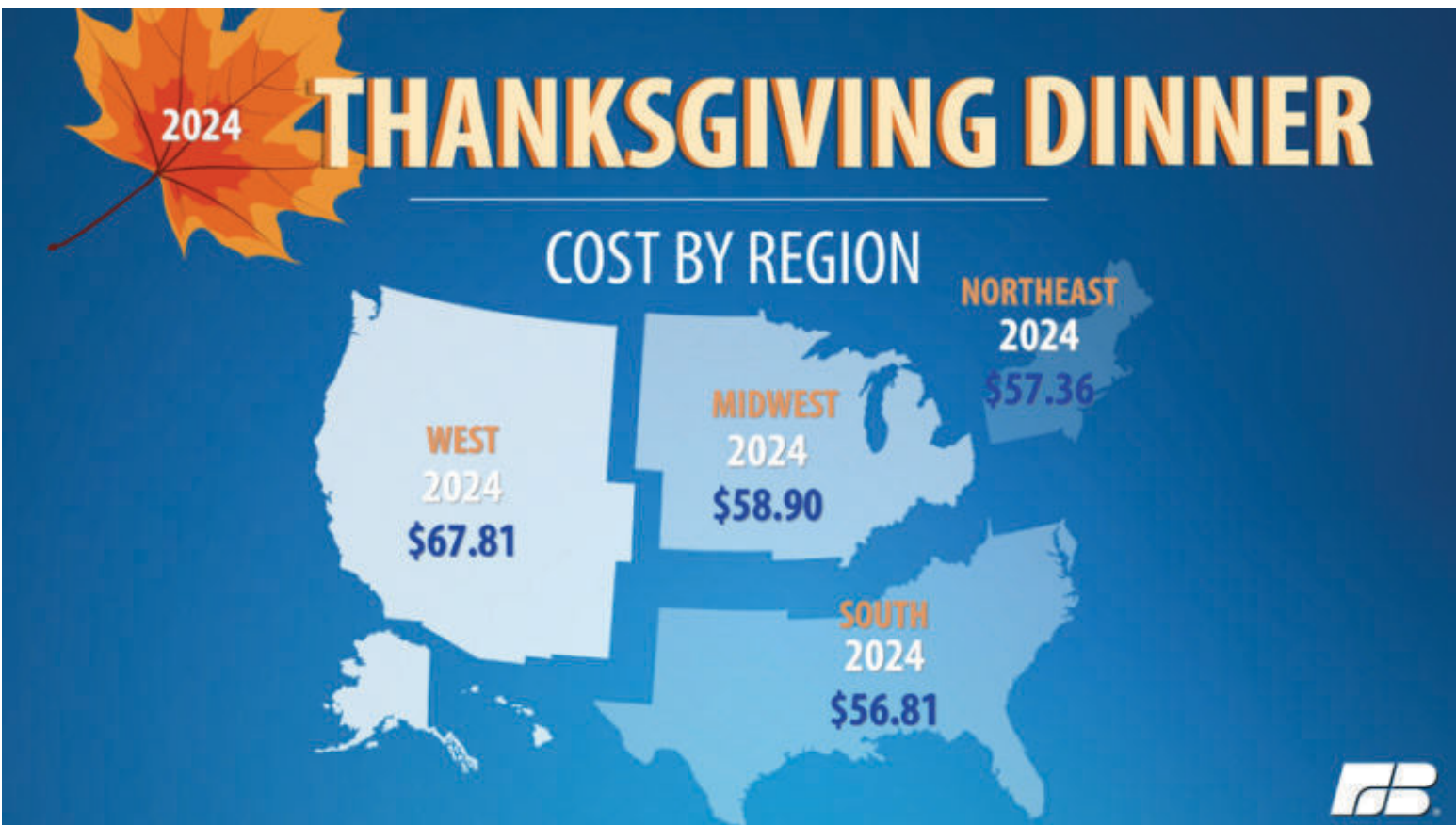
Randal H. Edwards, ARA
Jeffrey A. Lien
Anthony J. Toso, ARA
Richard L. Kilgore, ARA
Martin Seanez, ARA
Tiffany L. Holmes, ARA

(209) 634-9484
eltappraisers.com
info@eltappraisers.com



Kyle E. Dalrymple, ARA
Mary Anne Dores
Kay J. Austin
Stephanie J. Bengard
George L. Morasci
Jason L. Edwards
Alyssa L. Haines

8408 N. Lander Ave., Hilmar, CA 95324 • Fax: (209) 634-0765



From **TURKEY** on page 19

keeping America's food supply safe, affordable and secure.

Conclusion
According to AFBF's national Thanksgiving survey, this year's Thanksgiving meal will cost consumers about 5% less this year, though it is still up almost 20% from just five years ago. The long road to reduced inflation has exhausted many Americans, including farm families, who have been squeezed between falling prices for their output and higher prices for their inputs.

Farmers take on much of the food system's risk to help keep food plentiful and affordable. When times get tough, they have relied on a strong farm bill (and effective assistance, when disaster strikes) to provide the help to stay in business.

Everything for Agriculture

Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag has the products, parts, accessories, and customer service you need to maximize your productivity.

- CUSTOM CONVEYOR BELTS
- URETHANE PARTS
- RENEWED BOGIE WHEELS
- PUMPS, HOSES, FITTINGS
- SPRAY NOZZLES & VALVES
- WATER TANKS & TANK TRAILERS
- SAFETY PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT
- PRESSURE WASHERS & ACCESSORIES
- AND MUCH MORE!

Green Rubber
Kennedy Ag
Ag Industrial Supply
Belting & Fabrication

Six locations to serve you. Call today!

SALINAS (831)753-6100 · MODESTO (209)538-6227 · GREENFIELD (831)674-0999
WATSONVILLE (831)761-9395 · SANTA MARIA (805)878-8877 · YUMA (928)726-6560





Thank You Central Valley Farmers

It has been an honor to represent the breadbasket of the world these past two years in Sacramento.

There is so much more we can do, and I look forward to doing it together for years to come.



Paid for by Alanis for Assembly 2024



For the holidays or any time, give the gift of California Almonds!

Stop in today and check out our great selection of tasty treats just for the holidays, including our new Candy Cane Cheesecake Almonds, and Dark Chocolate, Milk Chocolate or Chocolate Toffee Almonds in Holiday Bags. We also have gift baskets and so much more for everyone on your list and even those who are not!



**Modesto Company Store
in McHenry Village**
1700 McHenry Ave. • Suite 58
(209) 577-NUTS

STORE HOURS

Monday – Tuesday 10am–7pm
Wednesday – Friday 10am–8pm
Saturday 10am–7pm
Sunday 11am–4pm



1-877-ALMOND-8 | stewartandjasper.com

