

# The Stanislaus Farm News

STANISLAUS COUNTY



The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture

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



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See AgAdventure Day on page 9  
Spray Safe November 15, 2024

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### **English & Spanish: 1.5 hrs Laws/Regs & 2.5 hrs Other**

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## California Bountiful Foundation: A Fresh Approach to Agricultural Advocacy

By Anna Genasci

The California Bountiful Foundation, distinct from its well-known magazine and television counterparts, has been actively supporting the agriculture industry through science-backed research since its founding in 2022. Recently, Dr. Amrit “Ami” Gunasekara, Director of the Foundation, shared insights into their work, mission, and impact during a discussion hosted by the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. This conversation explored how the Foundation’s science-first approach aims to benefit California’s farmers and influence public policy.

### A Science-Based Initiative with Advocacy in Mind

Dr. Gunasekara, with his extensive background in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming, formerly served as a science advisor for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. “My role here is about more than just research,” he explained. “We’re committed to taking these findings and turning them into in-

sights that help farmers, ranchers, and policymakers alike.” According to Gunasekara, the Foundation was created as a dedicated 501(c)(3) organization to support the agricultural community through unbiased, data-driven research. “We’re not just here to raise awareness,” he continued. “This is about gathering data that can directly influence policy and build public understanding of the realities facing agriculture today.”

The Foundation’s goal? To foster trust and transparency. By producing credible, scientifically-grounded policy briefs, they aim to educate both the public and policymakers on issues crucial to the agricultural community, from water use to regulatory impacts.

### The Foundation’s Three Pillars: Grants, Research, and Collaboration

The California Bountiful Foundation’s work is built on three pillars, each designed to reinforce its mission:

**Securing Grants for Research:** Grant funding allows the Foundation to dive deeply into essential agricultural topics. “We rely on this support to conduct economic impact studies and other crucial research,” Dr. Gunasekara noted. This work provides farmers and ranchers with the data needed

to shape policy and understand regulatory effects on their livelihoods.

**Focused Research Efforts:** A key focus is evaluating the economic impact of regulations on agriculture. By analyzing these impacts, the Foundation offers farmers and policymakers a clearer picture of how policies affect the agriculture community at large.

**Collaboration Across Sectors:** The Foundation also prioritizes partnerships, working closely with academic institutions, NGOs, and Farm Bureau divisions. For instance, collaboration with local county farm bureaus provides grassroots insights, while



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**California Bountiful Foundation**  
**Giving a Voice to Farmers and Ranchers**

by fostering technical and scientific engagement with academic institutions, public agencies, and other stakeholders of California.

partnerships with government affairs and marketing teams help amplify their findings.

### *Tackling Complex Issues: Water Use and Policy Education*

One of the Foundation's essential contributions is translating data into actionable policy and public knowledge. "The big question is, what do you do with that data?" Dr. Gunasekara emphasized. The Foundation's policy briefs play a critical role in educating lawmakers and informing policy that affects the agricultural community. These documents help underscore agriculture's contributions to food security and the economy, highlighting the essential role of California's farmers.

Water usage, a particularly hot topic in California agriculture, is a prime example of the Foundation's work. The Foundation's studies on agricultural water use aim to correct misconceptions, providing data-driven insights on this vital issue. Dr. Gunasekara pointed to the common misbelief that agriculture consumes 80% of California's water. "That figure is often misunderstood," he explained. "In reality, agriculture's water use varies greatly depending on the year's rainfall—12% in wet years, rising to around 34% in drought conditions." Environmental allocations, often unaccounted for in popular discourse,

actually represent the largest share of water usage in the state. "When we factor that in, it paints a much more balanced picture," Gunasekara added.

### *Supporting Farmers Through Mentorship and Climate-Smart Initiatives*

Beyond water, the Foundation has launched a mentorship program connecting new farmers (those with 1 to 10 years of experience) with seasoned mentors. With six hours of personalized support, these mentors guide beginners through topics like market development, organic transitions, and regulatory compliance. To date, 86 beginning farmers and 40 mentors have participated. Additionally, workshops cover compliance, regulatory incentives, and USDA and UC Cooperative Extension services, further supporting farmers' growth.

In a partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Foundation recently helped the California Citrus Quality Council secure a \$5 million grant. This grant enables citrus growers in Central and Southern California to adopt climate-smart practices, such as composting and planting hedgerows to sequester carbon and enhance soil health.

Looking to the Future: Economic Impact Studies and Sustainability Advocacy

A significant area for the Foundation's advocacy is analyzing the economic impact of agricultural regulations. With unbiased studies, the Foundation seeks to quantify how these costs affect both farmers and food prices, educating legislators on the real-world consequences of policy decisions. In light of rising consumer demands for sustainable sourcing, the Foundation also provides data to help California farmers market their products as responsibly grown, reinforcing the state's reputation as a leader in food safety, worker welfare, and environmental protection.

### *A Strong Voice for Agriculture*

In closing, Dr. Gunasekara underscored the importance of sharing agriculture's story in an accurate, relatable way. "We need to do a better job of communicating what farmers do every day," he said. "Everyone needs to understand how much of their daily lives—food, jobs, even environmental stewardship—connects back to California's farmers."

Through the California Bountiful Foundation, Dr. Gunasekara and his team aim to foster a sustainable, economically viable future for agriculture by connecting farmers, policymakers, and the public in a shared understanding of agriculture's role. The Foundation's approach goes beyond advocacy, empowering California farmers

to thrive in a rapidly changing landscape. With data, research, and a commitment to transparency, the Foundation is reshaping the future of California agriculture, one initiative at a time.



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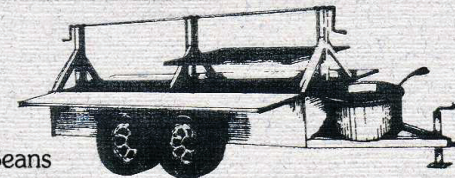
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# Northwest Regional Meeting

**Thursday, November 21, 2024**

5:30pm - Thanksgiving Style Dinner  
*Bring a side or dessert to share!*

**Event Details:**

**Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024**

Hart Ransom Elementary School  
3930 Shoemake Ave, Modesto

**5:30 Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Kid's Raffle!**

Election to follow

**Directors up for Re-Election:**

- Joey Gonsalves
- Stuart Layman
- Dave Van Klaveren

**RSVP:**

Call (209) 522-7278 to RSVP or scan the QR code. →

**Bring a side or dessert to share!**

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## Sonoma County Votes Down Animal Containment Measure

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

In a win for farmers, Sonoma County voters struck down Measure J, a proposal to prohibit Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) outside the Coastal Zone. It only needed simple majority to win, but more than 80 percent of voters voted against the measure.

Measure J was primarily supported by the Coalition to End Factory Farming. The coalition comprises various animal rights and environmental organizations, including

Direct Action Everywhere, known for its advocacy against large-scale animal farming practices. These supporters said that Measure J would protect animal welfare, reduce environmental pollution, and promote public health by limiting large-scale animal confinement. They claimed that CAFOs contribute to water contamination and the spread of diseases.

The measure faced opposition from a broad coalition of local stakeholders. This included the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, city councils from Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, and Cloverdale, as well as both the Demo-

cratic and Republican Parties of Sonoma County.

Additionally, numerous local farmers, agricultural organizations, and environmental groups opposed the measure, citing concerns over its potential economic impact on family farms and the broader agricultural community. They emphasized that Sonoma County farms adhere to strict animal welfare and environmental standards, and that Measure J could harm both small and large farming operations.

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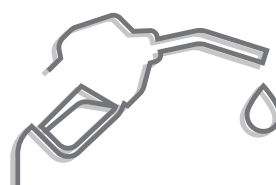
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Last month, we hosted AgEdventure Day at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. This is a busy day all about agriculture for every third grade student in the Turlock Unified School District.

Each year, roughly 1,200 third graders attend the event and learn about different aspects of the agriculture industry. Every student hears from 5 different speakers that highlight different components of agriculture. Following those presentations, students walk through the animal barn and see and pet various animals. Afterwards they spend time in the free area seeing equipment, a milking cow and participate in other fun activities.

This event is one of our favorites every year and wouldn't be possible without all of our wonderful volunteers that spend their day teaching students about the importance of agriculture. We want to say a huge thank you to all of the Turlock and Pitman FFA students, Yosemite Farm Credit staff members, and all of our fantastic presenters for making this event such a success.



## AgEdventure Day Recap

## Climate-Smart Practices Commonplace on Today's Farms

By *Cyndie Shearing*

Farmers and ranchers are leading the way in climate-smart practices that reduce emissions, enrich the soil and protect our water and air, all while producing more food, fiber and renewable fuel than ever before. In fact, U.S. agriculture would have needed nearly 100 million more acres in 1990 to match current production levels.

This is due in large part to U.S. farmers proactively managing and preserving soil by planting more cover crops, increasing conservation tillage and expanding use of no-till methods. These practices help conserve soil while preserving and increasing nutrients and improving water quality. They also trap excess carbon in the soil and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

More broadly, sustainable soil use and resource conservation efforts increased by 41 million acres in 10 years. And an impressive 20% of all U.S. farmland is used for conservation and wildlife habitat.

Let's "dig in" to some of these concepts.

### Cover Crops

A cover crop is any crop grown to cover the soil and may be incorporated into the soil later for enrichment. Cover crops can improve soil health and water quality, increase carbon sequestration, help control pests and disease, improve biodiversity and more. They also improve long-term productivity and efficiency – assisting in water retention. This allows farmers to better protect their crops and more effectively utilize fertilizer and crop protection products during the growing season.

Annual ryegrass, oilseed radish, winter cereal rye and oats are examples of crops used for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

U.S. farmers increased their use of cover crops by 8 million acres (+75%) over the

past 10 years.

### Conservation Tillage

Conservation tillage is the use of tillage methods that disturb the soil less than "conventional" tillage. In addition to reducing erosion and preserving soil moisture, conservation tillage can reduce farmers' production costs by reducing the use of fuel, labor and tillage machinery.

U.S. farmers increased their use of conservation tillage by 20 million acres (+20%) in the past 10 years.

### No-Till Farming

No-till farming is defined as the absence of tillage operations from harvest of the previous crop to harvest of the current crop. More simply, farmers do not till their fields before planting. Instead, they use specialized equipment to create a channel that is just spacious enough for seeds to be planted, which minimizes soil disturbance. No-till can minimize wind and water erosion and protect soil from high temperatures and moisture loss. In addition, organic matter from previous crops enriches the untilled soil.

No-till conservation acreage in the U.S. increased by 9 million acres (+9%) in the last 10 years.

More Food and Farm Facts  
Interested in more facts about farming? Order your copy of Food and Farm Facts, a pub-

lication from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

"Food and Farm Facts gives you a snapshot of how and why farmers and ranchers do what we do to produce food, fiber and renewable fuel. America's farmers and ranchers take great pride in what we do and it's an honor to serve our communities and our nation every day," explained Foundation Chairman Zippy Duvall, who also serves as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The 32-page, full-color book features hundreds of updated agriculture facts and easy-to-read graphics organized into sections: Consumers, Modern Farmers, Trade & Economics, Environment and Production.

Cyndie Shearing is a director of communications at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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**Achieving organic targets may require creating new markets**

In April, Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration announced California will aim to convert 10% of its cropland to organic agriculture by 2030. Those targets could be a heavy lift in light of recent trends in organic acreage. In 2022, the most recent year with data reported, about 4% of the state’s cropland was organic, and after years of expansion, the share of acreage that was organic had declined for two straight years. Some stakeholders are pushing for the state government—as a major food buyer for schools, prisons and other publicly funded institutions—to leverage its purchasing power to create the market needed for California to achieve its goals.

**State water board announces draft updates to Bay-Delta plan**

California water officials are taking another step forward as part of a broader process to improve conditions for struggling fish populations in the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its tributaries. Last week, the California State Water Resources Control Board announced draft updates for the Sacramento River and Delta phase of the state’s water quality control plan, known as the Bay-Delta plan. Thad Bettner, executive director of the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, a group that holds contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to divert water from the Sacramento River, said the draft updates mark the beginning of the implementation process, which he said “could have significant impacts on agriculture and the environment.”

**Farmers are in peak season producing Japanese dried persimmons**

Otow Orchard in Placer County is in full swing producing hoshigaki, traditional Japanese dried persimmons. Each year, farm owners Tosh and Chris Kuratomi set aside

some of the persimmons grown on their 40-acre property, and over about three to six weeks, hand-peel the fruit, string it onto a rack and massage it every three to five days until it’s sufficiently dried into a sugary delicacy. They then package it and sell it at their farmstand and by mail order. This year’s persimmon crop has been plentiful but with small fruit, Tosh Kuratomi said, adding that he’s almost running out of rack space. As usual, customer demand nearly is exceeding supply, even at a cost of \$60 per pound mail order or \$37 per pound at the farm stand.

**Online grocery shopping continues to gain popularity**

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture highlights a significant shift toward online grocery shopping in the U.S. It notes that about one in five individuals who typically do household grocery shopping made an online purchase in the past month. Shoppers most likely to shop online were women, ages 15-24, non-Hispanic White, married or partnered, from a household with young children and more educated. Time constraints were the top reason for shopping online. Pickup and delivery options were used almost equally. USDA noted that the rise in online grocery shopping presents opportunities to improve food access, encourage healthier choices and reshape the grocery retail landscape.

**California student elected to national FFA leadership position**

A Sacramento County student was among six student members selected to guide the National FFA Organization for the coming year. Abigale Jacobsen, a former member of the Elk Grove FFA Chapter, was elected western region vice president. She was elected last week during the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis. Each year, FFA delegates elect a president, a secretary and four vice presidents who will help set policies to guide the future of the

youth leadership development organization, which has more than 1 million members.

**Program seeks to boost consumption of organic dairy products**

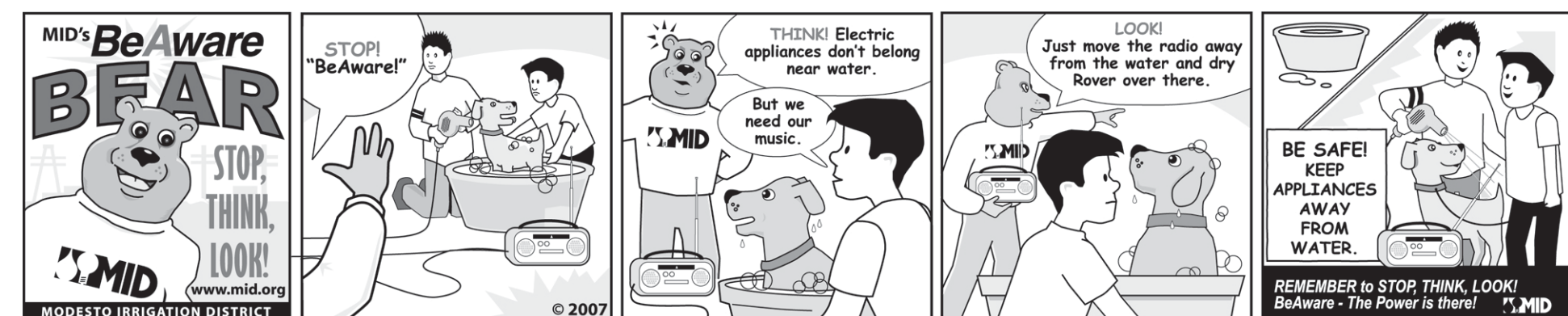
To boost access to organic dairy products in schools and youth programs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has allocated \$15 million to launch the Organic Dairy Product Promotion Program. The initiative is aimed at increasing consumption of organic dairy products among children and young adults while creating new opportunities for small and mid-sized organic dairy farmers. Through the program, USDA will enter into cooperative agreements with four lead organizations, including California State University, Fresno.

**Livestock producers react to wildfire losses, impacts**

Wildfire is a year-round concern in California. For livestock producers, the threats extend beyond the displacement of people and animals. Tracy Schohr, a University of California Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Butte, Plumas and Sierra counties, highlights several critical issues: burned forage, lost livestock, damaged water systems, pneumonia in sheep and cattle due to smoke inhalation, and extensive loss of fencing.

**Podcast explores how farmers are adopting automation and robotics**

The latest episode of the Voice of California Agriculture podcast highlights key moments from FIRA USA, a three-day showcase of agricultural technology held last week in Woodland. Produced by the California Farm Bureau, this episode explores the adoption of farm automation and robotics. Additionally, it discusses the impacts of Hurricane Milton on Florida agriculture, the ongoing bird flu situation affecting California dairies and the challenges posed by mountain lions to farmers and ranchers.



## Election Results Set the Stage for New Priorities in Agriculture

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

The outcome of the 2024 General Election is set to bring significant changes to the agricultural landscape, according to at least one expert. With Donald Trump returning to the presidency, new dynamics will unfold, especially in the U.S. Senate, where pivotal shifts are already affecting the agriculture sector. That, according to Ethan Lane, Vice President of Government Affairs for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, who emphasized the importance of these changes. "The margin in the popular vote total is going to be incredibly impactful," Lane said,

highlighting that a Republican sweep could have widespread implications. In particular, the defeat of key Democratic senators like John Tester in Montana signals a change in direction. This shift is likely to bring fresh Republican perspectives to agricultural policy, aligning more closely with rural and cattle industry interests.

One pressing area is regulatory overreach. Lane mentioned how federal agencies have traditionally had considerable freedom in their interpretations of congressional intent. He pointed to a recent case, the Loper Bright decision, which has limited the leeway these agencies have. "That is going to really hang like a cloud over this new administration as it comes in and starts to contemplate," he explained. This could mean that federal agencies face more restrictions when enforcing environmental regulations,

such as those under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Tax relief for farmers and ranchers is another priority. Lane emphasized the importance of preserving the 2017 tax reforms, which are set to expire in 2025. "We're an industry that is land rich and cash poor," he noted, stressing that maintaining these tax benefits is crucial for farm transitions and financial stability.

With the farm bill still unresolved, agricultural stakeholders are watching closely. Lane expressed optimism about the farm bill, emphasizing that it has strong bipartisan support and is ready to move forward. He praised House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson for his extensive work and urged that the bill be passed, whether during the current lame-duck session or early in the new administration.

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## 2023 Air Monitoring Report finds no detectable pesticides in 95% of samples collected

Source: Department of Pesticide Regulation

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Pesticide Regulation today released its annual Air Monitoring Report, which found that no air samples taken at monitoring sites in 2023 detected pesticides at or above health-protective screening levels or regulatory targets.

DPR operates four monitoring stations in areas with high pesticide use: Oxnard, Santa Maria, Shafter and Watsonville. The stations collect weekly air samples, which are tested for 40 pesticides.

The 2023 data found that 95% of all samples collected had no detectable pesticides.

Twenty-one pesticides were not detected at all, and 11 were detected at very low, trace

levels which indicates unlikely risk to or impact on people's health.

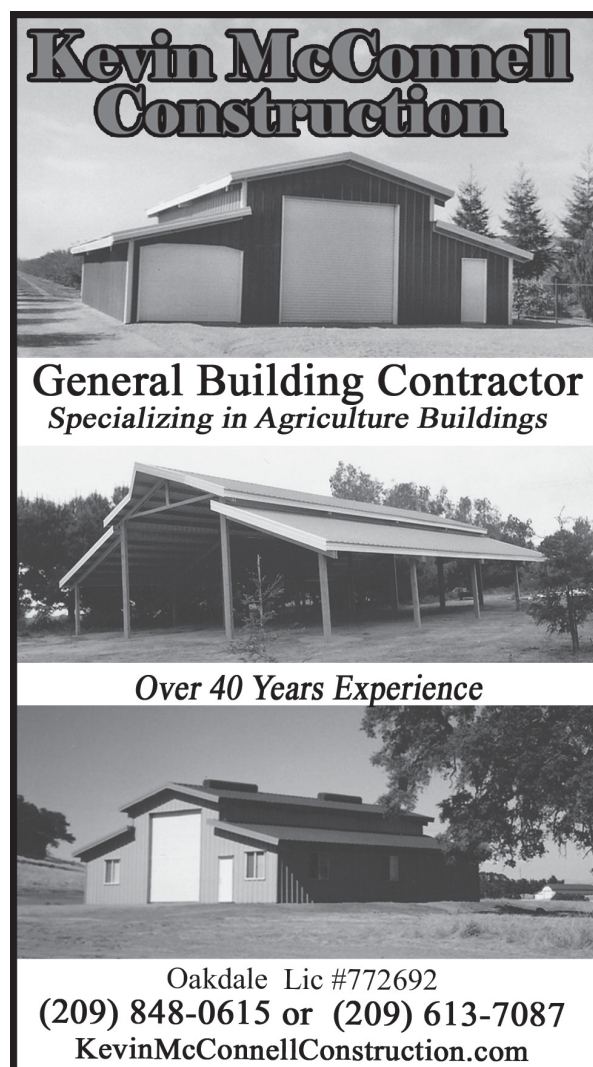
Seven pesticides were detected at quantifiable levels, with detections falling below health-protective screening levels or regulatory targets. Those pesticides were 1,3-dichloropropene, captan, dichlorvos (DDVP), methyl isothiocyanate (MITC), malathion, methyl bromide and pendimethalin. DPR is evaluating concentrations of one pesticide, chloropicrin, which peaked at just below the health screening level (7% below) to inform any necessary future action.

Screening levels are developed by DPR scientists through scientific evaluation to conservatively estimate when a pesticide air concentration may have any impact on human health. DPR measures air against

screening levels and regulatory targets. Regulatory targets are screening levels associated with a regulatory requirement to mitigate pesticide risks or impacts. A pesticide detection below a specific screening level or regulatory target indicates that adverse health effects are unlikely, including short-term (acute) pesticide impacts, such as eye or throat irritation, nausea, headaches or blurred vision, or long-term (chronic) pesticide risks such as birth defects or nervous system problems. DPR also measures for exposures that could increase the lifetime risk for cancer.

Pesticide concentrations measuring near and above a screening level are evaluated by DPR to examine what conditions may have caused the elevated reading or to inform any future mitigation that may be

See "DPR" on page 16



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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
Public Health Officer  
Theognosia Papasozomenos, MD, MPH



October 23, 2024

Dear Partner,

The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency - Public Health Division (HSA/PH) seeks your assistance with an important public health initiative.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has recently allocated additional doses of seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine to Stanislaus County to address the potential exposure risk of Influenza A/H5N1 among farm workers, particularly those in dairy, poultry, and swine farming, as well as youth involved in agricultural education programs within Stanislaus County.

While seasonal flu shots do not provide protection against H5N1, they remain the most effective tool to protect workers from coinfection with seasonal flu. Reducing the risk of coinfection helps to lower the chances of virus reassortment, which could lead to the emergence of a new virus with significant public health implications. As farm workers are a vulnerable population, we are reaching out to trusted community partners to help facilitate vaccination efforts.

**Here's how you can assist:**

- **Partner with our Immunization program to locate and identify opportunities for vaccination event sites:** Our HSA/PH Immunization program is looking for opportunities to provide flu vaccinations at locations that are convenient and familiar to farm workers. Events could be held at worksites, community centers, or other venues that cater to this population. With your insight and support, HSA/PH is open to organizing dedicated vaccination events. No proof of employment is required, and vaccines will be offered to people of all ages at no cost.

Thank you in advance for your time and partnership in this effort. We look forward to working with you to protect the health of our local farm workers. For more information or to express interest in coordinating a vaccine event, please contact our immunization program at [iznurse@schsa.org](mailto:iznurse@schsa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thea Papasozomenos".

Thea Papasozomenos, MD, MPH  
Stanislaus County Public Health Officer

*From "DPR" on page 16*

needed to protect the health of people in high pesticide use areas and throughout California. Specifically for chloropicrin, DPR is conducting a detailed evaluation of pesticide use data and historical weather patterns, in addition to modeling and additional monitoring to better understand potential sources and exposures in the area. DPR plans to release its analysis specific to the chloropicrin detection in 2025.

Air monitoring is an important element of DPR's continuous evaluation process, which includes tracking, monitoring and evaluating the risk and impact of legal pesticide use in California to inform any actions or mitigation measures needed to continue to protect people and the environment.

"Monitoring the air in communities with high pesticide use is critical to keeping California safe for everyone," said DPR Director Julie Henderson. "I am encouraged to see that all of the 2023 pesticide concentrations fall below our health screening levels. We are still evaluating the concentrations of chloropicrin and are committed to continue collecting and reviewing our data rigorously to identify areas of potential concern, trend lines or anomalies that indicate a need for closer investigation or action." The fumigants detected by DPR's air monitoring stations – 1,3-dichloropropene, chloropicrin, methyl bromide, and MITC – are all restricted material pesticides, requiring applicator training and licensing, mandatory setbacks from buildings, the use of tarps to cover treated areas or other application methods with comparable levels of emission reduction, and other restrictions on use. New regulations restricting the use of 1,3-dichloropropene went into effect January 2024, and include requirements for larger setbacks from buildings, new tarp

and soil application requirements, and additional restrictions to protect residential bystanders (people living near agricultural fields) from potential exposure. DPR is developing new regulations to further restrict the use of 1,3-dichloropropene to add specific protections for occupational bystanders (people that may work near an area where the pesticide was applied).

DPR will be presenting the results from the 2023 air monitoring study at the department's Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. Oct. 25, at the California Environmental Protection Agency building in Sacramento (1001 I St.). The meeting is also available online via Zoom or view-only through the CalEPA webcast. DPR is also accepting public comments on the report through 5 p.m. Nov. 12; comments can be submitted online via the department's public comment portal.

December 12 Virtual Community Meeting on 2023 AMN Report: DPR is hosting a virtual meeting to provide information on the 2023 air monitoring results for communities where monitors are located (Oxnard, Santa Maria, Shafter and Watsonville). The meeting will be available in Spanish and English. To request interpretation in additional languages, please email [languageaccess@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:languageaccess@cdpr.ca.gov) by Friday November 29, 2024.

- Date: December 12, 2024
- Time: 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Location: Zoom (virtual). You can login using this link prior to the start of the meeting. You will be

prompted to enter an email address to join. This is a Zoom requirement.

Visit DPR's website to view the full 2023 Air Monitoring Report. For more on DPR's air monitoring program, including past air monitoring reports, see our website.



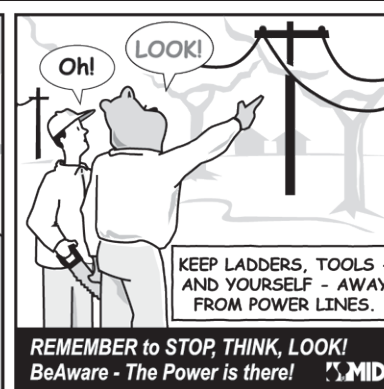
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# The AG Community Mourns the Loss of One of It's Own



The sudden passing of Tim Gerdts on August 26, 2024, marked a day of mourning for both the company he dedicated 38 years to and the fruit and nut tree community he supported. Tim began his tenure at Burchell Nursery as a sales representative in 1986, after serving as a field supervisor and lead at Gerawan Farming. At the time, Burchell Nursery was expanding with a new branch in Fowler, CA, and required a sales representative for the Fresno area. Residing in Kingsburg, a Fresno State alumnus, Tim was well-acquainted with the local growers and fruit packers.

Raised in an agricultural environment, with his father serving as a UC Cooperative Farm Advisor, Tim learned orchard management firsthand. At Burchell Nursery, he leveraged this knowledge to offer growers guidance on pruning, planting, rootstock selection, and varietal recommendations. Tim was often seen in peach or almond orchards, demonstrating proper pruning techniques to growers.

Tim played a pivotal role in the Burchell Nursery Breeding Program, contributing to the introduction of over 70 peach and nectarine varieties, many of which, like the Autumn Flame peach, have become industry benchmarks. He also collaborated with Bradford Farms to launch numerous new stone fruit varieties from their breeding program. Tim's relentless search for the ideal variety, whether new or established, always aimed to advance the grower's success.

Beyond his exemplary sales representation, Tim was a cornerstone during the winter delivery season, assisting in the distribution of trees. He managed the Burchell Nursery Fowler sales yard, overseeing the coordination of tree shipments and deliveries to clients. Working in tandem with truck drivers and office staff, he ensured seamless deliveries to meet customer readiness. Tim's commitment extended to operating a forklift for loading trucks or being present at a customer's orchard early in the morning.

His untimely passing is a loss that will resonate throughout the agriculture industry, as we have lost one of the most knowledgeable tree experts. His presence will be profoundly missed by everyone that knew him.

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



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*Pictured above:  
MJC WDE Jon Chapman*

## MJC Dairy Judging Earns Top Honors

*By: Selina Lopes, MJC Student*

MODESTO, Calif. – Modesto Junior College was recently named first high team overall at the World Dairy Expo Postsecondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest. The accomplishment marks MJC’s 35th consecutive year of competition at the national event. Having earned nine titles since the contest’s inception in 1989, MJC holds the record for most wins at the postsecondary level.

The participants are judged on their ability to evaluate and place 12 dairy cattle classes of varying breeds, with 5 sets of reasons presented to judges. Team members include: Lauryn Young, Buhl, Idaho; Logan Silveira, Chowchilla, Calif.; Jon Chapman, Turlock, Calif.; Teresa Sousa, Turlock, Calif.; and Dulce Campos, Merced, Calif.

“To compete at this caliber and be victorious is such an honor. I am so proud of this team and their commitment to practicing and performing.” said coach and MJC Dairy Science Instructor, Nicole Morris.

“We have been working hard for the past 6 weeks, having practiced three times weekly and traveling over 8,500 miles to leave it all on World Dairy Expo’s colored shavings.” Contributing to the win, the MJC team was first high in reasons, Ayrshires, Guernseys, Holsteins, and Milking Shorthorns.

Individually, Young placed as the first high individual overall and first in reasons. She was third in Red and Whites, Milking Shorthorns, Guernseys and Ayrshires, fourth in Brown Swiss and fifth in Holsteins and placings.

Silveira placed as the seventh high individual overall. He placed first in Guernseys and Ayrshires, second in placings, and third in Jerseys.

Chapman placed as the eighth high individual overall and sixth in reasons. He placed first in Holsteins, second in Milking Shorthorns, fourth in Jerseys, fifth in Brown Swiss and Ayrshires, and 10th in placings. Campos, who represented MJC independently, placed fifth in Red and Whites. Additionally, the team competed in the Practical Contest, in which students act as a management team to analyze data and

make reproduction, selection and genetic decisions. In the Linear Evaluation portion of the contest, Young placed first, receiving a \$1,200 scholarship. Sousa placed sixth and Silveira placed 10th.

“The support we receive from our dairy community makes success in this long-standing tradition possible. On behalf of our program and students, thank you to everyone who has hosted us for practice, provided reasons feedback and celebrated our team’s accomplishment! We are truly grateful.”

With the national title, MJC has been invited to compete at the Royal Highland Show, an international contest in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 2025. While abroad, the team will travel the countryside, visiting the Isles of Guernsey and Ayrshire where those respective dairy breeds originated from. Prior to World Dairy Expo, the team placed first overall at the Big E Contest in Springfield, Mass., and second overall at the All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Penn. The team will wrap up the 2024 season in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.



*Pictured center:  
MJC WDE Lauryn Young*

*Pictured center:  
MJC WDE Logan Silveira*



# Westport 4-H Pancake Breakfast

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