

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



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County Farm Bureau
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Cherries came to the U.S. with English colonists in 1629 and later were introduced to California by Spanish missionaries. In the 1800s, sweet cherries were moved west by pioneers and fur traders to their major sites of production in Washington, Oregon and California. Today, California is the second largest producing state in the U.S. behind Washington. Harvest in California begins in mid-April and concludes in early to mid-June.

Stanislaus Farm News

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



**A Message from Caitie,
Executive Director**

Things have been particularly hectic here at the Farm Bureau office. One of our main concerns continues to be Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). In the last year, we have seen so many new regulatory updates, changes and proposals spanning a variety of topics that seem to all negatively impact agriculture. Unfortunately, we see this continuous cycle that takes important tools out of our toolbox, without any replace-

ments and with little to no justification for doing so. Pesticide Notification Program, updates to regulations surrounding use of Telone and the newly proposed Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap are examples of things we have been actively fighting here in Stanislaus County. I am just going to give a quick overview of the Pesticide Notification Program and talk about some of the ways we are working for you.

The Pesticide Notification Program, as it stands, would give anyone, anywhere information regarding pesticide applications. It does not require any information from the person using the website, however would give them unimpeded access to information growers provide to their counties regarding applications of restricted materials. This program comes purely from a "right to know" call from the environmental justice community. We have a long list of concerns, atop the list is grower and applicator safety.

The current mapping system proposed by DPR would "blur" the field location to within one square mile, which we believe is pretty easy to pinpoint the location of the application. This opens up the grower/applicator to major potential for harassment or protest from activist groups and others.

Another major concern is the lack of understanding or information available for the people utilizing the system. The system would link to the pesticide label, whose intended audience are trained, knowledgeable individuals who would be mixing, loading and applying the chemical. There is no data or evidence suggesting that people should take certain precautions if within 1 mile of an application. If a concerned parent were to sign up for this and read just the label information, you could see their cause for concern. However, with no sound science, there is no list of steps for that parent to take to help keep their family safe (eg. Close

your windows or bring the bike in, etc.). This is going to cause panic and hysteria.

Our list of concerns is much too long to cover in just this column, but these are just two examples of the negative impacts to ag and our community this new program will have. So what has Farm Bureau done?

We actively participated in and followed the Stanislaus County Pilot Program, which actually brought forth a much better model for creating this program. We participated in the multiple (insane albeit) public comment periods even inviting in members to have a further presence. We submitted our own public comment letter to DPR which outlined our concerns and suggestions for a program that would accomplish the right to know action and protect growers without unnecessary burden. Staff had a one on one evaluation of the

See Caitie on page 12

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FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

2023-2024 STATE BUDGET REVISION

Governor Newsom presented the 2023 fiscal year May Revision on Friday and the budget deficit increased by \$9.3 billion since the January budget rollout for a total of \$32 Billion. While the overall reflects cuts across the board, there is some good news regarding new flood investment proposals and agriculture grant monies as well. The budget also includes legislative language that codifies provisions from recent executive orders that allow for safe diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge purposes. These provisions would make it easier to capture floodwater to recharge groundwater by setting clear conditions for diverting floodwaters without permits or affecting water rights. Overall, there was not significant change in Climate, Resource or Food and Agriculture budget priorities.

Disaster Impact

As part of the Tulare Basin flood response, May Revision includes an increase of \$25 million one-time General Fund to expand the scope of the current California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program to provide direct assistance to eligible agriculture-related businesses that have been affected by the recent storms. By expanding the program's reach and continuing to support the ability of agricultural businesses to remain open and add or restore jobs, this proposal also aims to advance support for workers of impacted businesses.

Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account Set Aside— May Revision also adds \$25 million one-time General Fund in the current year in anticipation of potential additional disaster relief and response costs associated with recent storms and future flooding.

Energy and Utilities

The Governor's January Budget maintained \$7 billion (89 percent) of last year's \$7.9 billion investment in a clean energy agenda including investments in areas such as building decarbonization, transmission development, and long duration energy storage. May Revision makes no changes to the Energy sector budget.

Land Use

May Revision moves fund for the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing—\$20 million—to a proposed Climate Bond.

Natural Resources

A shift of \$4.8 million from UC's main appropriation to provide continued support for UC Agriculture and Natural Resources. This is roughly equivalent to 5 percent of the base increase provided at Governor's Budget less resources provided for enrollment growth.

Pesticides

The May Revision includes \$1.9 million Department of Pesticide Regulation Fund and \$1.4 million ongoing to improve and streamline the Department's

registration and reevaluation processes, identify alternatives to high-risk fumigants, and lead strategic collaborations with stakeholders and agency partners to develop plans and programs to support implementation of sustainable pest management in agricultural, urban, and wildland settings.

Transportation

The May Revision continues to reflect the transportation infrastructure package included in the 2022 Budget Act and the Governor's Budget, with proposed adjustments included to account for a reduction in forecasted General Fund revenue. The May Revision includes a reduction of \$2.85 billion General Fund, partially offset by \$650 million of new state transportation funds for a net reduction of \$2.2 billion. This reflects an additional fund shift of \$150 million as compared to the Governor's Budget. These adjustments will maintain a total of \$12.8 billion in continuing new transportation infrastructure investments, including:

- \$5.65 billion for high-priority transit and rail infrastructure projects that will improve rail and transit connectivity between state and local/regional services that are designed to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas production.
- \$4.2 billion for the High-Speed Rail Authority to continue building the 119-mile Central Valley Segment from Madera to just north of Bakersfield.
- \$1.4 billion for Active Transportation Program projects, the Highways to Boulevards Pilot,

and bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.

- \$1.2 billion for projects that improve goods movement on rail and roadways at port terminals, including railyard expansions, new bridges, and zero-emission modernization projects.
- \$350 million for grade separation projects that support critical safety improvements and expedite the movement of traffic and rail by separating the vehicle roadway from the rail tracks.

Water Resources

When the Governor released his initial budget in January, California was in the third week of intense and prolonged precipitation that would extend, off and on, through March and April of this year. This followed a three-year period from 2020 to 2022 that was the driest on record going back to 1896.

For the first time in 18 years, many of California's most junior water users, including the State Water Project contractors and the Central Valley Project south-of-Delta agricultural contractors, received their full contracted water supply. By mid-March, it became clear that managing high runoff would be a major challenge in 2023, both for maximizing beneficial floodwater use (such as for groundwater recharge) and for protecting the safety of the public. The southern San Joaquin Valley's Tulare Lakebed, mostly dry since being drained in the 1910s for agricultural production, started to "refill," and in the process flooded farms and small communities near Corco-

ran. Meanwhile, the large-scale availability of surface water for diversion prompted the Governor to release Executive Order N-6-23 in March 2023, which streamlined permitting requirements for both flood fighting efforts and for the previously arduous process to obtain a flood water diversion permit for recharge from the State Water Resources Control Board. The May Revised budget and related trailer bills reflect both the climatic extremes and reduced revenue that California has experienced since January. It reduces \$1.1 billion in General Fund spending across multiple climate and water-related programs, but commits to pursuing a future natural resources bond to make up the shortfall. Bond-eligible programs that received cuts included:

- Water Recycling (\$270 million)
- Salton Sea Restoration (\$169 million)
- Community Resilience Centers (\$160 million)
- Transformative Climate Communities (\$100 million)
- Regional Resilience Program (\$110 million)
- Urban Greening (\$100 million)
- Statewide Parks Program (\$86.6 million)
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation (\$60 million)
- Dam Safety and Flood Management (\$50 million)
- Multi-benefit Land Repurposing (\$20 million)

Nonetheless, the May Revision still maintains \$8.7 billion (97

percent) of previously committed funding for water and climate programs and projects. Although the California Natural Resources Agency's budget was reduced by 12.5% from the January proposal, the May Revision increases flood management funding by \$290 million. Much of these funds were previously earmarked for drought response actions – including land conversion (“LandFlex”), drought relief programs, and Delta salinity barrier installation – considered lower priorities given 2023's hydrology. In the revised budget, the State also committed to funding work to raise the Corcoran Levee in order to protect life and property in the Tulare Lake Basin this year.

Additionally, the May Revised budget includes a trailer bill codifying many of the directives and provisions in Executive Order N-6-23, ensuring that in future flood periods California's local and regional agencies will quickly be able to capitalize on high flows to help with groundwater recharge and climate resilience.

May Revision invests \$290 million in new flood proposals:

- \$125 million to support preparedness, response and recovery related to the 2023 storms – funding shifted from drought contingency to flood contingency to address the weather whiplash California is facing;
- \$75 million to support local flood control projects;
- \$25 million to expand the current California Small

Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program to provide direct assistance to eligible agriculture-related businesses that have been affected by the recent storms;

- \$25 million for potential additional disaster relief and response costs in this fiscal year to address immediate impacts;
- \$40 million for the San Joaquin Floodplain restoration

The \$290 million is on top of the Governor's January proposal of \$202 million in flood investments to protect urban areas, improve levees in the Delta region and support projects in the Central Valley – bringing total flood investments to nearly \$500 million.

Wildfire and Forestry

May Revision maintains \$2.7 billion (98 percent) over four years to advance critical investments in restoring forest and wildland health to continue to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the face of extreme climate conditions. May Revision also includes the following:

- Climate Catalyst Fund – \$25 million one-time General Fund, which partially restores the General Fund reduction proposed in the Governor's Budget.

As for CAL FIRE specifically, May Revision includes \$1.1 billion (\$236 million General Fund and \$857.8 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) over the next five years for the continuation and addition of critical infrastructure projects statewide, including but not limited to, the replacement of aging fire stations, unit headquarters and communication facilities, the creation of a new training center, and the replacement of helitack bases and improvements to air attack bases to accommodate CAL FIRE's new helicopter fleet and C-130 aircraft deployment plans.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Administration proposes \$36.9 million (\$30.4 million General

Fund and \$6.5 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) for the continuation and addition of critical major capital projects, including the replacement of various fire stations, unit headquarters, conservation camps, and helitack bases, as well as for air attack base infrastructure improvements. These projects are in various stages of completion from acquisition to design and construction. The Administration also proposes initial funding for the Additional CAL FIRE Training Center which will address CAL FIRE's long-term training facility needs.

APPROPRIATIONS & OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Agricultural Employment Policy

The Legislature on May 4 approved AB-113, a companion budget trailer bills that implements the September 2022 deal between the California Labor Federation, United Farm Workers, and Governor Newsom that lead the governor to reverse his prior opposition to AB-2183 (Stone) and sign that bill; it awaits Governor Newsom's signature. AB 113 eliminates the “labor peace” provisions in the original version of AB 2183, leaving card-check as the path of least resistance for labor unions seeking to represent an agricultural employer's employees. The Legislature approved AB 113 without any consideration by the legislature's policy committees. Farm Bureau opposes because the bill does not restore farm employee's former rights to an Ag Labor Relations Board-supervised secret ballot election, which serves to protect those employees from undue intimidation and coercion. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cbbf.com

The Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees this week moved several measures to their respective suspense

See Review on page 8

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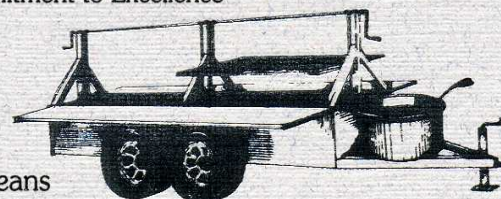
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Commodity Fact Sheet

Cherries

Information compiled by the California Cherry Board

How Produced – Cherry trees are grafted to rootstock and planted 16-18 feet apart in straight rows. Farmers can typically grow 150 trees per acre. Trees grow best in deep, well-drained, gravelly to sandy loam soils. Pollination is absolutely essential for production. Because the trees are not self-pollinating, at least two varieties of cherry trees are planted every third tree in every third row, or a ratio of approximately 9 to 1. Honey bees are the main pollinator.

After an orchard is planted, it takes approximately six years until it produces its first major crop. Constant attention is given to each tree every step of the way to ensure a healthy orchard. California cherry harvest lasts late April through June.

Traditionally, color change is used to signal maturity. Sweet cherries for fresh consumption are harvested by hand, usually leaving the stem intact. They are harvested at firm-mature stage to reduce bruising. Sweet cherries intended for processing are also hand-harvested.

Sweet cherries have extremely short shelf lives, and must be handled gently to reduce bruising and oxidation. Cherries are cooled directly using chilled water—a process called hydrocooling—then sorted based on color and size, and packed in shallow flats. The shelf life of fresh cherries is only a few days at room temperature and about two weeks when refrigerated.

History – The sweet cherry originated in Asia Minor, in the fertile area between the Black and Caspian Seas, and was probably carried to Europe by birds. Cultivation began with Greeks, and was increased and expanded by Romans. Trees were planted along roadsides and were valued for their timber as well as their fruit.

Sweet cherries came to the U.S. with English colonists in 1629, and later were introduced to California by Spanish missionaries. In the 1800s, sweet cherries were moved west by pioneers and fur traders to their major sites of production in Washington, Oregon, and California. Cultivars selected at that time still form the base of the industry today.

Varieties – Cherries are members of the Rosaceae family, subfamily Prunoideae, and are distant cousins to peaches, plums, apricots, and almonds. There are a number of sweet cherry varieties grown in California. The most prominent are

Bing, Coral, Brooks, Tulare, Sequoia, Rainier, Chelan, Garnet, and Royal. The Bing variety continues to be the favorite of consumers, with its mahogany-colored skin and sweet, rich flavor. The coral variety has risen in popularity in recent years due to its large size, firm texture, and sweet flavor.



Commodity Value – The U.S. is the second-largest producer of cherries in the world, accounting for more than 10% of world production. Turkey is the leading cherry producer. Washington leads the nation in sweet cherry production followed by California. Sweet cherries rank 32nd among all California commodities. With approximately 650 growers farming more than 42,000 acres, California's sweet cherry crop was valued at \$350 million in 2021.

Top Producing Counties – Cherry orchards in the San Joaquin Valley receive the perfect combination of nutrient-rich soil, abundant sunshine, and mild temperatures needed to produce high-quality fruit. In 2021, San Joaquin County produced nearly 48% of the state's total production. Other top-producing counties include Tulare, Fresno, Kern, and Stanislaus.

Nutritional Value – In addition to being a good source of vitamin C, cherries are also high in iron, potassium, dietary fiber, and antioxidants. Anthocyanins found in cherries block inflammatory enzymes, reducing pain. In fact, 20 cherries are 10 times as potent as aspirin and have positive effects on gout and arthritis pain. All in a small package that's low in calories and contains no fat or sodium. Sweet cherries are also considered to be excellent sources of boron. Boron consumption, coupled with calcium and magnesium, has been linked to increased bone health.

For additional information:

California Cherry Board
(916) 441-1063
Website: calcherry.com



From Review on page 5

files, and both committees will re-hear the bills on May 18 to consider removing them from suspense and sending them on the floors of their respective houses for floor consideration prior to the June 2 house-of-origin deadline. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com.

- SB-365 Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) will forbid a district court judge from staying a civil proceeding if either party appeals the finding as to whether the dispute is subject to arbitration. Staying the underlying litigation while the arbitration applicability decision is pending has been common practice, eliminating the need to litigate a dispute that will likely be found subject to arbitration. Several recent court decisions have upheld federal preemption under the Federal Arbitration Act of attempts by the Legislature to restrict arbitration. Farm Bureau opposes SB 365 since arbitration is a useful tool to manage employment litigation liability in California's litigious environment. Staff:

Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

- SB-399 Senator Aisha Wahab (D-Hayward) prohibits employers from conducting employee meetings in the context of a unionization campaign to explain the employer's opposition to unionization. Farm Bureau opposes because SB 399 is a clear-cut violation of an employer's First Amendment right to free speech, and will curb employer's right to fully inform employees about unionization activities. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

- SB-497 Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), which creates a rebuttable presumption that any adverse personnel action is retaliatory if occurs within 90 days of the occurrence of activities protected from retaliation under the Labor Code, including reporting a violation of the Labor Code and cooperating with investigations related to violations of the Labor Code. As courts already consider proximity in time between protected activities and adverse

personnel actions, SB 497 is redundant and further stacks the deck against employers' defense against accusations of retaliation. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

- SB-553 Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) writes into the Labor Code and imposes on all California employers the expansive and detailed requirements of Cal/OSHA's healthcare workplace violence regulation, promulgated by the agency in 2017 in response to incidents of

- violence by patients against healthcare providers in mental institutions. SB 553 will disrupt an ongoing regulatory process in which the agency is seeking to craft a workplace violence regulation more suited to general industry, where employers' physical sites and workforce are much different from healthcare environments. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com


- SB-616 Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) will increase the paid sick leave mandate first established by AB

1522 (L. Gonzalez) in 2013 from three days or 24 hours to 7 days 56 hours. No provision is made in SB 616 to allow employer to manage misuse of paid sick leave. The bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Farm Bureau opposes SB 616. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com


- SB-809 Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) will hamstring employers' efforts to protect their employees and customers by avoiding hiring violent felons. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

- AB-524 As semblember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) adding "family caregiver status" to the list of protected classes covered by the Fair Employment and Housing Act. "Family member" is not limited to actual family members, but includes any person the employee considers to be like family, vastly broadening the circumstances under which an employee can invoke family leave rights under FEHA. This will expand the circumstances under which employers will

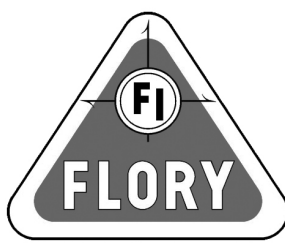
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experience FEHA-related litigation, which is already extensive. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

- AB-594 Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (D-San Diego) allowing local prosecutors like district attorneys and city attorneys to enforce the Labor Code, leading to inconsistent enforcement. AB 594 does not protect employers from double recovery under the Labor Code and the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA). Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

Air Quality

Farm Bureau has joined other agricultural stakeholders in opposing AB-985 by Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno). This bill was heard in the Assembly Appropriations committee this week, and was placed on the suspense file. This bill would eliminate the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's emission reduction credit (ERC) allowance. This will severely inhibit the capacity for the District to achieve state and federal air quality standards and effectively prohibit the permitting of any critical business operation

within the District's jurisdiction. AB 985 would dismantle this ERC program and require all existing and future emission reduction credits in all banks to expire as of January 1, 2024. CARB has reviewed the District's ERC program and determined that further changes are unnecessary. AB 985 is also a substantial overreach, eroding local control offered to jurisdictions, including the District, to take meaningful, locally approved steps to improve air quality. Due to administrative costs, the bill was placed on the Committee's suspense file and cannot pass out of the committee at this time. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com

Forestry

The annual Forest Practice Enforcement training class for CalFIRE Forest Practice Inspectors and Law Enforcement Officers is occurring this week in the City of Fort Bragg with field days at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. The annual Basic Forest Practice training class for CalFIRE and Review Team agency staff is scheduled for June 5-9, 2023 in Anderson, CA with field days at Latour

Demonstration State Forest. To learn more, visit the Board of Forestry here. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Insurance

SB-505, authored by Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) and co-sponsored by California Farm Bureau and California Department of Insurance passed off the Senate Floor this week with a 36-0 vote. The bill moves next to the state Assembly. As previously discussed, SB 505 would expand the FAIR Plan so that commercial insurance policies would be eligible for an internal process called the "clearinghouse", to more easily move back to the competitive admitted insurance market. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Taxation

SCA-4, authored by Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) failed to pass the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on a 3-4 vote, with one abstain. The bill was granted reconsideration. As previously reported, SCA-4 would have repealed portions of Proposition 19 that impact intergenerational prop-

erty transfers. The bill faced strong coalition of opposition from the California Association of Realtors, the California Professional Firefighters, the California Teachers Association, and AFSCME. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Rural Broadband

AB-286, authored by Assemblymember Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) passed from the Assembly Committee on Appropriations with all Democrats voting Aye, and all Republicans abstaining from the vote. This is the same voting pattern that occurred at Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance. The bill would require that the CPUC maintained statewide broadband services provider map identify, for each address in the state, each provider of broadband services that offers service at the address and the maximum speed of broadband services offered by each provider of broadband services at the address. The bill moves onto the Assembly Floor. The only opposition to the bill comes from the broadband service providers' association. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Water

The opposition coalition (including Farm Bureau) for the problematic water rights enforcement and groundwater bills met with Assembly Appropriations Committee staff on Monday, May 8th to discuss our cost-related concerns about the bill. The committee staff told us that two of the water rights bills, AB-460 by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) and AB-1337 by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), will be heard in committee on Wednesday, May 17th but both are candidates for the suspense file. Staff: Alex Biering; abiering@cfbf.com

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Time to Move on Milk Marketing System Reform

Source: Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

My earliest memories of farming were in my family's dairy

barn. Those were some of my happiest memories—rising before the sun to milk the cows, helping care for our animals and doing my part to provide a nutritious product for our community. Dairying also brought some of my earliest heartache in farming. It's a hard business on the best days, but the most frustrating part of the job came from the mysterious ups and downs of milk prices under the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system. Dairy farmers deserve a fair and transparent paycheck for the work they do, 365 days a year, and it's long past time we set about modernizing this system.

My frustration with the unfairness and uncertainty of the market as a young farmer was one of the issues that led me to get involved in Farm Bureau. After yet another day of my complaining at the breakfast table, my dad told me that if I really wanted to see change, I needed to get outside my fencerows. Back then the FMMO's needed improvements, and that was more than 40 years ago. Change has been slow in coming to say the least, but it might never have come if we hadn't finally brought everyone—farmers, commodity groups and processors—to the table to find common ground.

That's just what Secretary Vilsack asked the dairy business to do a couple years back. So, last year, Farm Bureau held a forum to discuss what changes are needed in the FMMO system. Nothing was off the table in those discussions, which covered everything from updating Class pricing formulas to reducing de-pooling incentives to milk check transparency and strengthening the farmer's voice in the referendums that are required to approve or reject changes to FMMO's. Overall, everyone was able to agree on the need to modernize the FMMO system in a way that reflects the current market and is fair to everyone involved.

Now Farm Bureau, along with the National Milk Producers Federation, is calling on USDA to take the next step and hold a public hearing on FMMO reform. In NMPF's petition to USDA they called for reforms to the FMMO that, in principle, are right in line with Farm Bureau policy:

- Discontinue the use of barrel cheese in the protein component price formula;
- Return to the "higher-of" Class I mover;
- Update the milk component factors for protein, other solids, and nonfat solids in the Class III and Class IV skim milk price formulas; and
- Update the Class I differential pricing surface throughout the U.S.

All these changes would reflect where the dairy industry is today and how the market has changed over the decades. What's more, these changes would help ensure farmers receive a fair price for their farm products.

NMPF is also asking for increases in the

allowance that processors receive in the milk price formulas for their cost of turning milk into cheese and whey and butter and powder. Farm Bureau, however, believes these allowances for processors will only be fair if they are based on accurate data. USDA can only ensure fairness in dairy pricing by accurately capturing those costs through mandatory surveys of processor costs and yields.

I recently sent a letter to USDA outlining these solutions on behalf of our members. We believe USDA has the legal authority to conduct mandatory, audited cost and yield surveys of dairy processors, which can be used for determining make allowances as they are factored into dairy pricing. Voluntary surveys simply won't work, and the numbers prove it. Two-thirds of the dairy processors that participate in USDA's weekly mandatory price survey did not provide cost data in the voluntary survey that USDA released in 2021. And since there's no audit of the voluntary data that is provided, there's no way to ensure the little data available is accurate. The only way to restore trust between farmers and dairy processors is to get full participation—just once every two years—of all the plants that are already working with USDA on the weekly price survey.

When USDA announces a hearing of this sort, they normally ask for additional proposals. We look forward to the opportunity to propose additional AFBF policies that NMPF hasn't addressed in their petition. These include milk check transparency standards and additional price formula changes that could further reduce or eliminate de-pooling incentives and make milk pricing more predictable.

Just as everyone can agree that the FMMO system is long overdue for reform, we also can agree it's a complex issue that needs to be addressed thoughtfully. We are hopeful the Secretary's leadership will bring about a fair solution on these issues, and we are eager for USDA to take the next steps toward holding the hearings that can put these solutions in place.

America's dairy farmers have made tremendous strides in improving sustainability and increasing the nutritional value of the dairy products we all enjoy. FMMOs should reflect the modern dairy industry and restore fairness for our hardworking dairy farm families.



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From Caitie on page 3

programs with UC Davis staff, who was hired as a third party. Our team continues to work with our Ag Commissioner to provide comments and input as new phases come out. California Farm Bureau (CAFB) has taken a whole set of actions on this topic too. We have worked with CAFB and several other groups to sign on to letters and amplify our voice.

California agriculture is absolutely without match. Ag products from California are undeniably the safest and best in the world. Our growers are unrivaled in their ingenuity, resilience and passion for cultivating incredible product while facing immense pressure. Farm Bureau is here for you.

We will be feverishly writing letters, attending the meetings, providing the public comment, having the facetime when you can't be there. My call to action would be to sign up for Farm Team, there are several links on our website and to respond to the notifications when they come. Farm Team has a pre-written comment and will send on your behalf to your elected representatives or agencies as needed. Please respond when your Farm Team alerts come through. This is just another way we can deliver the message, in force to those creating the regulation we face. We are working tirelessly for improvements on the Pesticide Notification Program and the other issues facing our industry, and promise to be your voice, no matter where your busy day takes you.



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California rice farmers planting large acreage again thanks to wet year

Only a year ago, amid a severe drought, California rice farmers planted their smallest acreage since 1958. Now, thanks to an exceptionally wet winter and spring, California rice country is humming with activity again. Planes are dropping seed on flooded fields and equipment is working the ground as planting ramps up in the Sacramento Valley. Rice farmers are expected to plant 470,000 acres this year. In contrast, rice growers planted just 256,000 acres in 2022. Farms in the valley's Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District planted just 1,000 acres last year. They typically grow about 100,000 acres.

Almond bearing acreage increases slightly despite orchards cut down due to drought

California's total almond acreage decreased in 2022 for the first time in more than 25 years, despite a slight increase in bearing acres. According to Land IQ and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, total almond acreage in 2022, which includes nonbearing trees, was estimated at 1.63 million. That is a 1.2% drop from the previous year. The report also estimates 77,700 acres of orchards will be removed by late August this year. However, actual bearing acreage is expected to increase by 24,000 acres from 2022.

New California rule to phase out most diesel trucks in state

California is set to phase out nearly all diesel trucks in the state over the next two decades. The California Air Resources Board has voted unanimously to approve a ban on medium- and heavy-duty

diesel trucks, including the big rigs that transport fresh agricultural products throughout the state. The state rule will ban the sale of new diesel trucks and buses by 2036 and require that most diesel trucks operating in the state are phased out by 2042. Diesel trucks and buses represent around 3% of vehicles registered in California.

California flower inventory impacted by a gloomy spring

April showers may bring May flowers. But historic storms and flooding in January and March have left California flower growers with diminished inventory as they prepare for Mother's Day, the cut-flower sector's busiest time of year. Cut-flower farmers and wholesalers in the state say standing water from heavy rainfall destroyed some flowers while the lack of sunshine stunted the growth of others, making the stems too short for Mother's Day bouquets. However, the majority of cut flowers sold in the U.S. are imported, primarily from Colombia and Ecuador.

Cool temperatures delay much of 2023 cherry harvest

Cherries typically kick off the stone-fruit season with peak volumes heading into the Memorial Day holiday. But longer periods of cool weather this spring have slowed development of the fruit, delaying harvest by about two weeks in the state's prime Northern California growing regions, farmers say. Growers in the southern San Joaquin Valley, who account for about one-third of the state's production, have been picking since earlier this month. Statewide cherry acreage stood at 34,000 in 2022 and 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Timber producers expect strong lumber demand, though lower than peak years

Timber and forest products sector leaders and market analysts are predicting a return to typical seasonal demand as construction and home improvement projects resume after the winter slowdown. They say the timber market should fare reasonably well this year, despite rising interest rates affecting new home purchases. A single unit of housing requires an average of 15,000 board-feet of lumber. In late-2019 to early 2020, housing starts in the U.S. peaked at 1.6 million units.

California Senate passes fire insurance bill to increase options for farmers

Wildfires that raged across California over the past several years have devastated farms. After the flames were extinguished, the threat of wildfires continued to cost farmers in other ways, as farmers in parts of the state saw premiums on their property insurance policies rise exponentially. Last week, the California State Senate passed legislation that seeks to increase affordable insurance options for farms exposed to wildfire risk. Senate Bill 505, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, now moves to the state Assembly.

Rice growers who lost acreage in 2022 are eligible for federal assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency is making \$250 million available to rice growers who lost production acreage in 2022. USDA on May 8 began sending prefilled applications to rice producers who may want to seek aid. Funds are provided through the new Rice Production Program, which will consider assistance to farmers based on 2022 planted and "prevented planted" rice acreage. Growers who derive 75% or more of their average adjusted gross income from farming can qualify for payments of up to \$250,000.



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TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM NEWS

Agriculture and Interior Departments Invest \$2.8 Billion to Improve Public Lands Access and Support Conservation Efforts Across the United States USDA Office of Communications

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2023 - The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior today announced a proposed \$2.8 billion in funding for fiscal year 2024 authorized by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) to improve infrastructure, recreation facilities, federal lands access, and land and water conservation.

Enacted in August 2020, GAOA established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, authorizing up to \$1.9 billion per year, from fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on federal lands and at Bureau of Indian Education schools. GAOA also provides permanent, full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually to secure public access and improve recreation opportunities on public lands; protect watersheds and wildlife; and preserve ecosystem benefits for local communities. Funding for the fiscal year 2024 proposed projects is subject to Congressional approval.

sional approval.

Investments from GAOA work in concert with President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other Investing in America initiatives to strengthen our nation's infrastructure and prepare it to meet future needs.

"These deferred maintenance projects are essential as many communities rely on the Forest Service road network to get to schools, stores and hospitals, and it provides access to forest management and recreation opportunities on national forests and grasslands," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"We feel responsibility for this maintenance strongly, and we take great pride in being the stewards of our nation's forests and grasslands. Funding made possible through the Great American Outdoors Act's Legacy Restoration Fund allows us to enhance equitable access for recreators, create job opportunities, advance community well-being, and improve rural and urban economies."

"Every child in America deserves to have a safe and nearby place to experience the great outdoors. Working together with state, local and Tribal governments, we are committed to advancing environmental

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justice and ensuring equitable access to nature and its benefits," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "The Great American Outdoors Act allows us to increase outdoor recreation opportunities, improve infrastructure on our public lands, invest in the U.S. economy, and honor our commitment to Tribal communities."

These necessary investments are an important part of enabling equitable access to the outdoors and meeting the commitments outlined in the President's America the Beautiful Initiative, which is supporting locally led efforts to conserve at least 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, and USDA Forest Service's Equity Action Plan and Tribal Action Plan.

Visit Interior's GAOA project page and the USDA Forest Service's GAOA story map

to see the difference these projects are making for local communities by improving access and outdoor recreation opportunities across federal lands.

National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF)

With fiscal year 2024 funding from the GAOA LRF, the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior enter their fourth year of addressing high priority deferred maintenance across our federal lands.

For fiscal year 2024, the second to last year of funding, the Department of the Interior has proposed 56 LRF projects, and the USDA Forest Service has identified 83 deferred maintenance bundled projects aimed at improving recreation facilities, buildings, water and utility infrastructure, and overall enhancements to roads, trails, bridges and parking areas.

In total, these projects are projected to support more than 20,700 jobs and contribute over \$2 billion to the economy. Economic benefits of the LRF are far-reaching across the nation, as projects take place in urban,

suburban and rural areas across the U.S. and its territories.

The LRF continues to serve as a critical funding source to make major investments that are normally out of reach with annual funding.

Details about USDA's authorized and funded deferred maintenance projects approved in Fiscal Year 2023 are available on the Forest Service Great American Outdoors Act website.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The fiscal year 2024 budget allocates \$900 million for LWCF projects and programs managed by the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service. This includes \$430 million for federal land acquisition programs and projects and \$470 million for state and local grants.

The LWCF program has a long and important bipartisan legacy and continues to protect unique and important at-risk natural and cultural resources; strengthen the resilience and biodiversity of our lands, waters, and ecosystems to climate change impacts; increase access to outdoor recreation; engage strong local partnership support; and provide benefits to a broad audience that includes underserved and at-risk communities. Since its inception, the LWCF has funded \$4 billion worth of projects in nearly every county in the country.

These investments will provide recreation opportunities across America, safeguard important natural areas and cultural heritage sites on federal lands, and support locally driven conservation and outdoor recreation projects through grants to states and local governments. LWCF is also part of President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which set the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvan-

See USDA on page 19

Tuolumne County Ag Livestock Pass Program



County of Tuolumne

Kelle Schroeder

Agricultural Commissioner • Weights & Measures
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Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: (209) 533-5691 Fax (209) 533-5520

Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights & Measures
Director of Animal Control
Air Pollution Control Officer

CHANGE OF DATE: MAY 20 CLASS CANCELED RESCHEDULED TO JUNE 10

DATE: May 2, 2023
TO: Commercial Livestock Producer
FROM: Kelle Schroeder, Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: Tuolumne County Ag Livestock Pass Program

In October of 2021, Assembly Bill No. 1103 was signed into law by the Governor. This bill sets a statewide framework for counties to follow and establish an Ag Livestock Pass Program in their individual county.

The Tuolumne County Agricultural Commissioner has created an Ag Livestock Pass Program to facilitate for the care of commercial livestock before, during, and after a wildfire or other natural disaster event.

Due to the scale of operations and the fact that many ranches operate on a variety of leased and owned land that may or may not be contiguous, evacuating livestock from commercial ranching operations may not be possible in the event of a major incident. Sheltering-in-place may be the best and safest alternative. Safe access by trained and qualified ranch personnel is critical to livestock welfare, firefighter safety, law enforcement safety, and public safety. The program has been created with the collaboration with Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Animal Control, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

The Ag Livestock Pass Program will only be available to applicants who meet the following criteria:

1. Property must be located within Tuolumne County.
2. The operation must be:
 - a. A commercial agricultural enterprise, or
 - b. Property used for conducting agricultural research or instruction by an educational institution.
3. Verification required to show ownership of a minimum of 40 head of livestock (including offspring in utero, e.g., 20 pregnant cows or ewes), or a minimum of 50 beehives, or poultry operations with over 3,000 birds (egg or meat operations). Verification must be made through the application and/or inspection by the County Agricultural Commissioner.
4. The Applicant is the key personnel of the operation and has a working knowledge of the agricultural property with access to essential infrastructure.
5. The Applicant and employer (if different than the Applicant) must sign a waiver and release.

The Agricultural Department will be responsible for administration of the Ag Livestock Pass Program for Tuolumne County. Participants will be required to complete a 4-hour training program provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The Agricultural Department, Cal Fire, UCCE, and the Sheriff Office will coordinate on training delivery. Certification of fire safety training will be required prior to issuance of an Ag Livestock Pass.

The Ag Livestock Pass is applied for and distributed to agriculturists before a disaster. The application process is designed to confirm that the passholder is a bona fide agricultural owner-operator or managerial employee whose services are essential to providing protection and care for livestock. Individuals who acquire the Ag Livestock Pass should be key personnel who have a working knowledge of the agricultural property, including access to essential infrastructure. They should also be aware of or have been trained in emergency procedures and understand that their role is to support the agricultural operation, not to fight fire or act as first responders during disaster. The Ag Livestock Pass does not guarantee access. If there is imminent danger, front-line emergency personnel are empowered to use discretion in denying access. However, in those cases when the boundaries of the closure area include agricultural land not deemed at imminent risk, the Ag Livestock Pass should allow the card holder access to the agricultural property.

The Agricultural Commissioner's in conjunction with Cal Fire invites you to attend the Livestock Ag Pass Program training.

Dates: June 3 and June 10

Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: 16809 Peoria Flat Road, Jamestown (Cal Fire's Baseline Fire Training Center)

Please bring with you to the training:

- Address(es); and/or GPS coordinates of property location(s); and/or APN numbers where livestock will be located.
- Locations of any feed or supplies that will be required to be accessed to tend to livestock.
- Approximate timeframe livestock will be at locations provided.
- Livestock type and breed
- Identifiable markings such as brands and ear notches.

You are required to RSVP for a class. Please contact the Ag Commissioner's Office at (209) 533-5691. You will need to provide the total number of people from your Ranch that will be attending.

Ag Groups Say Secure the Border Act Falls Short of Necessary Labor Reform

Source: Brian German, AgNet West

The Secure the Border Act of 2023, H.R. 2, was narrowly passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week. Several provisions have caught the attention of the agricultural industry, particularly the mandatory use of electronic verification, or E-Verify. The Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC) has raised concerns about the types of negative impacts such a requirement could have. "Farmers share the goal of a verified workforce, but agricultural labor reforms also must be enacted prior to any mandatory electronic verification system to avoid severe consequences for our nation's food supply," the organization said in a press release.

Members of the AWC include the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, International Fresh Produce Association, and Western Growers. The group notes that the Secure the Border Act, as drafted, would "decimate" the current ag workforce. AWC supports efforts to address labor challenges but says other reforms are necessary before a requirement to use E-Verify can be implemented without considerable fallout.

AWC was not alone in pointing out some of the shortcomings of the Secure the Border Act. The California Fresh Fruit Association (CFFA) acknowledged that the current immigration system needs reforming. However, the association notes that H.R. 2 will not adequately address the problem and that a more comprehensive approach will be necessary.

"H.R. 2 does nothing to help U.S. agriculture and instead throws a longstanding foe in E-Verify in our faces," said CFFA President

Ian LeMay. "Congress has long known that they must first address both our current agriculture workforce and modernize our guest workers programs to meet future needs. Only then can U.S. Agriculture interests support an E-Verify Policy."

Other provisions in the legislation include limiting eligibility for asylum seekers while also resuming the construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. H.R. 2 passed the House without any support from Democrats. As such, it appears unlikely the legislation will pass through the Democrat-controlled Senate as is.



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Upcoming Class Schedule

Thursday, May 25th
Cooperative Extension Updates | 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
1 Hour L/R or Other DPR
1 Hour CCA

Save the Dates for 2023

- Thursday, June 29th
- Thursday, July 20th
- Thursday, August 24th
- Thursday, September 21st
- Thursday, October 26th
- Thursday, November 30th

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Farm Bureau Foodies Enjoys Uncommonly Good Poultry in their Latest Episode

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and their video series, Farm Bureau Foodies, recently teamed up with the Squab Producers of California and local Chef, John Surla to indulge in perfectly prepared squab.

Join us in the comforts of John's home kitchen to learn more about how to cook squab and the sweet family history that

stirred Surla's passion for cooking.

Wondering how to prepare squab yourself? Check out the Squab Producers of California, a farmer owned Cooperative formed in 1943 and housed in Modesto since 1982. If you are ready to try out this "uncommonly good poultry," in your own home, peruse their page of recipes at <https://squab.com/recipes/>

While the video is only a short seven minutes, hang on until

the end. We will meet with Josh and Tim, local squab producers who share their stories of raising poultry and what being a member of the Coop really means; a superb product, from superior processing, by sincere people.

Farm Bureau Foodies is a video series that tells the story of our local farmers, ranchers and dairymen through food. You can find all Foodies Episodes at <https://www.facebook.com/FarmBureauFoodies>.

And more exciting news, Food-

ies is now a recurring segment on California Bountiful TV, a show that connects the food you eat, with the farmers and ranchers who grow and raise it and the lifestyles that make California bountiful.

About Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, we 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 of agriculture.



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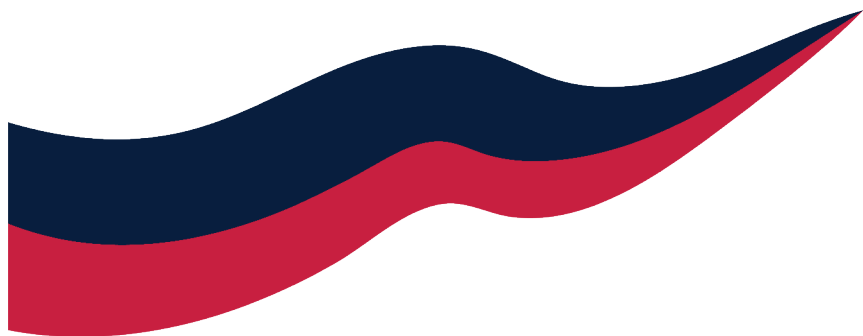
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FROM THE FARM



Jamie Johansson, President of California Farm Bureau

The concept of unity is often described as a group who thinks the same, acts the same, is the same. Unity, by definition, is one whole, but the whole is made of a variety of separate pieces or groups, each with their own unique circumstances, ideas and perspectives. At its strongest, unity is the result of individuals merged.

Farm Bureau is a model in this approach of solution-based unification of individuals. By our structure, individuals come together to form County Farm Bureaus, and the County Farm Bureaus join to form the California Farm Bureau. A step further, the state Farm Bureaus become the American Farm Bureau Federation. As we come together, we gain strength based on the numbers we represent. At the local level a County Farm Bureau represents a total membership in the hundreds, but as we unify under the umbrella of CAFB, that number swells to 29,000 statewide. When we gather with Farm Bureaus across the nation, we bring over 2,800 County Farm Bureaus to

form a collective voice of over 5.8 million Farm Bureau members strong.

As leaders in Farm Bureau, we know these numbers matter, because these numbers are our strength. When we speak on issues on behalf of Farm Bureau, we speak on behalf of you all and through us, you lend your voice to the solutions-based conversations that must take place. This strength of representation allows us to build relationships with legislators, foster connections with agencies and be the first call when those same offices need to know what agriculture thinks or needs as a collective voice.

Next week I'll be leveraging the strength and unity of our organization as we come behind Farm Bureau members hard hit by natural disaster and flooding. I'll be sharing our members' stories of very real devastation to farm communities and farmland when I kick-off a Joint Hearing of the California Assembly Agriculture and Emergency Management Committees on Tuesday here in Sacramento. We'll put the full weight of the California Farm Bureau behind

our hardest hit counties, particularly Monterey and Tulare and we'll work hard to get them the resources they need to obtain relief and begin to rebuild.

In Monterey County, the town of Pajaro was inundated with flood waters due to a levee break along the river in March forcing 4,000 residents from their homes. In another part of the county, the Salinas River topped the levee in many areas in January damaging over 15,000 acres and causing over \$330 million in damages, primarily in strawberries. While the county is completing an overall damage survey, total loss estimates from all flooding countywide is estimated to reach \$1 billion.

In the Central Valley, over 100,000 acres remains underwater today. Tulare County estimates over \$160 million in losses and direct impact to agriculture. In a heartbreaking assessment, the dairy industry alone estimates they have suffered \$20 Billion in losses between evacuations, milk loss, creamery disruption, cow herd health, culling and repair work. Rain and snowmelt continue to fill Tulare Lake which has reappeared on the San Joaquin Valley floor and covers crop land at this moment.

At all levels of government and in the media, Farm Bureau staff and leaders are diligently working to provide concrete solutions for a very diverse state with a diverse agriculture community. When we come together across geographic

and commodity lines, we position ourselves to accomplish what no other group can, and we provide perspective and solutions through a unified voice for our industry. That's strength in numbers and that's the peace of mind in knowing that while you fight your individual battle to keep farming and ranching, 29,000 farmers and ranchers are fighting alongside you.

From USDA on page 15

taged communities.

The Department of the Interior will allocate \$681.9 million for LWCF programs, including \$306.2 million for federal land acquisition projects and programs. Land acquisition projects acquire critical lands or easements from willing sellers to protect at-risk natural, cultural, or historic resources, including critical habitats and migration corridors, and increase access to outdoor recreation. The Department will invest more than \$160.0 million to fund 66 projects in as many as 40 states across the country, in addition to smaller recreation access projects.

The Interior Department proposes to allocate another \$375.7 million to support conservation and recreation state and local grants, which includes state LWCF formula grants and Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) grants. The ORLP, established in 2014, enables urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities. This nationally competitive grant program delivers funding to urban areas — jurisdictions of at least 50,000 people — with priority given to projects located in economically disadvantaged areas and lacking in outdoor recreation opportunities.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the USDA Forest Service proposes to allocate \$94 million to fund 10 Forest Legacy Program projects and \$124 million to fund 16 Land Acquisition Program projects and projects for recreation access and other needs.

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Supreme Court Upholding California's Proposition 12 Sets Dangerous Precedent

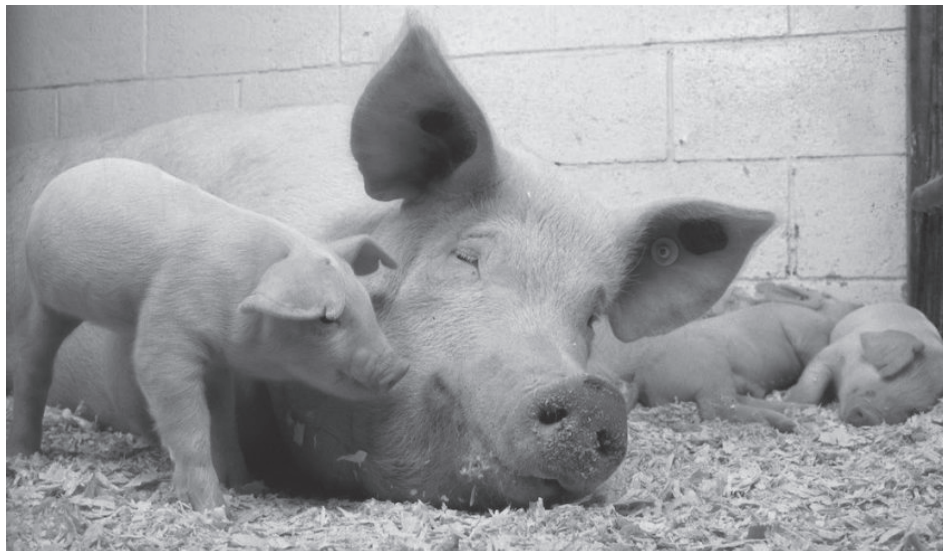
Source: California AgNet

Today, the Animal Agriculture Alliance and the North American Meat Institute expressed disappointment and serious concern for the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on California's Proposition 12.

"Prop 12 remains a costly burden to producers and provides no benefit to animals or consumers," said Julie Anna Potts, President and CEO of the North American Meat Institute. "We are disappointed in the Court's decision and will carefully study the ruling to determine next steps."

The Animal Agriculture Alliance shared the following:

"Animal rights extremist organizations have been pushing for state-level



el legislation banning frequently-used animal care practices, such as gestation stalls for pregnant sows or cages for laying hens, for years. The true motive of these changes is to make it less efficient and more expensive for farmers to raise animals for food, driving up the cost of meat, dairy, poultry, and eggs for consumers, forcing them to make tough choices about what they can afford to feed their families and forcing farmers to

make costly changes that may make it impossible to keep their business afloat.

"Today's Supreme Court decision on California's Proposition 12 sets a dangerous precedent for animal rights extremist groups to target other states with similar ballot initiatives. The Humane Society of the United States is a prime ex-

ample of a group that focuses efforts on states that will be minimally impacted by the legislation, knowing they will receive less resistance within the state while setting a precedent. In California, specifically, farmers in the state raise less than 1% of pigs in the U.S. yet consume 13% of the pork. This means that a significant majority of California's pork is produced in other states, who will now be expected to comply with regulations passed by voters outside of their own state. "Other states should prepare for similar initiatives, particularly those that allow for legislation to be passed via ballot measures. Ballot initiatives allow these extremist groups to bypass the traditional legislative process to go straight to voters on issues that the gen-

See Prop12 on page 26



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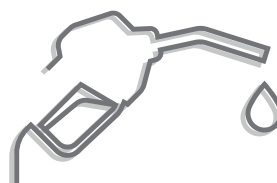
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Prevent hay bale fires with year-round vigilance and action

The following information is provided by Nationwide®, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.1

Hundreds of barn fires happen every year in the U.S. And in many of them, hay bales are the fuel source for what's almost always a major property loss that also can endanger livestock and farm workers.

Hay bale fires can happen from the day the bales are made until they're used, regardless of the forage type or quality. In most cases, wet hay is actually more likely to catch fire or spontaneously combust than dry hay. Hay fires are a unique, costly hazard that calls for year-round attention, according to Nation-

wide Risk Management Consultant, agronomist and Iowa farmer Derek Hommer.

"Hay bale fires are just one type that contributes to fire being the leading cause of farm claims and losses," Hommer said.

"That's why it's so important pay close attention to nearby heat sources, hay moisture and bale quality. They all contribute to how hay catches fires and potential spontaneous combustion."

Why does wet hay catch on fire?

When harvested at a higher moisture level, a forage crop sometimes stays damp and respire well after baling. That continued respiration in the presence of oxygen after it's baled creates conditions that can cause bales to spontane-

ously combust. Wet hay that continues to respire can generate heat and eventually spontaneously combust.

After hay is baled and stored at higher moisture levels, the fire risk from spontaneous combustion is greatest in the first two to six weeks. And that risk continues if hay bales are stored where moisture can linger, like a barn with a leaky roof or high-humidity area.

Hay placed in storage should have a moisture content under 25%, according to a report from the Pennsylvania State University Agriculture and Biological Engineering Department. Higher levels of moisture require an oxygen limiting storage system. The heat generated by the crop plus the presence of oxygen increases the risk of a fire.

Key times to think about hay bale fire prevention Hommer recommends the following best practices throughout the growing season to minimize hay bale fire risk, especially from spontaneous combustion once bales are stored:

- **Harvesting.** Harvest forage within the optimal moisture range and allow adequate drying time in the field before baling.
- **Conditioning.** Mower conditioners, tedders and rakes can speed hay drying but can also harm leaf retention and crop quality.
- **Baling.** Bale hay up to 20% moisture to reduce the potential for hay bales spontaneously combusting or spoiling.
- **Storing.** Since moisture contributes to bale heating and fires, store hay under a roof to keep it as dry as possible. Hay probes and sensors like in the HAYTECH platform helps monitor temperatures in stored hay that can help prevent hay fires or spontaneously combusting bales.

Visit AgInsightCenter.com for more resources and expert tips on trending topics to help you run a successful business and maintain the safety of your operation.

[1] *A.M. Best Market Share Report 2021.

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Health Risk Mitigation and Volatile Organic Compound Emission Reduction for 1,3-Dichloropropene (Telone)

DPR 22-005 Health Risk Mitigation and Volatile Organic Compound Emission Reduction for 1,3-Dichloropropene (Notice 11/18/22; Comment period closes 1/18/23; "15-day" comment period 5/9/23-5/31/23)

DPR proposes to adopt sections 6448.3 and 6448.4; amend sections 6448, 6449.1, 6452, 6452.2, 6624, 6626, and 6881; and adopt new section 6448.1, and renumber and amend previous section 6448.1 as section 6448.2 of Title 3, California Code of Regulations.

The proposed action will restrict the use of 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D) to mitigate the potential 72-hour acute risk and 70-year lifetime cancer risk to non-occupational bystanders. The proposed mitigation measures will also further reduce the emissions of 1,3-D as a volatile organic compound.

The proposed action will allow the use of 1,3-D only for the production of agricultural commodities, effectively prohibiting other uses that are not currently registered; establish mandatory setbacks (distances from occupied structures where 1,3-D cannot be applied); set limits on the application rate and acres treated for individual field soil fumigations; place restrictions on multiple field soil fumigations that do not meet distance or time separation criteria; limit the allowed methods to apply 1,3-D, including establishing criteria for acceptable types of tarpaulins that can be used; require an annual report from DPR that includes evaluations of 1,3-D use and air monitoring results; and require the inclusion of certain information in existing pesticide use records and pesticide use reports.

DPR also proposes to incorporate "1,3-Dichloropropene Field Fumigation Requirements, Est. January 1, 2024" by reference in proposed sections 6448, 6448.2, 6624, and 6626. A copy of this document is included in the rulemaking file and is posted below.

A public hearing was held on January 18, 2023, in a hybrid format to receive oral or written comments regarding the proposed action.

A public hearing has been scheduled for the date and time stated below to receive oral and/or written comments regarding proposed modifications. This public hearing will occur in a hybrid format with both a physical location and an option to participate from a remote location.

DATE: May 31, 2023

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Physical Location:
CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Remote Location:

Zoom

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The hearing will also be accessible via public webcast for persons who would like to watch this hearing without participating. The public webcast can be accessed by visiting the following web address: video.calepa.ca.gov



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- **Rico Pfitzer Pires Insurance Agency**
Gustine 854-2000
- **Schut Insurance Services Inc**
Patterson 892-6226
- **Stewart Kriese Ins Agency**
Oakdale, 847-8025

- **Toste Insurance Services Inc**
Modesto 338-3585
- **Western Valley Insurance Associates**
Turlock 634-9031
- **Winton Ireland Strom & Green**
Turlock, Modesto, Livingston and Hilmar 667-0995

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

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

Misc. Services

- **Alexandria Perrin LLC**
Modesto 216-7027
- **Casey Moving System**
Ceres 531-9010
- **Clark Pest Control**
Modesto 556-5200
- **Cover Specialty Services**
Modesto 988-3864
- **Drone for Hire**
Modesto 818-4109
- **Modesto Nuts Baseball Club**
Modesto 572-4487
- **R & J Avila**
Hilmar 678-1723
- **Rocha's Valley Enterprises**
Oakdale 581-1473
- **Quality Rodent Control, Inc.**
Modesto 225-4124

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

Nurseries/Horticulture

- **Blumen Flower Farm**
Modesto 648-8995
- **Burchell Nursery**
Oakdale 845-8733
- **California Transplants**
Newman 862-9420
- **Dutch Hollow Farms**
Modesto 287-6010

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

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

Processors

- **Grizzly Nut**
Waterford 874-5223
- **Turlock Walnut Co.**
Turlock 668-0955
- **Travaille & Phippen**
Manteca 599-6111

Restaurant

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

Safety

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

Veterinary

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

For the good of your food.



Agricultural Commissioner's Office

&

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

STANISLAUS COUNTY



2023 Continuing Education (CE) Schedule

Classes will be offered both in-person and hybrid (Both in-person & Online)

Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is happy to announce our continued partnership with the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau for the 2023 Continuing Education Series. With this partnership will come the ability for us to host a wide variety of other topics and increase your access to continuing education credits.

In-Person CE Workshop Schedule

Date	Time	Topics	CE Credits
June 13, 2023	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Regulatory Compliance and Safety During Mixing and Loading Pesticides	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
June 13, 2023	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Pesticide Label Review	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
August 8, 2023	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Mitigating Pesticide Dependence	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
August 8, 2023	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Drift Minimization and Calibration Demonstration	1 Hr.- Other
October 25, 2023	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Promoting Bee Protection and Beneficials	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
October 25, 2023	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	New Technologies in Pest Management	1 Hr.- Other

Hybrid Schedule (Both In-Person & Online)

Please visit our website <http://www.stanag.org> and click on continuing education to register for your spot at our continuing education class. Once you register for the class, you will receive an email confirming your spot has been saved.

Date	Time	Topics	CE Credits
June 6, 2023	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Dealer Regulations	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
June 6, 2023	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Cannabis Regulations	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
July 14, 2023	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Farm Labor Contractor Worker Safety	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
July 14, 2023	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Oxyfluorfen Best Management	1 Hr.- Other
August 31, 2023	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	CDPR Top 10 Violations	1 Hr. - Laws & Regulations
August 31, 2023	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Grower/ PCB Farm Pesticide Compliance Requirements	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
October 10, 2023	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Private Applicator and QAL Regulatory Information	1 Hr.- Laws & Regulations
October 10, 2023	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Telone Regulatory Information	1 Hr.- Other

All classes are still pending approval from CDPR. For verification of CE hours and category approval, please call (209) 525-4730 one week prior to the class or workshop. If you need Spanish translation of any of our scheduled classes, please contact our office one week prior and we will make arrangements. Si desea una traducción al español de una de nuestras clases programadas, comuníquese una semana antes de la fecha de la clase, para intentar hacer acomodación. ***Coming Soon: Private Applicator Certificate Test Dates and Study Sessions.**



JOIN US FOR A YF&R REGIONAL MIXER

Come enjoy four different tour stops in Stanislaus County, lunch and a social mixer to meet likeminded people and get a glimpse into Stanislaus County Agriculture.

Kelley Flower Farm | Goat Dairy | Blossom Hill | MJC West Campus

FOR AGES 18-35 ONLY

Cost: \$25 per person - Includes bus fee, lunch and dinner

Date: June 3, 2023 / 9:00am-6:00pm

Meeting Location: MJC West Campus Pavillion



From Prop12 on page 20

eral public typically has little knowledge of and that tend to be oversimplified in ballot measure wording. This is particularly effective when it comes to emotional issues such as animal welfare. It's extremely costly for the animal agriculture community to push back against ballot initiative campaigns, as the target audience is the state's entire population rather than a limited number of state legislators. We need to be proactive in communicating and building trust with the public to reduce the effectiveness of these animal rights extremist-led campaigns that attempt to capitalize on misinformation.

"Animal care is too important of a topic to be dictated by oversimplified legislation based on emotion. Rather, it needs to be based in science and research.

About the Animal Agriculture Alliance

The Animal Agriculture Alliance safeguards the future of animal agriculture and its value to society by bridging the communication gap between the farm and food communities. We connect key food industry stakeholders to arm them with responses to emerging issues. We engage food chain influencers and promote consumer choice by helping them better understand modern animal agriculture. We protect by exposing those who threaten our nation's food security with damaging misinformation.

About North American Meat Institute

The Meat Institute is the United States' oldest and largest trade association representing packers and processors of beef, pork, lamb, veal, turkey, and processed meat products. NAMI members include more than 350 meat packing and processing companies, the majority of which have fewer than 100 employees, and account for more than 95 percent of the United States' output of meat and 70 percent of turkey production.



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Farm Bureau applauds state Senate passage of SB 505

The California Farm Bureau is applauding the state Senate for its passage of Senate Bill 505, which was approved with resounding, bipartisan support and now moves to the state Assembly.

Senate Bill 505 expands the insurance “clearinghouse” program of the California FAIR Plan, the state’s insurer of last resort, to allow commercial insurance policies under the FAIR Plan to move back to the admitted commercial market. California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara is a co-sponsor of SB 505, along with the California Farm Bureau.

The Farm Bureau previously worked with Commissioner Lara and Sen. Susan Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, to pass SB 11 in 2021. That bill allowed farmers and ranchers who lost or were denied coverage in the competitive insurance market after devastating wildfires to obtain alternative coverage through the California FAIR Plan.

SB 505, also by Sen. Rubio, would provide opportunities for agricultural producers to move back to the competitive market, with affordable commercial policies protecting farming and ranching

operations.

“California’s farmers and ranchers need insurance options to safeguard their ability to continue producing the food that America needs,” said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson. “Senate Bill 505 provides agricultural producers who turned to the California FAIR plan the ability to return to the competitive insurance market to protect farming and ranching operations. SB 505 is widely supported by insurers, brokers and agents. We applaud Sen. Rubio for her leadership on this issue, and we encourage the state Assembly to pass this important legislation so that it may be signed into law to provide affordable coverage options for California’s vital food producers.”

“California businesses do best when they have more choices for insurance coverage,” said Commissioner Lara. “While the California FAIR Plan is an important safety net when businesses cannot find any other insurance, giving them more options must be our top priority. I am proud to sponsor Senator Rubio’s important pro-consumer legislation creating a clearinghouse program for businesses to more quickly exit the FAIR Plan and get back into the competitive insurance market, something we already have for homeowners.”



DAIRY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DTAP provides **free regulatory assistance** for all dairy farmers in California, including:

- ECA water quality permitting process.
- Assistance with Water board regulatory compliance
- Technical support with wastewater paperwork review and documentation.
- Explain groundwater and surface water sampling and monitoring requirements.

For more information about DTAP, visit wudfoundation.com or email Kyle Lutz at kyle@wudairies.com.

Increases in Minimum Wage¹
Increases in Minimum Monthly Salary of Exempt Managers/Supervisors²
Phase In of Overtime Thresholds for Non-Exempt Agricultural Employees³

Year	Employers with 26 or more employees at any time during a pay period ("large employers")				Employers with 25 or fewer employees at all times during a pay period ("small employers")			
	Minimum Wage (\$/hour)	Maximum hours/workday at regular rate	Maximum hours/workweek at regular rate	Minimum Exempt Employee Salary (\$/wk / yr)	Minimum Wage (\$/hour)	Maximum hours/workday at regular rate	Maximum hours/workweek at regular rate	Minimum Exempt Employee Salary (\$/wk / yr)
2017	10.50	10	N/A	840 / 43,680	10	10	N/A	800 / 41,600
2018	11	10	N/A	880 / 45,760	10.50	10	N/A	840 / 43,680
2019	12	9.5	55	960 / 49,920	11	10	N/A	880 / 45,760
2020	13	9	50	1,040 / 54,080	12	10	N/A	960 / 49,920
2021	14	8.5	45	1,120 / 58,240	13	10	N/A	1,040 / 54,080
2022	15	8*	40	1,200 / 62,400	14	9.5	55	1,120 / 58,240
2023	15.50	8*	40	1,240 / 64,480	15.50	9.0	50	1,240 / 64,480
2024	15.50 ↑	8*	40	1,240 / 64,480 ↑	15.50 ↑	8.5	45	1,240 / 64,480 ↑
2025	15.50 ↑	8*	40	1,240 / 64,480 ↑	15.50 ↑	8*	40	1,240 / 64,480 ↑

*Double time after 12 hours
 ↑Starting on 1/1/24, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually for increases (capped at 3.5%) in the U.S. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

Premium Pay Rates: The overtime premium rate is 1½ times an employee's regular rate of pay, except it is double an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked beyond 12 in a workday starting on 1/1/22 for employees of large employers and 1/1/25 for employees of small employers.

7th-Day Overtime: A nonexempt employee must be compensated at a rate that is not less than

- 1½ times the employee's regular rate of pay for the first 8 hours worked on the 7th day of work in a workweek.
- Double the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked over 8 on the 7th day of work in a workweek.

Exemptions: Irrigators, shepherders, and commercial fishing vessel crew members lose their overtime-exempt status and are entitled to be compensated for overtime work as shown above starting on 1/1/19 if employed by a large employer and on 1/1/22 if employed by a small employer. Exemptions remain for an employer's parent, spouse, or child, certain salaried managers, and drivers whose hours of service are limited by regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation or California Highway Patrol.

¹ Cal. Labor Code § 1182.12.
² Cal. Labor Code § 515.
³ Cal. Labor Code §§ 860-862; Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 14-2001 (rev. 01-2019).

Rev. 5/22





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From salinity and boron toxicity to nitrogen management and water holding capacity, keeping an eye on your soil is an important step in maintaining a healthy and high yielding orchard.





Check out and order ABC resources like the new *Salinity Management Guide for Almond Growers*





And register for ABC's Soil Summit on June 13 at the International Agri-Center in Tulare, CA

Document #2023IR0032