

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture

STANISLAUS COUNTY



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



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

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OCTOBER 5, 2023 9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

This two hour **webinar** will cover updates to pesticide laws and regulations & serve as a test prep for the new private applicator certificate (the brown card).

Effective January 1, 2024, individuals who are currently certified as Private Applicators will need to take and pass the revised Initial PAC Exam to demonstrate competency with the revised Private Applicator standards in 40 CFR Part 171.

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SCFB MISSION STATEMENT

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

Thomsen Hops

By: Anna Genasci,
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Director of
Education & Communication

Here we are in the Central Valley enduring another set of 100 plus days. Now, I am not a big drinker, but every once in a while, a cold beer does taste good! But I have never put much thought into where that beer comes from. Like so many foods we enjoy, its story begins on a farm.

In the 1950s, the Thomsen Family began farming sugar beets and tomatoes in Pleasanton, California. In the 1970s they moved their family farm to Tracy, California, diversifying their operation to include more permanent crops like almonds and alfalfa.

As we know, the next generation tends to generate some new ideas. And that was exactly the case for Zack Reinstein, son of Kathy Thomsen, second generation.

As a young adult in his career, Zack learned about brewing. That experienced sparked an interest. According to Zack, hops were once farmed in California but now, most of the large hop operations are in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), "I wanted to bring hops back to California." So, in 2020 Thomsen Hops was established.

"There are about 80 acres of hops growing in California, we are farming about 16 acres," shared Zack.

So, let's first get a little background on hops:

Hops are the flowers (also called seed cones or strobiles) of the hop plant, Humulus lupulus. They are used primarily as a bittering, flavoring, and stability agent in beer, to which, in addition to bitterness, they impart floral, fruity, or cit-

Hops grow along a trellis, explained Zack. "Each year we string up 18-foot trellises. Hops are a perennial plant and can live up to 100 years. Our plants are three years old; it usually takes 3-4 years for a hop plant to mature."

The hop plant, "wakes up," about February and begins growing. The bine will wrap itself around the trellis and can grow up to a foot a day! Zack commented that hops are the second fastest growing plant in the world, just behind bamboo.

Now you may have noticed I wrote bine not vine, they are different. The difference is how the plant grows and "holds" onto things.

Vine: A vine plant climbs using tendrils or suckers to cling onto a supporting pole. Its stem grows vertically, all the twisting and gripping is done by the tendrils.

Bine: A bine plant wraps its stem (not tendrils) in a helix around a supporting structure. The bine's stem is the flexible, twisting part of the plant unlike the vine. A bine has stiff hairs to provide structure and solidity as it grows.

As Zack explained, by late June the cone is out. Most flower cones are produced on the



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FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Employment Policy

On August 4, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board issued a 15-day notice on proposed changes to the Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Standard published on March 31, 2023. The March 2023 version is the latest of several versions of indoor heat illness regulations proposed, subjected to public hearings, and further revision dating back to 2017. The revisions noticed on August 4 offer some useful clarifications of the definitions of indoor work locations where the regulation will be applicable, excluding locations not normally occupied by employees while they are working, not contiguous to a location occupied by employees, or where employees are present for less than 15 minutes in any hour. The proposal also exempts from the rules requirements for hazard assessment (including extensive record-making and -keeping requirements) vehicles with “effective and functioning air conditioning,” raising new concerns about the status of non-air conditioned vehicles that meet the definition of “indoor” spaces (“...a space that is under a ceiling or overhead covering that restricts airflow and is enclosed along its entire perimeter by walls, doors, windows, dividers, or other physical barriers that restrict airflow, whether open or closed.”) Unfortunately, the Standards Board chose to clarify that employers of employees who work both indoors and outdoors must comply with the more complex and onerous requirements of the new indoor rule. Farm Bureau will comment on these proposed changes and continue to raise concerns about the impact of this rule on use of various vehicles like tractors and trucks on farms, the intersection between the existing, long-standing outdoor heat illness prevention rule, and on concerns about sheds and other build-

ings that see long-term occupancy but cannot be practically air conditioned. Farm Bureau is also working this week to alert Capitol offices to a possible revival when the Legislature returns from the summer recess of a 2019 bill to permit employees participating in a “trade dispute” (i.e. a strike) to collect unemployment insurance benefits. The federal law creating the federal-state partnership funding and administering UI benefits and providing for the operations of state job service agencies like California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) specifies that individuals may not collect unemployment insurance benefits if they are not available for work and ready and willing to accept offered work, which is clearly not the case with strikers who have elected to withhold their labor to gain economic leverage over their employer during a strike. This proposal raises several risks, including exacerbating the already huge \$18 billion deficit in California’s state unemployment trust fund account, along with the risk that the federal government could decertify California’s unemployment insurance program, meaning California would be forced to pay unemployment insurance benefits from the state’s General Fund. Staff: Bryan Little, blittle@cfbf.com

Animal Health and Welfare

Members may recall reading about the outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in Southern California previously in *CAFB @ Work*. The virus, which affects horses, cattle, and small ruminants, appears to be spreading northward. Please also take note of these reminders:

- The focal map of VSV affected and quarantined premises is posted on the CDFA VSV website and will continue to be up-

dated at least weekly during the outbreak incursion.

- Any non-equid VSV suspect species must be reported to CDFA or USDA immediately and sampled by a regulatory veterinarian given the concern for clinical similarities to Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs).

VSV SITUATION REPORT 8/3/2023

There are currently eight affected counties in California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties). All confirmed cases have been vesicular stomatitis New Jersey virus (VSNJV) serotype. Updates are as follows: Since the start of the outbreak (5/17/2023), 177 VSV-affected premises have been identified (62 confirmed positive, 115 suspect) in 3 states, California, Nevada, and Texas. One hundred seventy-four (174) of these premises have had only equine species clinically affected, two (2) premises have had clinically affected cattle (San Diego County, California), and one (1) premises has had clinically affected rhinoceros (San Diego County, California). California has identified 174 affected premises (59 confirmed positive, 115 suspect) in 8 counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties). Texas has identified 2 affected premises (2 confirmed positive) in 2 counties (Maverick and Shackelford Counties). Nevada has identified 1 affected premises (1 confirmed positive) in 1 county (White Pine County, Nevada). Of the 177 total VSV-affected premises, 105 premises have completed the quarantine period with no new clinical cases and have been released from quarantine.

Seventy-two (72) premises remain quarantined.

Additional information and maps of the affected area are contained in the attached situation report. The situation report is posted publicly on the APHIS website and accessible at the following link: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/our-focus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/vsv/vesicular-stomatitis>.

Please contact CDFA immediately if you have suspicion of a VS case. As a reminder, clinical signs of VS include excessive salivation, vesicles (blister-like lesions), erosions or ulcerations around the mouth, tongue, nostrils, teats, feet and coronary bands. As VS is highly contagious among susceptible species (primarily equids and cattle, but also camelids and small ruminants, and occasionally swine) as well as potentially zoonotic, we also want to ensure proper personal protective equipment and biosecurity measures are in place on your facilities. Please notify your CDFA district office immediately if you or your personnel identify animals with consistent lesions.

Vector mitigation (specifically black fly and sand fly control) is critical in containing a potential VS outbreak. Please ensure adequate fly protective measures are in place on your facilities; such as insecticide use on animals and around facilities, manure management and reduction of fly breeding areas. Any suspect lesioned animals should be immediately isolated upon detection. As VS can also be transmitted via contaminated surfaces; extra precautions should be in place on dairies

to avoid transmission of VS to other animals or personnel during milking.

Please reach out to your CDFA district office or Dr. Kavishti Kokaram (Kavishti.Kokaram@cdfa.ca.gov) for additional information on vector mitigation strategies, biosecurity recommendations and movement requirements. Please disseminate as widely as possible within our industry as well as to those within your organizations/membership that may need this informational update. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com

CESA and Wildlife

Today, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the state has a new gray wolf pack in Tulare County. This is now California’s southernmost pack, and it is at least 200 air miles from the nearest known pack in northeastern California.

In July, CDFW received a wolf sighting report from a location in the Sequoia National Forest. CDFW investigated the reported location, found wolf tracks and other signs of wolf presence, and collected 12 scat and hair samples from the immediate area for genetic testing. CDFW’s Wildlife Forensics Laboratory performed DNA analysis to determine if the samples were from wolf, as well as sex, coat color, individual identity, relation to one another and pack origin. All 12 samples were confirmed gray wolf. The new pack consists of at least five individuals not previously detected in California, including one adult female, who is a direct descendant of California’s first documented wolf in the state in recent history, (OR7), and four offspring

(two females, two males). None of the samples collected came from an adult male, however the genetic profile from the offspring indicate that the breeding male is a descendant of the Lassen Pack.

Earlier this year, CDFW shared the final draft of the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program aimed to help ranchers with the effects of wolves near livestock. Through this program, members are able to apply for reimbursement for 1) direct loss of an animal, 2) deterrence measures (i.e. fencing), and 3) Pay-for-presence – which pays ranchers for stress caused by predators (i.e. subsequent weight loss, or effects on fertility). CDFW continues to work with the Department on membership concerns regarding all interactions with predators and livestock. Farm Bureau also encourages membership to report wildlife/livestock interactions to the Department. For more information on wolves in California, please visit the CDFW wolf page. All questions, comments, or concerns regarding wolves and other predators can be addressed directly to Katie Little. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com

Water

HEARING ON MINIMUM FLOWS FOR THE SCOTT AND SHASTA RIVERS
On August 15, the State Water Resources Control Board will hold a hearing on whether to set a minimum flow requirement in the Scott River and whether to consider setting one for the Shasta River, as well. This action is occurring as a result of a May 2023 petition by the Karuk Tribe and several environmental groups. California Farm Bureau staff and members will be speaking or presenting during the hearing. A virtual speaking option is available and speaker cards can be submitted virtually via the SWRCB website, with instructions at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/. Staff: Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com.

NEW REGULATIONS LIMITING NEO-NICOTINOID PRODUCT USE ON FOOD AND FEED CROPS

As required by Food and Agricultural Code section 12838, the Department adopted regulations (Title 3, California Code of Regulations [3 CCR] sections 6990 through 6990.16) to limit neonicotinoid pesticide product use in the production of most food and feed crops. The new regulations, effective January 1, 2024,

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See Review on page 10

FREE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

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

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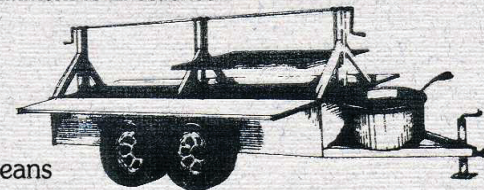
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Modesto 522-6140
- **Redwood Ranches LLC**
Hughson 883-2603
- **Robert Gioletti**
Turlock 667-6024
- **Ron Martella Farms**
Hughson 883-4819
- **Schut Ranches**
Patterson 892-6226

- **Starkey & Lucas Farming & Cattle**
Ceres 484-0671
- **Stewart Johnson**
Ceres 602-8899
- **Victor M Lopes**
Turlock 587-5026
- **Weaver Bros**
Crows Landing 854-6716
- **Wyeth Dairy Inc.,**
Modesto 545-2101

Farm Management

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

Insurance

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

- **GDI Insurance Agency**
Turlock 991-2929
- **Giddings Corby Hynes Inc**
Modesto 526-3110
- **Hoobler Insurance Services**
Patterson 601-0418
- **LG Crop Ins.**
Turlock 262-8140

- **Nicholson Insurance Inc**
Modesto 526-2697
- **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**
Ripon 599-7545
- **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

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Waterford 874-5223
- **Turlock Walnut Co.**
Turlock 668-0955
- **Travaille & Chippen**
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

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\$1.9 Million in Grants to Support Transition to Safer, Sustainable Pest Management in California

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has opened \$1.9 million in available funding to support integrated pest management (IPM) projects that expand available tools, resources and practices that increase the adoption of IPM and support a statewide transition to sustainable pest management. Sustainable pest management builds on the existing practices of IPM to incorporate broadened considerations of human health and social equity, environmental protections and economic viability in the way pests are managed in agricultural, urban and wildland settings.

The funding announced today is available through the 2024 Alliance and Research Grants programs. In the past 20 years, these programs have awarded more than \$26 million for more than 100 projects that advance the use of IPM and ultimately increase the adoption of more sustainable methods for managing pests that are safer for people and the environment.

"To accelerate the systemwide adoption of sustainable pest management across the state,

we need to both build a suite of effective alternatives to higher risk pesticides and expand the knowledge, technical assistance and practical resources for growers and urban pest managers to manage pests in the safest, effective way for people and the environment," said DPR Director Julie Henderson. The 2024 Research and Alliance Grants programs are seeking projects that address one or more of the following examples of priority topic areas:

- IPM resources for underserved or disadvantaged communities or for small growing operations
 - Decreasing the use of high-risk, high-volume pesticides (for example: fumigants)
 - Tools, strategies and resources for IPM and sustainable pest management use in agricultural areas near school sites and urban settings
 - Incorporating the sustainability pillars of broadened considerations of human health and social equity, environmental protections and economic vitality as outlined in the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap
- Previously funded Research and Alliance Grant projects include:
- Researching the use of RNA interference, antimicrobial peptides, and sterile insect tech-

niques to effectively manage pests.

- Providing culturally relevant and accessible education programs promoting IPM practices to residents in low-income communities of color.

- Promoting the adoption of short wavelength ultraviolet lights (UV-C) to manage pests in California strawberries.

The 2024 Research Grants Program has up to \$800,000 to award for projects of up to three years in length. Projects should develop pest management tools and practices to reduce the use of high-risk pesticides or decrease the impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment. Project budgets may range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Research Grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 14.

The 2024 Alliance Grants Program has up to \$1.1 million to award for projects of up to three years in length. Projects should promote or increase sustainable pest management through the implementation, expansion, or adoption of effective, proven and affordable IPM systems or practices. Project budgets may range from \$50,000 to \$800,000. Alliance Grant applications will be accepted through Jan. 18, 2024.

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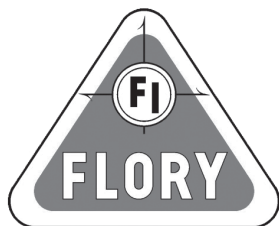
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From HOPS on page 3

upper part of the lateral branches and should be ready for harvesting in late summer.

Like other commodities grown here in California, Zack battles mites and, similar to walnuts, the hops will occasionally need sunblock applications.

In July, Zack and team will do pre-harvest checks. “We take samples and run data to see when the hops will be ready for harvest.” Zack explained how beer brewers want this data because it will indicate bitterness and help the brewers perfect their recipe. So interesting ... and a hops variety in California will like taste different than that same variety grown in PNW due to California's weather. “We have tropical notes, (in our hops)” smiled Zack.

Harvest in August doesn't complete the processes. Once the cone is harvested, dried and baled, it is pelletized. In this form, the hops run more smoothly through the kettle, used during beer

brewing. Some hops are sold, “wet” and don't include the additional processing – it all depends on what the beer brewer is hoping to create.

Zack now wears the title Farm Manager at Thomsen Hops and unlike the other commodities they grow, (for example their almonds go to Blue Diamond), they have to market the hops themselves.

“It was a hard market to get into. Brewers were already buying from the PNW, and happy with the product,” shared Zack. So, with sample boxes in tow, Zack made face to face visits to local breweries to show them Thomsen Hops.

Today Thomsen Hops can be found in many breweries: Dying Breed, Altamont Beer Works and 1850 Brewing Company, just to name a few.

I asked Zack if he has had some “light-bulb” moments in the last three years. He chuckled, “I can definitely tell you how not to grow hops. It has been a lot

of learn by doing. We are now a part of the California Hop Co-op, where we can share knowledge and equipment.”

As you might imagine there aren't many companies that manufacture hop harvesting equipment. Zack and team have had to buy equipment, then adapt, innovate and repurpose ... three traits I admire amongst farmers, ranchers and dairymen.


What is Zack's favorite part of growing hops, “it is something different every day. We get to be a pioneer in the California hop market. And, I love the aromas! Some hops smell like berries while others like pineapples. I take a lot of pride in taking our product to the brewers and then getting to drink it!”

Of course, it wouldn't be a complete interview without me asking, “what is your favorite beer?”

Zack shared with a smile, the first time he tasted Thomsen Hops in a beer called *Spinal Sap*. For Zack and family, it was a, “we did it, moment.”


not to grow hops. It has been a lot





Private Applicator Certification Exam Schedule

Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B, Modesto, CA 95358



You may have recently become aware via permit renewal appointment, continuing education (CE) classes, and/or email correspondence, about the proposed regulatory changes impacting the certification and training of pesticide applicators. As per these proposed regulations, Individuals who are currently certified as private applicators are required to take and pass the revised initial Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) Examination to demonstrate competency with the revised private applicator standards in 40 CFR Part 171.

Our office will be hosting multiple review sessions to help prepare for the revised PAC exam, followed by the exam sessions. Please make sure to register on time as these sessions will have limited seats. You can register by visiting our website www.stanag.org or by calling our office at (209) 525-4730.

Note: Individuals who have already taken and passed the revised initial Private Applicator Certificate Examination on or after **October 1, 2022**, have been tested on the new private applicator competency standards consistent with 40 CFR Part 171. These individuals are eligible to renew their PAC following the procedures in 3 CCR sections 6582(a) and 6584(a) for future renewals, which include CE hours. **Please see the reverse side for further details.**

Date	Review Session (Optional)	Exam (Start time)	Location
August 2, 2023 (Wednesday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
August 14, 2023 (Monday)	10:30 am – 12:00 am Seats: 36	1:00 pm Seats: 36	Stanislaus County Library – Salida 4835 Sisk Rd, Salida, CA 95368
September 6, 2023 (Wednesday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 40	12:30 pm Seats: 40	Mid Valley Ag Services 5225 Oakdale-Waterford Hwy, Oakdale, CA 95361
October 14, 2023 (Saturday)	8:00 am – 9:30 am Seats: 80	10:00 am Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
October 24, 2023 (Tuesday)*	10:30 am – 12:00 pm Seats: 36	1:00 pm Seats: 36	Stanislaus County Library - Turlock 550 Minaret Avenue, Turlock, CA 95380
November 6, 2023 (Monday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
November 15, 2023 (Wednesday)*	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 40	12:30 pm Seats: 40	Fire Station 53 8598 Kern St., Westley, CA 95387
November 27, 2023 (Monday)	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Seats: 80	5:00 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
December 12, 2023 (Tuesday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
December 18, 2023 (Monday)	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Seats: 80	5:00 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
December 28, 2023 (Thursday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
January 10, 2024 (Wednesday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358
January 18, 2024 (Thursday)	10:00 am – 11:30 am Seats: 80	12:30 pm Seats: 80	Harvest Hall (Rooms ABC & DE) 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto CA 95358

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER or Call our office at 209 (525)-4730

PAC exam is also offered on regular business days between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. Please call our office to book your appointment. We do accept walk-ins if there are no appointments already booked.

Note: Review sessions are only offered for the exam sessions listed in the table above.

From Review on page 5

apply to soil and foliar applications of products containing the neonicotinoid active ingredients clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam. The regulations do not apply to neonicotinoid use in non-agricultural (e.g., structural or home use) or non-production agricultural (e.g., parks, cemeteries) settings, applications to nursery stock, or seed treatment applications.

Neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides. They are absorbed into plants and distributed throughout plant tissues to the stems, leaves, roots, fruits, and flowers. Their residues can be present in the pollen and nectar consumed by bees and other pollinators. The new regulations protect pollinator health by reducing the amount of neonicotinoid active ingredients that can be applied to most food and feed crops through application method and rate restrictions, application timing restrictions, and seasonal application rate caps. These regulations are in addition to any requirements found on neonicotinoid pesticide product labeling. In the event of a conflict between labeling requirements and these regulations, the strictest requirement must be followed. The adopted regulation text is available on DPR's website. Some highlights of the new Neonicotinoid Pesticide Exposure Protection regulations include:

- For most crops "bloom" is defined as the period from the onset of flowering until petal fall is complete. In Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties, 3 CCR section 6984(b) specifically defines the citrus bloom period in those counties. Neonicotinoid use on food and feed crops covered by the regulations is prohibited during bloom.

- The food and feed crops are arranged according to the Crop Group tables found in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 180.41(c). While these crop groupings are intended for pesticide residue purposes, growers and Pest Control Advisers (PCAs) should be familiar with the approach because the use sites on many pesticide labels are organized by the crop groupings.

- Certain neonicotinoid applications are exempt from the regulations, including those:
 - o in enclosed spaces or insect exclusionary structures/netting,

- to control a quarantine pest (if the grower obtains a written recommendation), or

- under a FIFRA Section 18 Emergency Exemption.

- Crops normally harvested before bloom (e.g., artichoke, basil, broccoli, celery, garlic, kale, lettuce, spinach) are not subject to the regulations. If they are instead harvested after bloom (e.g., grown for seed), the use of a neonicotinoid is prohibited.

- Crops normally harvested after bloom (e.g., almond, apple, bean, cherry, corn, cucumber, grape, lemon, orange, peach, potato, pumpkin, raspberry, tomato, walnut) have:
 - o Additional use restrictions if multiple neonicotinoid active ingredients or both soil and foliar application methods are used on the crop during the growing season,

- Additional use restrictions if managed pollinators will be used with the crop during the growing season, and

- Additional use restrictions for certain crops.

- There are other crops where DPR was unable to determine the combinations of application rates and timings that are safe or low risk to pollinators (e.g., avocado, date, fig, olive, pomegranate, prickly pear fruit, and coffee and peanuts). For these crops:
 - o Only one neonicotinoid active ingredient is permitted per growing season,

- Only one application method (soil or foliar) is permitted per growing season, and

- If managed

pollinators will be used with the crop, neonicotinoid use is prohibited.

- In some cases, one or more crops within a Crop Group will be exempt from the regulations. These exemptions can be found in the introduction paragraph for the Crop Group. For example, within the Berries and Small Fruits Crop Group mulberries are listed as exempt from the regulations.

Identifying "bloom" and when "petal fall is complete" may pose challenges to growers, Pest Control Advisers, applicators, and enforcement personnel for crops that bloom throughout the growing season (e.g., strawberries), crops that may be indeterminate blooming in certain regions of the State (e.g., lemons), or crops which may have secondary or "rat-tail" blossoms after petal fall (e.g., apples). DPR



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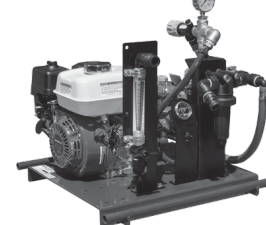
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intended the definition of “bloom” to be a common-sense, straightforward definition that users and enforcement personnel could consistently apply across the many food and feed crops grown in California to provide sufficient protection to pollinators from exposure to neonicotinoids.

CDFA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE BIPOC PRODUCER AND SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Farmer Equity Office announced appointments to the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Producer and Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committees. These committees will help inform and advise CDFA on matters pertaining to the implementation of AB 1348, the Farmer Equity Act, and recommendations contained within the 2020 Farmer Equity Report, including but not limited to all efforts to ensure Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

and Ranchers (SDFRs) and small-scale producers are better served through CDFA’s programs, resources and technical assistance, policies, and communications. “It is crucial for CDFA to hear directly from historically underserved and small-scale farmers to ensure that our programs and services reach all California farmers and ranchers” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “By establishing these committees, we are continuing a commitment to equity and inclusion within California agriculture as we work together to navigate the challenges faced by underserved and small-scale producers.” The BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee consists of six BIPOC agricultural producers, two members of non-profit organization representing primarily BIPOC producers, two members of a university or community college focused on research related to small-scale BIPOC producers, one member representing tribal organizations, and one member of an organization

providing Technical Assistance to BIPOC producers.

BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee Members* 1. Donald Sherman- Former Ad-hoc member, Central Valley 2. Dennis Hutson- Former Ad-hoc member, Central Valley, Hollister 3. Javier Cruz- Former Ad-hoc member, Central Coast 4. Arshdeep Singh- Punjabi American Growers Association, Central Valley 5. Kenneth Sparks II- Urban agriculture producer, Los Angeles 6. Hung Kim Doan- UC Small Farm Advisor, Riverside County 7. Tania Zuniga Moreno- Kitchen Table Advisors, Central Coast 8. Qi Zhou- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts- Equity Lead, Sacramento Valley 9. Minkah Taharkah- California Farmer Justice Collaborative, Central Valley 10. Natalie Solares- Intertribal Ag Council West Coast Technical Assistance Lead, Southern California 11. Mireya Gomez

See Review on page 12




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From Review on page 11

Contreras- Esperanza Community Farms, Central Coast

* Pending confirmation from one additional committee member

The Small-Scale Producer Committee consists of five small-scale agricultural producers, one member representing tribal organizations, one member representing urban agriculture, one member of a non-profit organization representing small-scale producers, one academic member, and one technical assistance provider serving small-scale producers. There was an overwhelming interest from a highly competitive pool of applicants to both committees.

Small Scale Producer Advisory Committee Members 1. Sylvia Lucassians- Producer, Los Angeles 2. Veronica Mazariegos-Anastassiou- Producer, Central Coast 3. Anna Nakamura-Knight- Producer, San Bernadino 4. Beverly McKin-

ney- Producer, Fresno 5. Wendy Kornberg- Producer, Humboldt County 6. Justin Miller- Producer, Placer County 7. Kerry McGrath- UCCE, Sonoma County 8. Lovepreet Kapur- Urban Agriculture producer, Santa Clara County 9. Josefina Lara Chavez- Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Central Coast 10. Patrick Mitchell- Five Keys Schools & Programs, Riverside County

The BIPOC Producer and Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committees will meet on a quarterly basis, four times per calendar year. Meetings will be held in January, April, August, and October. Appointments to both committees are for four-year terms, and initial appointments will be staggered. Members on the committees receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while attending committee meetings. The list of BIPOC Producer and Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee members can also be found on

CDFA's Boards and Commissions webpage: CDFA - Boards & Commissions (ca.gov)

BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee
Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing vacancies on the Standardization Advisory Committee. The committee advises the CDFA secretary on all matters pertaining to the Standardization Program, as well as reviewing proposed regulations and making recommendations concerning assessment rates, fees to provide adequate inspection services and the annual budget.

The committee is composed of individuals who have a financial interest, either personal or through their employment,



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in a commodity represented. Current vacancies include one position representing oranges, other citrus fruits or table grapes; one position representing a fresh fruit commodity group; four positions representing broccoli, tomatoes or lettuce; one position representing a vegetable commodity group; and one position representing a commodity subject to the Standardization Program.

The term of office for committee members is two years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources. Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment should complete the Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ) available [HERE](#) and obtain a letter of recommendation from an industry member. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Applications should be sent to Sarah Cardoni, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via e-mail to Sarah.Cardoni@

cdfa.ca.gov.

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing vacancies on the Shipping Point Inspection Advisory Committee (SPI). SPI advises the CDFA secretary on all matters pertaining to the Shipping Point Inspection Program, which provides third party grading and certification services to the fruit, nut and vegetable industries throughout the state, ensuring that California's specialty crops meet identified quality standards. The program supports agricultural producers, packers, shippers and processors by providing a nationally and internationally recognized grading and certification service.

The committee, with the exception of the public member, is composed of shippers of fruit and vegetables using the inspection certification services of the CDFA. Current vacancies include six member po-

sitions, one public member position, and nine alternate member positions. The public member must be a resident of the State of California and not a producer, shipper or processor nor be financially interested in any producer, shipper or processor. Alternate members are appointed for each member and serve only in the absence of the designated member.

The term of office for committee members is two years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources. Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment should complete the Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ) available [HERE](#) and obtain a letter of recommendation from an industry member. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Applications should be sent to Sarah Cardoni, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via e-mail to Sarah.Cardoni@cdfa.ca.gov.

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TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM NEWS

Tuolumne County Farm Bureau had a great event this past month with its Annual BBQ and Auction. Thank you to all who came out and to the sponsors who helped make the event a true success!

"It was such an impressive event for our little county," shared Terri Arrington, Farm Bureau Board Director. "Every year we get almost 300 people. This year we had a great auction, signed up new members and as always, the dinner was unbelievably good. We are so lucky to have Covers' Apple Crisps and BackCountry Horsemen's dutch oven desserts."

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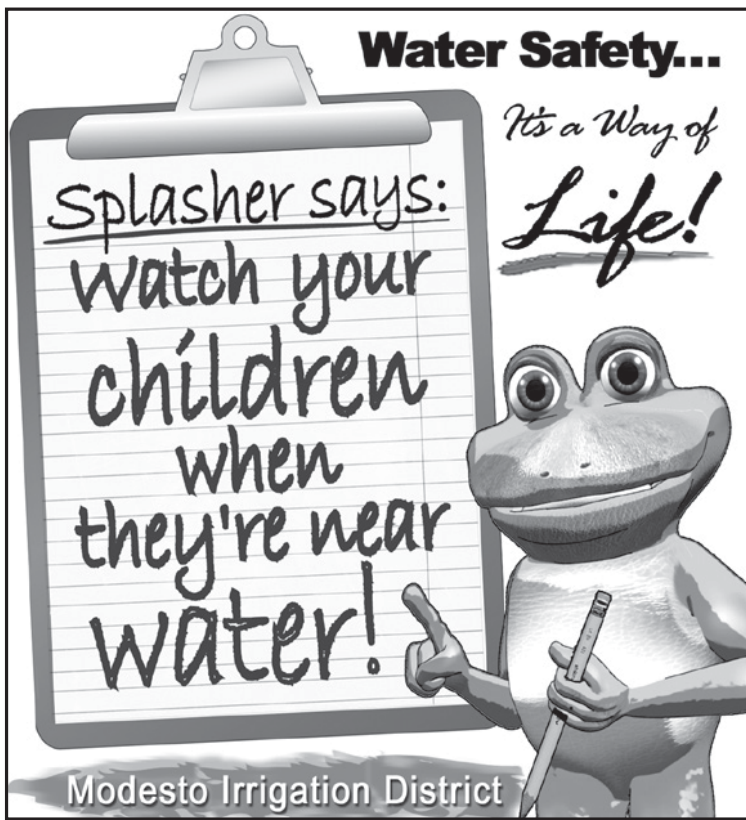
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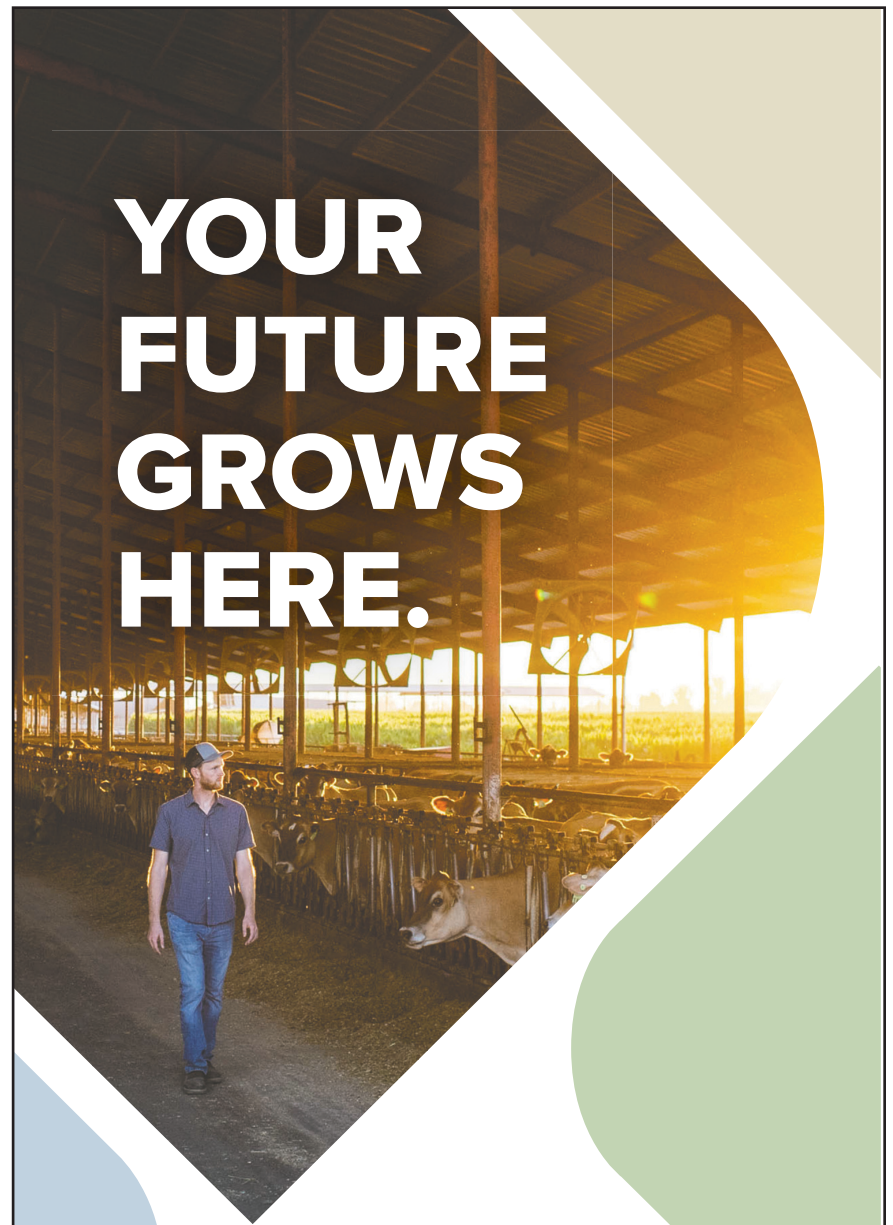


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**From: Jamie Johansson
President, California Farm Bureau**

At my home in Butte County, conversations about wildfires and forest management are never far off during the hot, dry months of summer. Butte County has, unfortunately, been the site of several high-profile and particularly devastating fires in the past decade and we know firsthand the results of inadequate forest management and the escalation that so quickly occurs when a single spark takes hold.

Across California and the West, we continue to press all levels of government on the critical importance of forest management to the long-term sustainability of our local mountain communities and the people and industries that call them home. That's why I was particularly encouraged when the Federal Policy team at CAFB received a call from the staff of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources asking for a Farm Bureau member to share their experiences on this topic and testify at a hearing addressing the subject.

We work hard to build the relationships and credibility that lead to these phone calls and when they come in, we immediately gather as a team to find the best advocate for the subject at hand. In this case, the call went to past Napa County

Farm Bureau President, former YF&R state committee chairman and current CAFB Board member Johnnie White. Johnnie is a sixth generation Napa County farmer, farming over 1,000 acres of Napa Valley vineyards. He and his wife Kendall own a small cattle and forage operation providing grazing for wildfire fuel reduction and direct to consumer beef sales. He is also a twenty-year veteran of the St. Helena Fire Department serving with a rank of Captain.

In testimony given today before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Johnnie White represented California Farm Bureau and shared Farm Bureau's position on these issues as well as his personal experiences. With the St. Helena Fire Department, Johnnie fought the 2017 Tubbs Fire, the 2020 Glass Fire and the LNU Lightning Complex fires. He shared key insights about the need for resources in rural areas as well as the unfortunate consequence of smoke damage even when the land is able to be saved.

Johnnie stated, "Fighting the LNU Lightning Complex fires will always stand out to me as it was immediately clear there were not sufficient resources to adequately fight the fire given the quantity of fires simultaneously burning throughout the state. Because of this, the LNU Lightning Complex fire was fought for several days

by farmers and ranchers using farming equipment with very little to no fire suppression resources. Our operation mobilized eight bulldozers and two water trucks to fight this fire. Because we were located on the most rural and least populated side of the fire, we spent three days fighting the fire on our own before CAL FIRE reached our side of the fire. CAL FIRE subsequently hired us, and our equipment, and we spent the next week working for CAL FIRE ultimately constructing the fire break that stopped the forward progression of this fire. Unfortunately, the smoke from this fire caused 25% of our winegrapes to be rejected and left unharvested."

On behalf of Farm Bureau members statewide, Johnnie testified to the rising cost of insurance and the insurers who have left the market and are now un-willing to provide coverage in areas with wildfire risk. He spoke to the need for additional resources for rural communities, the necessity of removing barriers to improvements, and concluded his remarks by sharing that with the presence of eighteen National Forests in California and significant land ownership from other federal and state entities, California's private landowners are unable to solely increase the pace and scale of forest management. The reality is we are playing catch-up with a situation that has been worsening for decades exacerbated by drought, disease, and even climate change. Collectively and collaboratively, we must remain committed to finding solutions to change fire behavior and achieve fire resilient landscapes for the sake of our natural resources and rural economies.

This firsthand experience and the ability to address key decision makers comes as a result of our grassroots structure at work. Farm Bureau members saying yes to the opportunity to serve their county Farm Bureaus, receive training and depth of perspective in statewide leadership roles and, ultimately, taking the time away from home to share personal testimony of how decisions in Washington DC effect the actual boots on the ground.

Is there an opportunity for you to say yes to Farm Bureau? We certainly hope so because your voice is needed, and one day, your testimony may be the catalyst for the change we've been working for.

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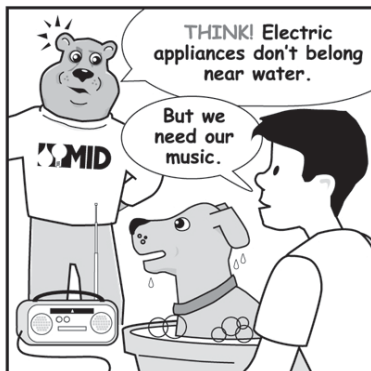


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One of the earliest lessons I learned from my dad was to see value in the

things around me. Whether it be the value of a hard day's work on the farm, the value of contributing to the community or the value of friends and family. When we appreciate what we value most, we gain a better understanding of who we are. At Farm Bureau, I have found countless ways to put my values into action as we work to ensure a bright future for agriculture while also giving back to our communities.

Farm Bureau's member families see value

in service, innovation and hard work to provide a safe and sustainable source of food, fiber and renewable fuel for families both at home and across the globe. We also work to ensure decisions by our elected leaders and others ensure a bright future for agriculture. And we serve our communities in a multitude of ways that range from alleviating hunger to sponsoring local sports teams. Our shared values help showcase who we are and demonstrate how we are better together—not just in Farm Bureau and agriculture but across our communities.

So, how do we help others see that value? Countless organizations are currently at a standstill, struggling to grow membership, often because they cannot articulate how their values translate to stronger communities and improved lives. We can't take our values for granted when they are an important part of growing our membership. Highlighting our values isn't about showing off all the good we are doing but rather explaining the "why" that drives us.

Farm Bureau is well known and respected for our advocacy work to advance smart policies at every level—from county boards to Congress. But that's not all we do. We are helping our members become better leaders – sometimes elected leaders – and more effective liaisons with a public that has little understanding of agriculture and lot of

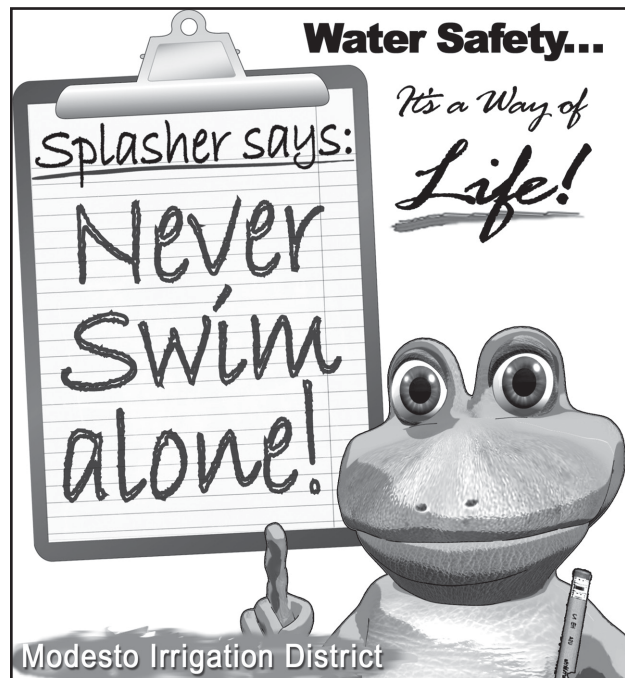
questions. The heartbeat of Farm Bureau is our grassroots members who are committed to identifying how we can best serve and strengthen our communities. They also look out for one another, which is sometimes as simple as helping out on the farm if another member is ill and as intense as jumping into action when natural disasters or severe weather strike with vengeance. Talking about our commitment to strengthening communities and improving lives will naturally draw in new members.

A great example of what can happen when we align our values and work towards something bigger is Harvest for All. Together, our amazing Young Farmers and Ranchers program collaborated with county and state Farm Bureaus across the country to bring over 25 million pounds of food and \$1 million to local food banks in 2022. Recently, this awesome effort was honored with the Power of Associations Summit Award from the American Society of Association Executives. We truly are having an amazing impact when we work together, and we're getting better at communicating about it and the values behind it.

Farm Bureau truly is a family. I say that a lot because I have personally experienced the love and support of this family in good times, and in hard times. We come together, supporting and celebrating one another and working together

to strengthen our farms and rural communities. Talking about the good work we're doing is a simple recipe for attracting new members. The more members we welcome to the family, the more impact we'll be able to have as a force for good.

Zippy Duvall
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Despite summer heat, a cooler season delays winegrape harvest

North Coast vineyards are preparing for a late winegrape harvest after a cold and overcast spring slowed fruit growth in the prized wine region. Local growers say this could be the coolest start to a Napa Valley winegrape season in many years, with harvest by at least three weeks. "I don't think we'll get busy until mid-September," said Jim Pratt, owner of Cornerstone Certified Vineyard in Sonoma County. With a late harvest, growers must manage their grapes through fall months that bring the potential for damaging rains and devastating wildfires.

Farmers get a chance to weigh in on milk pricing at Aug. 23 federal hearing

Nearly five years after joining the federal milk marketing order, California dairy farmers will have a chance later this month to weigh in on proposed changes to how milk should be priced, with potential impacts to their take-home pay. An Aug. 23 hearing was scheduled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture received an initial proposal from the National Milk Producers Federation. The organization contends that the dairy marketplace has changed substantially since the federal milk pricing system saw its last comprehensive revision in 2000.

California lawmakers introduce bill to improve federal disaster aid for farmers

Federal lawmakers from California have introduced legislation to create permanent disaster relief for U.S. farmers who lose crop revenue due to unprecedented climate events, including severe drought, massive wildfires and flooding. The Agricultural Emergency Relief Act was announced last week by U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein and Demo-

cratic Rep. Mike Thompson of Napa and Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa of Richvale. The Act would fortify emergency relief programs and enable Congress to appropriate supplemental disaster funds.

Edward Spang takes over at Mondavi Institute at UC Davis

The acclaimed Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at University of California, Davis, has a new director. Edward "Ned" Spang took over the post Aug. 1, replacing Andrew Waterhouse, who retired in June after five years as director. Spang joined UC Davis 12 years ago as associate director of the Center for Water-Energy Efficiency. He's been a faculty member with the Department of Food Science and Technology since 2015. The Mondavi Institute is home to the university's winemaking, brewing and food science programs.

Delayed planting for processing tomatoes leads to harvest backlog

As California growers harvest this season's processing tomato crop, there is concern that canneries could struggle to keep up with a backlog of fruit deliveries. Heavy rains left tomato fields wet and muddy through spring, disrupting planting of processing tomato transplants, which continued through May. With much of the crop now being harvested at once, growers are worried about risks to fruit that can't be processed right away. Bruce Rominger of the California Tomato Growers Association said some growers may be encouraged to harvest early when tomatoes are a little green.

Klamath farmers hope to finish harvest before water supplies run out

Farmers relying on water supplies from the federal Klamath Water Project say they are trying to finish harvest before their water supply is cut off in the coming

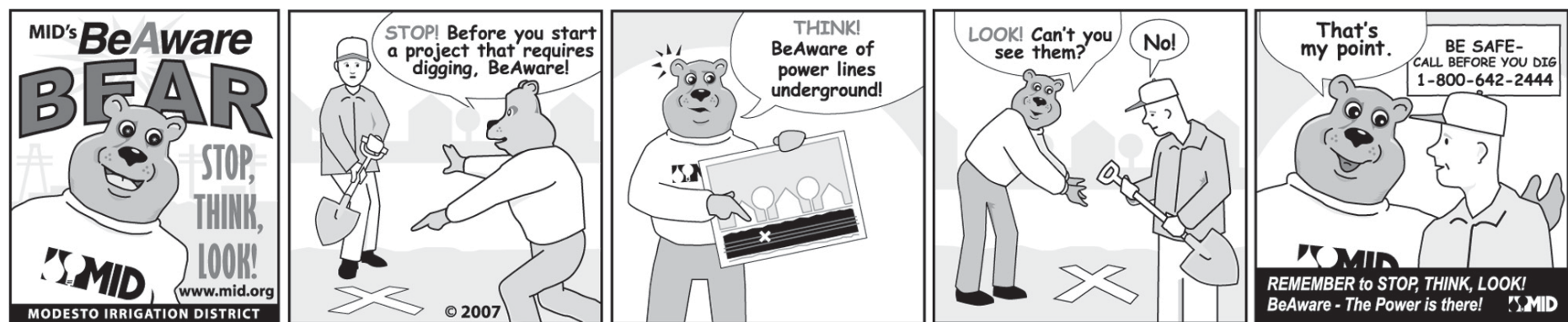
weeks. Scott Seus of Tulelake-based Seus Farms, which grows horseradish, onions, mint and grain, said the growers face water shortages again this season, despite a plentiful water year. That's because the Klamath Water Users Association had expected a water delivery of 285,000 acre-feet this year. Instead, irrigators got an initial allocation of 215,000. Still, that is vastly improved over last year's 50,000 acre-feet supply

Napa Valley winegrape grower testifies before House panel on wildfire dangers

As the 2017 Tubbs Fire was bearing down on his vineyards, sixth-generation Napa Valley winegrape grower Johnnie White battled the blaze with the St. Helena Fire Department. White testified last week before the House Committee on Natural Resources about the consequences of the fires on rural communities, urging proactive steps including increasing removal of wildfire fuels. He told lawmakers that "our industry continues to witness damage and destruction to our livestock, commodities, farms, ranches, wineries, farm homes, employee housing and equipment."

Almond Board announces new members after elections

The Almond Board of California has announced the election of five voting members for the panel that directs global market development for the almond sector. New member Kelli Evans is a co-op grower from Evans Farming in Live Oak. Members re-elected were: Paul Ewing, an independent grower from Los Banos, Alexi Rodriguez, an independent handler with Campos Brothers in Caruthers, Alicia Rockwell, a co-op handler with Blue Diamond Growers in Sacramento, and Darren Rigg, an independent handler from Minturn Nut Co. Inc. in Le Grand.



Managing the risks of switching to a new crop

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

Switching to a new or different crop has its pros and cons. Market prices may be financially lucrative, but you might incur new costs in making a change in what you grow. Don't take the decision lightly and consider how you manage risk if you're thinking of making a change.

"I see shifting weather patterns as an opportunity for producers to diversify their cropping plans and rotations, particularly to crops they traditionally have struggled to fit," according to Nationwide Risk Management Consultant, agronomist and Iowa farmer Derek Hommer. "But there are a lot of questions to answer in finding the right crops from both a risk management and an agronomic standpoint."

Make sure new crop is right fit
If you have a specific crop in mind, start with the basics. Do you have what's need-

ed to make a switch work? "Identifying the biggest potential obstacles out of the gate will help you begin to plan for success," Hommer said.

He recommends answering these other questions to start the process:

- Is there a local market for the new crop?
- Do I have the right acreage, equipment and crop inputs to make the switch?
- Will I generate more revenue with a different crop?
- Do I have the financial capacity to make a switch?
- Will I have adequate labor to raise a different crop?

Consider all the details

Even if you answered "yes" to those initial questions, think more specifically about the details of your own farm. Every farm is different, and every farmer's management strategy is different. Think about things like the infrastructure, equipment and land needed to support a new crop. Do you have what it takes to be successful?

"Once you have a potential plan for success, start down the path of the logistics, equipment, seed and transportation necessary. Do you understand the risks associ-

ated with a crop switch? Do you have the right crop risk management and adequate insurance coverage?" Hommer said. "Think long-term. Will switching my crop rotation change my farm infrastructure needs? Is adapting my current crop storage facility feasible for this new crop?"

Don't neglect risk management
Depending on your location, general crop mix and the new crop you're thinking about adding, there are likely additional specific components of risk management to consider. That's true of both farm-level production variables as well as ones beyond the farm gate, according to Nationwide Farm Produce Director Peter LaMair.

"Make sure you're familiar with any specialty equipment that a new crop may require. Think beyond your operation and make sure you understand any potential regulations," LaMair said. "Also think about any contractual liability concerns if you begin growing a crop that requires contract harvesters or haulers."

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Testimony urges House action on wildfire dangers

Source: *AgAlert*
By *Caleb Hampton*

When the 2017 Tubbs Fire beared down on his vineyards, sixth-generation Napa Valley winegrape grower Johnnie White battled the blaze with the St. Helena Fire Department.

In addition to growing winegrapes and raising cattle that provide grazing for wildfire fuel reduction, White is a 20-year veteran of the fire department. As a farmer and firefighter, he saw up close the devastation the Tubbs Fire and other fires have caused to the North Coast wine region's communities and agricultural properties.

White testified last week before the House Committee on Natural Resources at an oversight hearing held in Yosemite National Park to discuss wildfires and forest health. He spoke about the consequences of the fires on rural communities and outlined steps that can be taken to minimize risks in the future.

"Wildfires greatly impact California's \$50 billion agriculture industry," White said in his committee testimony. "In addition to being a significant public safety threat, our industry continues to witness damage and destruction to our livestock, commodities, farms, ranches, wineries, farm homes, employee housing and equipment."

Alongside White, witnesses at the Yosemite hearing, titled "Conservation in a Crown Jewel," included Butte County rancher Dave Daley of the California Cattlemen's Association as well as other stakeholders, experts and elected officials.

"It is up to us to correct the mistakes we have made and begin anew to conserve our nation's bountiful lands and resources by striking the right balance among corrective actions, our current needs and our obligations to future generations," Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman, R-AR, said in an opening statement.

For many people impacted by wildfires, White testified, the challenges do not end when the flames are extinguished.

"Frequent wildfire has also created many residual impacts for California's farmers and ranchers," he said. For farmers such as White who live or work in areas impacted by wildfires, an inability to access property insurance has compounded the challenges they already faced.

"Many farm and ranch insurance policies have been terminated due to wildfire risk," White said. "While a few policies have been retained, they come with much higher premiums."

After one wildfire, a California farmer reported their insurance premium increased from \$8,000 to \$36,000, White said in a statement prepared for the hearing.

The inability to insure agricultural properties has especially impacted farmers in Southern California and in Napa, Sonoma, El Dorado, Calaveras, Placer, Nevada, Shasta, Trinity, Mendocino, San Benito, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties.

For some farmers, the lack of affordable insurance can make running a business no longer viable. To continue farming and providing food for people across the country, "farmers and ranchers need insurance options," White said.

The California Farm Bureau worked to get state legislation passed to improve insurance options for farmers excluded from the private insurance sector due to wildfire risk.

However, long-term solutions are needed, White said, after "recent announcements by insurance companies halting coverage in California due to rapid growth of cata-

strophic exposure" to wildfires.

Earlier this year, State Farm and Allstate announced they had stopped accepting new applications for home insurance in California, with State Farm alone accounting for roughly 20% of current homeowners' insurance policies.

White, who serves on the board of the Farm Bureau, testified that "while only a few companies have made public announcements," the organization is aware of at least 22 companies that are no longer writing insurance policies in the state.

White also testified about the challenges California farmers have faced as a result of smoke and ash.

"Fires have covered California's premier wine-, fruit- and vegetable-producing regions in extended blankets of smoke and ash resulting in severe smoke taint to winegrapes and ash contamination to fruits and vegetables," he said. "In 2020, following the Glass Fire and LNU



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Lightening Complex Fire, over 25% of my operation's winegrapes were rejected and left unharvested due to smoke taint."

To address wildfire risks, White urged the federal government, which manages 18 National Forests in California, to consider multiple solutions.

He encouraged Congress to create an exemption from Environmental Protection Agency regulations that would enable greater use of prescribed burns to reduce wildfire fuels in overstocked forests.

White also advised the government to promote partnerships to assist the U.S. Forest Service in removing vegetation. Those partnerships, he said, should involve private industry, trained foresters and ranchers. The government, he added, should recognize and use livestock grazing as a forest management tool.

"Farmers and ranchers have a vested interest in the quality and quantity of forest management activities," he said. "However, with nearly half of the hundred million acres in California managed by the federal government, private landowners

are unable to slowly increase the pace and scale of forest management."

The Napa Valley farmer also spoke about the need to use the 2023 Farm Bill to incentivize private businesses to remove wildfire fuels, which include low-value wood materials that can be expensive to transport out of forests and bring to market. There is also a need, he said, to develop markets for these materials.

White also advised the House committee that reducing wildfire fuels in forests would be aided by expanding the amount of acreage that is eligible for hazardous fuels reduction and insect and disease treatment.

"The reality is we are playing catch-up with a situation that has been worsening for decades exacerbated by drought, disease and even climate change," he said in a statement prepared for the hearing. "Collectively and collaboratively, we must remain committed to finding solutions to change fire behavior and achieve fire-resilient landscapes for the sake of our natural resources and rural economies."

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Location: Online Webinar

Session Highlights:

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- 📁 **Impact on You and Your Workforce:** The changes to the I-9 form ripple through your organization, affecting both your processes and your workforce. Our webinar goes beyond the surface, exploring how these changes directly impact you, your team, and your valued employees.
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