

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture

STANISLAUS COUNTY



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



Official Publication of Stanislaus
County Farm Bureau
Vol.75 No.20 December 13, 2024

Wishing you a Wonderful Holiday

Published Fridays by the
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

PHONE (209) 522-7278

FAX (209) 521-9938

email: farmnews@stanfarmbureau.org

advertising@stanfarmbureau.org

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

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

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

Staff

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

NORTHWEST:

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

NORTHEAST:

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

EASTSIDE:

Jeff Daniels602-0628
Alex VanderStoel775-217-1942
David Absher531-4915
Tim Roos209-499-6722
Randy Weststeyn499-9775

SOUTHERN:

Adam Crowell610-6306
Tim Sanders606-3739
Ray Souza678-1871
Trevor Cordova402-3203
Arby Hoobayr505-0555
Darrell Cordova765-6298

WESTSIDE:

Matt Maring602-1390
Jessica Filippini648-8236
Bill Cox404-8897
Rob Brooks765-2628
Jerry Goubert531-3790

YF&R:

Miranda Blagg202-4898

AT LARGE:

Ron Peterson606-8021

CFBF DISTRICT 13 REP.:

Jake Wenger484-9343



FELS.
Farm Employers Labor Service
California Farm Bureau



Upcoming Webinar

2025 Regulatory Updates

January 23, 2025

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Presented by FELS

Free Webinar!

Topics Include:

- Indoor Heat Illness
- Workplace Violence
- Autonomous Tractors
- Overtime
- Minimum Wage

Scan to RSVP:



Brought to you by Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Farm Bureau

RSVP here: <https://stanfarmbureau.org/events/>

SCFB MISSION STATEMENT

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

Mobile Food Pantry

By Vicky Boyd

If low-income Stanislaus County residents can't make it to the food pantry, then the Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus will come to them.

Slightly more than a year old, the Mobile Food Pantry program evolved from Inter-Faith Ministries of Greater Modesto's long-time food closet and warehouse off of Yosemite Avenue in Modesto, said FIGS Operations Manager Naomi Pulido. By going into different communities, the mobile effort is designed to better serve food deserts within the county. About the same time, the 40-year-old non-profit Inter-Faith Ministries also changed its name to the Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus, or FIGS, and the



warehouse relocated to 650 Janopaul Lane.

"One of the things that I and (CEO) Elizabeth Wight noticed when we had our building and people were coming to get food is families would be so grateful. But they were having difficulty being able to take all of the food that we gave them," Pulido said of their old Kerr Avenue location. Some clients,

for example, had problems transporting the food home on the bus.

By taking the food pantry on the road to more than 20 sites around the county, she said they're also reaching significantly more people than they were when they just distributed from the warehouse.

"I noticed that people actually like this better," Pulido said. "Before, we'd see a lot of the same clients because we were in the same locations whereas now, we're going into different communities within Stanislaus. We're seeing a lot of new clients."

In addition to the Mobile Food Pantry, FIGS delivers at least a five-day's supply of staples and produce to about 100 homebound, ambulatory seniors or otherwise disabled individuals monthly.

FIGS also provides about 32,000 pounds of food to 33 other organizations each month through the Food Coalition. They include churches, congregations, schools or other organizations with a tax-exempt status. But the food initiative's reach goes beyond just edible staples.

The Interfaith Mobile Clothes Closet provides up to 20 clothing items, as well as personal hygiene items, monthly for each household member present. With clothing arranged on rolling racks by gender and sizes, the experience is much like shopping in a department store. It serves more than 200 families each month.

On the road

As part of the evolution, the Mobile Food Pantry program has changed the distribution system to be more like a farmers market that also offers meat, dairy and non-perishables. Before, workers would prepare bags or boxes of food that typically were all the same.

Now, they have produce stands and tables displaying offerings set in a U shape that allow recipients to "shop" for their food.

FIGS also prides itself on being one of the only "healthy food pantries" in the county, Pulido

See FOOD on page 4

License# 276660



I.J. Larsen Pumps, Inc.

MODESTO (209)529-2020 HILMAR (209)634-7276



Agricultural
Residential
Industrial
Commercial



10% Discount for Farm Bureau members

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

From FOOD on page 3

said. Outside of snacks, it only distributes foods that are low in sugar, fat and sodium. That means items such as ramen noodles or sweetened cold cereals aren't included in the pantry. But they aren't wasted and are shared with other food pantries.

As clients enter the mobile pantry, a FIGS worker creates an account for them on a tablet that includes a form of identification and self-attestation of income. One of the few requisites is they be Stanislaus County residents. Repeat clients just check in and if it's been about a month since their last visit, they can proceed.

"We set up the tables so they come through and they see what's available," Pulido said. "If they don't want to get (canned) green beans, for example, they're not obligated to do that. They can pick what they want and get what they're going to use and only take what they need."

Each month, FIGS provides recipients with enough food for at least three to five days. All told, the Mobile Food Pantry distributes about 110,000 pounds of food to more than 4,000 Stanislaus County residents monthly.

And FIGS' monthly food figures don't include additional items recipients receive through U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity programs. On a recent visit to the FIGS warehouse, they included cheese, walnut pieces and dried cranberries.

Should clients need food before the next month, Pulido refers them to other area food pantries.

"There's a huge need, especially right now during a time when food is expensive," she said. "I'm constantly getting calls about where else they can go besides us."

Much of the food FIGS distributes is donated by individuals and companies or through non-profit large-scale food programs. While the initiative receives grants to purchase additional food, Pulido said they also rely on individual and corporate donations to help augment programs or cover expenses, such as truck repairs, the grants don't cover.

It takes a village

To carry out its mission, Pulido said FIGS has a skeleton crew of employees as well as a host of volunteers, and participants from Welfare to Work Program, the county's alternative work program and the court-ordered community service program.

Mondays are spent preparing for the week. Early most mornings from Tuesday through Friday and occasionally Saturday, warehouse crews pull perishables from the walk-in cooler. Along with pallets or cartons of non-perishable items, they load the truck with everything for the mobile pantry.

Some days they'll only have one mobile pantry. Other days, they may have two. Times also vary, with some in the morning and some in the afternoon or early evening. There also is one each month on Saturday.

Pulido said they continue to tweak the schedule as some stops draw small numbers while others draw large ones that consist of up to 75 clients. Often times, the truck returns empty or close to empty.

FIGS posts the mobile pantry schedule on its website, <https://foodinitiative.org/>, and social media outlets. For those who don't feel comfortable using a computer or smartphone or don't have access to one, they also



ROSS W. LEE, INC
A Professional Law Corporation

*Serving the business law
needs of agricultural
clients since 1992*



MS GW ATWOOD DESIRE

Ross W. Lee
Attorney at Law

611 Thirteenth Street Modesto, CA 95354
p. (209) 521-9190 | f. (209) 521-9192

Rlee@LeemodLaw.com
<https://leemodlaw.com>



FIGS Operations Manager Naomi Pulido pulls the mobile produce displays from the walk-in cooler in preparation for loading for transport to one of the mobile food pantries.

print up a few schedules. The one drawback to those is if things change, Pulido said they end up writing in revisions.

A focus on produce



Having grown up around pantries with her mom visiting them, Pulido said produce was an uncommon sight. At FIGS, she's been working to expand fruit and vegetable offerings. Trader Joe's frequently donates perishables, and the food initiative occasionally receives produce donations from Ratto Brothers near Modesto.

Pulido also relies on gleanings, where a group goes into a field or orchard after commercial harvest to pick left-over produce that may not have made grade but is still fine to eat. For the past five years, she has worked closely with Central Catholic, which requires its seniors to have at least three hours of gleanings to graduate.

She pointed to Del Mar Farms, which has allowed gleanings in its cantaloupe fields. Not only that, the operation near Patterson educates the students about what goes into producing the crop.

"I like this program because of that," Pulido said.

Recently, a different gleanings resulted in persimmons, both the flat Fuyu and the pointy Hachiya varieties. Many of the food pantry clients weren't familiar with them and asked how to prepare them.

"This not only gets people familiar with different produce, but it gets people to try new things," Pulido said. "It opens their palette to test new things."

FIGS also receives grants to purchase food such as the pallet of Cheerios from a warehouse store that provides an unsweetened breakfast item.

In addition, they purchase fruits and vegetables from a nearby produce distributor, but Pulido said she'd prefer buying from local producers to support local farmers.



Mahindra

MASSEY FERGUSON

ROXOR

Weiss McNair
NUT HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

J.M. EQUIPMENT
Co. Inc.

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

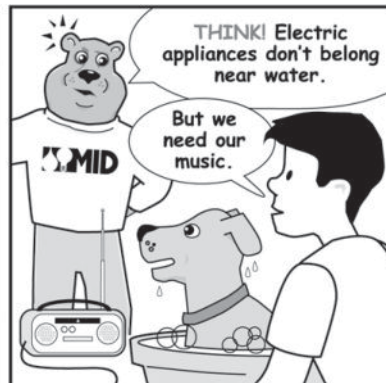
ALSO HANDLES

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

"I'd love to partner up with a lot more farmers," she said. "I'd love to do more gleanings with more farmers. Even if they didn't want us to glean, just having more donations helps us stretch our dollars."

Contact Pulido at naomi@foodinitiative.org or 209-572-3117, ext. 102.

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



FREE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

Classified Ad's \$4.40 per run.

COPY DEADLINE: MONDAY 12 NOON

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

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

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

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

500 FARM EQUIPMENT**For Sale:**

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

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

For Sale:

John Deere 5100ML low profile with Exact cab
Vrisimo flail mower - 12' & 8'
PBM 500 gallon sprayer with electric valves (never used)

Durand Wyoming 500 gallon sprayer
Domries float leveler - 12'

Call Joe: 209-404-3326

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

Verisimo Might Max fail mower. Model # SC-100 asking \$5000

Orchard float roller 9ft wide asking \$1000
Text or leave a VM
209-505-1731

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

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

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

510 LIVESTOCK

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

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

800 For Rent

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

1000 SERVICES

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

Martin Reyes

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

Noeller Farm

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

Need help with your Farm Labor?

Call Lencioni Farm Services
209-537-2186

Rene's mobile notary
Notary Public
Certified loan signing agent

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

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

1000 SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1100 MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

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

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

ROOFING • FENCING • PLYWOOD • SIDING

Let's Build Together
Since 1953

Denair Location: (209) 632-2494

Riverbank Location: (209) 869-4424

www.DenairLumberCo.com

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

Neto's
Catering
Commitment to Excellence

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

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

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

VAN DE POL
1947 - 2022
ANNIVERSARY
75TH

VAN DE POL
FUELS & LUBRICANTS

Celebrating 75 years of serving the San Joaquin Valley!

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

Performance delivered.

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

Sharing Your Story from Inside Your Fencerows

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

Over the years, I have shared how my dad encouraged me to get outside my fencerows to make a difference on my family farm and beyond. That's been a guiding principle for me as I think about how I can continue to share my farm's story and yours with folks who do not have much—if any—experience with agriculture. Often, sharing our story and getting outside our fencerows means leaving the farm to meet with people where they are—from the market down the road to the local chamber of commerce to your state capital all the way to the White House. Sometimes, getting “outside your fencerows” actually means staying on your farm and inviting the pub-

lic and policymakers to see firsthand how farmers care for our land and animals.

America's farmers and ranchers have such a great story to share, and it's critical for the public to better understand what goes into growing the food, fiber and renewable fuel that drives our nation. Our research shows that the public trusts farmers, but we should never take that trust for granted. We need to be actively building on that trust by reaching out and inviting folks to see what modern agriculture looks like. And that kind of engagement yields even greater trust. Our research shows that trust increases by 20% for adults who have some level of personal experience with a farmer or rancher. What's more, those who have had an opportunity to engage with or meet a farmer, are much more likely to have a positive perception about farming, including how farmers care for their animals and

the environment.

What does it look like to bring the public inside your fencerows? Perhaps you can host a school group or another community focused event on your farm, like a farm-to-table dinner. You can also extend a personal invitation to local leaders to visit your farm to help them see how vital agriculture is to our communities and our country.

I also believe it's important for me to practice what I preach. So recently, I had the pleasure of hosting the acting director of EPA's Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ms. Venus Welch White, on my family farm. She stopped by on a trip through the area to see firsthand how we have restored the land on my family's farm.

While it would have been much easier to

See Fencerows on page 18

FLORY

LEADERS IN NUT HARVESTING EQUIPMENT



34 Series Sweeper



860 PTO Harvester



SINCE 1936



8770 Self Propelled Nut Harvester



ST14 Shuttle Truck

For the finest in Agriculture Equipment and Metal Fabrication

See all our products at goflory.com

209-545-1167 Salida, CA

RAYCO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1969

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

Sales and Service

California Contractors License 708487

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

Modesto (209) 529-8984

512 RIVER ROAD

Turlock (209) 632-2315

712 LANDER AVENUE



RUMBLE

ORCHARD SERVICES

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

Skirting

**Dual Mechanical
 Brush Stacking**

**Almond/Walnut
 Conditioning**

**Orchard
 Management**



Phil Rumble:
 (209) 996-1517

Matt Rumble:
 (209) 996-8161



Douglass honors Farm Bureau successes
 California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass celebrated the organization's accomplishments this year in an address delivered Monday at the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey. Douglass, speaking in her first annual address since being elected last year to lead the Farm Bureau, focused on local achievements and on the organization's strength in unity. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus," Douglass said. "Thank you for showing us what's possible when we put our mind to something."

Young farmers and ranchers urged to engage, be involved
 Young farmers and ranchers from across the state gathered at the 2024 California Young Farmers & Ranchers State Conference, where they reaffirmed the importance of collaboration within their communities to boost involvement and address key issues essential to the future of agriculture. The event brought together California YF&R members—farmers, ranchers and agricultural professionals ages 18 to 35—for workshops on critical issues, strategies to strengthen YF&R programs and celebrations of member achievements.

Madera County farm dog wins Farm Bureau contest
 Aussie, a hardworking pooch in Madera County, won the Grand Prize in the California Farm Bureau's fourth annual Farm Dog of the Year contest. With support from Nationwide and FieldClock, the contest asked Farm Bureau members to submit photos and a brief story about their beloved family member. The Grand Prize winner earned \$1,000, with First Runner-up receiving \$500, Second Runner-up, \$250 and Third Runner-up, \$100. "Aussie is our family's special dog," said Kaydence Erickson, 15. "There has been no other dog like her that we have ever owned."

UC Master Gardener's 'labor of love' improves health of older adults
 The Belden Village Apartments in Clairemont Mesa East of San Diego is home to a

diverse population of older adults. Shital Parikh, a UC Master Gardener of San Diego County, took the initiative to build a garden that grows food and encourages residents to spend more time outdoors, getting their hands dirty alongside neighbors. "The Belden Community Garden is a labor of love," Parikh said. "One that has been made possible thanks to the knowledge and support gained from the UC Master Gardener Program and the invaluable support from Amy Zink from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency."

Farm groups work to expand outreach on groundwater law
 As implementation of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ramped up during the past couple years, farmers who learned





RAKE SWEEPER TINES



COIT AND HEWES, LLC
PREMIUM QUALITY HARVEST SUPPLIES

719 E Grayson Rd
 Modesto, CA
 95358



SHAKER PAD OVAL AND ROUND



209 531 9891
 M-F 8-4PM

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



HARVESTER PICKUP BELTS



SWEEPER PADDLES



SWEEPER BEARINGS



SHAKER SLING PADS

WHOLESALE TIRES & WHEELS

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

Open 6 Days a Week—Monday-Saturday



NEW/USED/RECAP TIRES



24 Hours Road Service
(209) 668-1073

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

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

late about the far-reaching law have encountered additional challenges. In 2017, Madera County farmer Makhan Singh borrowed money to purchase farmland and plant almond trees, long-term investments he may be unable to recoup due to the law's restrictions on groundwater pumping. As groundwater management tightens under SGMA in the coming years, some groups are expanding their efforts to educate farmers about the law.

Farmers need plan to keep employees safe from avian flu

To protect employees who work with dairy

cows and poultry from H5N1 bird flu, farmers should have a basic plan in place, even if their animals are not infected. Such advice and other guidelines were shared during a webinar last month hosted by the California Farm Bureau-affiliated Farm Employers Labor Service, or FELS. As of Dec. 2, 31 human cases of H5N1 bird flu had been confirmed in California, according to the California Department of Public Health. All but one have been Central Valley dairy workers who had direct contact with infected cattle. The workers have all experienced mild symptoms, primarily eye infections, with no hospitalizations.

tery. "These are indeed challenging times for farmers and ranchers in California, yet it's in moments like these that the importance of celebrating our accomplishments shines even brighter," Douglass said. "With Annual Meeting just days after Thanksgiving, it's a perfect time to pause and count our blessings—not just as individuals, but as part of this amazing organization we call Farm Bureau."

Farm income declines in 2024 amid challenges for producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm income forecast for 2024 revealed a difficult year for the nation's agricultural producers. USDA projected net farm income at \$140.7 billion for 2024, down \$6 billion from 2023 and \$41.2 billion from \$181.9 billion in 2022 when net farm income reached its peak. "USDA's December report underscores the volatility of the U.S. farm economy as farmers face their second consecutive year of declining income," the American Farm Bureau Federation said in an analysis of the forecast. "Crop producers, in particular, face dramatic declines in cash receipts, with little hope for immediate relief as global supply chain disruptions continue and prices for key commodities remain depressed."

Farm Bureau celebrates success as organization prepares for 106th annual meeting
California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass reflected on the organization's successes this year as it prepares to hold its annual meeting Dec. 7-10 in Mon-



PBM Supply & MFG., INC.

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

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

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



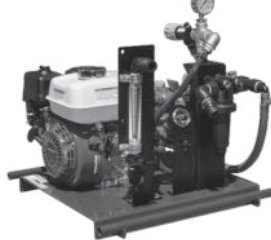
HAV Self-Propelled Sprayers



Chemical Mixing Trailers



Walking Beam Sprayers



Injection Plates



UTV Sprayers



Parts, Accessories, Repair Kits & More



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



Christmas in the Central Valley: Celebrating the Season and Sharing Joy Through Digital Marketing

By Kathryn Kim Ramos, Sisbro Innovation Website and Digital Marketing Consultant

The Central Valley comes alive during the Christmas season, as communities gather to celebrate traditions, share the spirit of giving, and enjoy the magic of the holidays. From festive light displays and holiday markets to warm family gatherings and community events, there's no shortage of ways to embrace the Christmas spirit. In recent years, digital marketing has become an exciting and creative way for businesses, organizations, and families to share holiday cheer with the community, bringing people together in new and meaningful ways.

A Central Valley Christmas Tradition

Christmas in the Central Valley is steeped in rich traditions that bring neighbors and families together. Local towns and cities like Modesto, Fresno, and Turlock host annual tree lighting ceremonies, parades, and winter festivals. Farms and orchards transform into festive wonderlands, offering holiday-themed events such as Christmas tree farms, hayrides, and even visits with Santa. For many, these events are cherished family traditions that celebrate the unique charm of the Valley.

Holiday markets, brimming with local crafts, baked goods, and handmade gifts, highlight the creativity and talent within the community. Residents and visitors alike flock to these events to find one-of-a-kind treasures while supporting local artisans and businesses.

Spreading Cheer Through Digital Marketing

Digital marketing has revolutionized how the Central Valley shares the joy of Christmas. Local businesses, event organizers, and even families have taken to platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to showcase the season's festivities. Whether it's promoting holiday events, offering seasonal deals, or simply spreading goodwill,

digital tools provide endless opportunities to connect with the community.

For local businesses, digital marketing is a way to shine during the holiday rush. Restaurants share photos of cozy holiday meals, bakeries post mouthwatering images of seasonal treats, and retailers highlight unique gift ideas. These posts are not just promotions, they're invitations to experience the warmth and charm of the season. Community organizations also leverage digital marketing to create buzz for events like holiday fundraisers and toy drives. Through online campaigns, they can reach a broader audience, inspiring more people to participate and give back during the season of generosity.

Even individuals and families are joining in on the digital fun. Social media has become a platform to share Christmas light displays, cozy holiday recipes, and heartwarming stories of kindness and giving. Hashtags like #CentralValleyChristmas and #HolidayCheer keep the community connected, creating a virtual celebration that everyone can enjoy.

The Magic of Connection

The true magic of Christmas lies in connection—whether it's gathering with loved ones, sharing a meal, or simply enjoying the sparkle of lights on a cold winter's night. Digital marketing amplifies this connection, allowing businesses, organizations, and individuals to share their holiday joy with the entire

community.

As the Central Valley continues to embrace both tradition and innovation, digital marketing ensures that the spirit of Christmas reaches every corner of the region, uniting us all in celebration.

From our family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments, and may the year ahead bring you happiness and prosperity.

Enhance your company's online presence with expert support from Sisbro Innovation! Whether you need a brand-new website, updates to an existing one, assistance with Online Reputation Management, or a virtual assistant for social media posting or phone support, we're here to help.

Visit us online at www.sisbroinnovation.com, or contact us directly at (800) 291-9102. For a more personalized approach, call Kathryn Ramos at (719) 237-9155 to schedule your FREE consultation today!



**PACIFIC
SOUTH WEST IRRIGATION**

SALES • RENTAL • PUMP SERVICES

BALICO	STOCKTON	DIXON	HOLT	CROWS LANDING
209-634-5072	209-460-0450	707-678-4277	209-921-6011	209-837-4669



pacsouthwestirr.com

YOUR FUTURE GROWS HERE.



COMMITTED TO SERVING YOUR NEEDS.

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

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




American
AgCredit

Your future grows here

Visit agloan.com/growyourfuture



SCAN ME

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

STANISLAUS COUNTY



FARM BUREAU



Working Locally and Globally to Bring You the Best Returns

Proudly Growing, Processing, & Shipping
Inshell • Shelled • Manufactured

Hughson Nut Inc.

P.O. Box 1150

1825 Verduga Road,
Hughson, Ca 95326

11173 Mercedes Avenue,

Livingston, Ca 95334

209-883-0403 ext. 272

www.hughsonnut.com
www.olamgroup.com





SISBRO INNOVATION
DIGITAL CONSULTANT
HELPING LOCAL BUSINESSES CONNECT WITH LOCAL FAMILIES

Building Better Digital Solutions For Your Agricultural Business

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

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

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



Digital Marketing



AGRICULTURE



ESTATE PLANNING



CLIENT ACCOUNTING



Reap the benefits of expert ag accounting season after season.

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



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

HOLIDAY FUN AT HILMAR CHEESE VISITOR CENTER

Hilmar, Calif. November 27, 2024. The Hilmar Cheese Visitor Center offers fun tours and activities throughout the holiday vacation time. Starting December 23 through January 3 the popular ice cream making tour and AgXscape game will be offered Monday through Saturday, except Christmas and New Year's days.

The tour and ice cream making activity is at 11:00 am. Reserve your spot to "Shake, rattle and roll" with this hands-on activity to freeze (and then eat!) a fun-sized bag of ice cream. Guests watch the cheesy MOOvie,

explore the exhibits, can watch employees package a 640 pound block of cheese, truly the "big cheese."

The AgXscape Game is offered at 12:30 pm. AgXscape challenges "secret agent" teams of 2-4 adults or up to 6 with children to progress through a series of simulated dairy farm challenges to unlock the secret answer. It is a fun game style, not in an immersive escape room experience, perfect for beginners and those experienced escapers wanting a different type of challenge.

To reserve for the popular activities, go to www.hilmar.com/tours.

full of holiday decor and now offers cheese gift boxes for friends, family, customers and clients.

The gift boxes feature one-pound blocks of Hilmar cheese and local Central Valley products. The gifts range from \$32.95 to \$89.95.

Gift boxes are available for easy in-store pick-up, delivery and can be ordered online at www.shop.hilmarcheese.com.

Cheese gift boxes are also an easy corporate gift option. Bulk order discounts are available with the purchase of any variety of gifts of 50 or more. For bulk orders, the

visitor center team coordinates in-store pick-up and will load the gifts into your vehicle. Gifts of 25 or more (any combination) can be delivered to one specific location on a date and time convenient for you, like the morning of your employee party. To place bulk

orders e-mail hccorders@hilmarcheese.com or call 209.656.1167.

The Visitor Center is open Monday - Friday 7 am – 6 pm. Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm. The Hilmar Cheese Company Visitor Center is located at 9001 Lander Ave. in Hilmar, CA.

Follow @hilmarcheese on Instagram and / hilmarcheesevisitorcenter on Facebook for specials, updates, merchandise offerings and more!

Media Contact: Denise Skidmore, Director, Education & Public Relations
209.656.1197
dskidmore@hilmarcheese.com



The café is open with delicious grilled cheese sandwiches, cheese chowder soup, cream cheese brownies and Hilmar's famous cheese pies. Whole or original and turtle cheese pies are available to pre-order for your holiday gatherings.

The Visitor Center gift shop is

MAKE LONG-LASTING MEMORIES

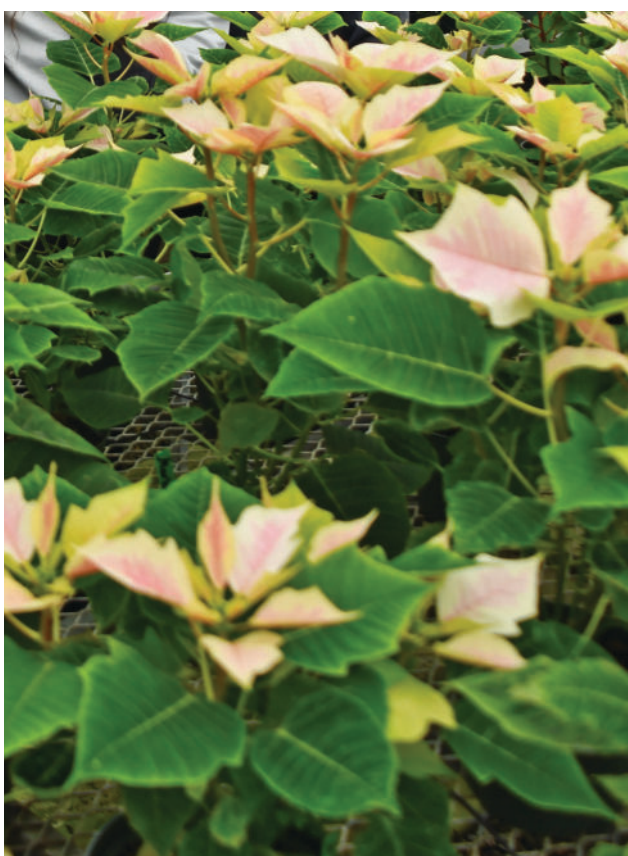


As the Seasons Change

By Heather Lang

As an outdoor enthusiast with a degree in horticulture, I am sad to admit that I'm not one of those plant ladies whose homes look like magazine covers, adorned with vibrant, flourishing plants. Over the years, I've had plants here and there, but never for extended periods. However, this time feels different.

Last holiday season, I received a stunning, full, red Poinsettia as a gift. Initially, I made it a point to water it regularly and provide it with ample light. With my horticulture background and experience caring for Poinsettias in a greenhouse, I know what they need. Yet, the plant has been moved around my kitchen and living room, often neglected in a corner without direct sunlight for weeks at a time. I water it weekly, but that's about all the attention I can manage during those busy periods. Then, as my mood shifts or the seasons change, I suddenly find the time to care for it. I relocate it to a sunlit spot for a couple of weeks, prune the dead leaves, and shower it with love.



I've often considered repotting it into a larger home, but I never expected that this same plant would still be thriving in my house today. I'm thrilled to announce that I'm nearing a year of being a plant mom!

Relationships mirror the care of a plant in that the attention I'm willing to give—whether to my plants or relationships—varies with my mood or the current “season of life.” Above our door hangs a sign that says, “I interrupt this marriage for farming season.” This rings true in our home. During certain times, my kids and I may go extended periods without deep connections or conversations with my husband. We experi-

ence days where we merely pass each other, and that becomes our only interaction. This isn't due to a lack of love or anger; it's simply our way of navigating life, one day at a time.

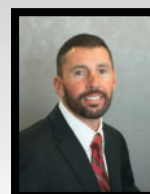
We envision a future where our family farm flourishes sustainably, using innovative agricultural methods that protect the environment and boost productivity. We hope it becomes a treasured resource for the local community, offering fresh local goods while supporting local economies. Our dream is for it to become a well-known staple, a place where people feel familiar and can trust us.

When the kids were little, I made it a priority to take them to the fields each night

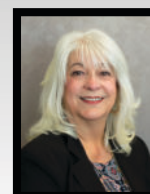


RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic. 0499798

“Proudly celebrating over 55 years of excellence in our industry”



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



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



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



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



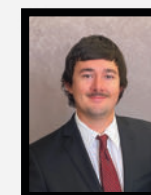
LESLIE MACHADO
(209) 856-8814
lmachado@rppins.com



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



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



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

Call us today for a personalized Insurance Consultation!

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



to ride in the tractor with their dad, share dinner in the fields, and just enjoy being together. As they've grown into young adults with their own responsibilities on the farm, our interactions have shifted to texting, working side by side in the fields, caring for the animals at all hours, or stealing quick kisses as we rush in opposite directions. During these exhausting seasons, love is the feeling, and teamwork is essential—all for the love of the farm.

For my children, I envision a future filled with opportunities to chase their passions and talents, whether they continue in farming or explore other paths. I hope they grow to appreciate hard work, resilience, and respect for nature. It's our desire for

them to become compassionate, informed individuals who make positive contributions to society, carrying forward the values and knowledge passed down through generations. I want them to recognize their worth, value relationships, and know that we will always support them, no matter their choices.

As I nurture my Poinsettia and other green companions, I'm constantly reminded of the growth happening within our family. There's beauty in balancing the care of both our plants and relationships, allowing them to thrive with attention, patience and understanding.

Embracing the changing seasons, both in

nature and in life, we remain grounded in the understanding that, like the Poinsettia, we can bloom beautifully with the right amount of love and care. And, the cycle continues, with each chapter presenting new challenges and opportunities to grow together.

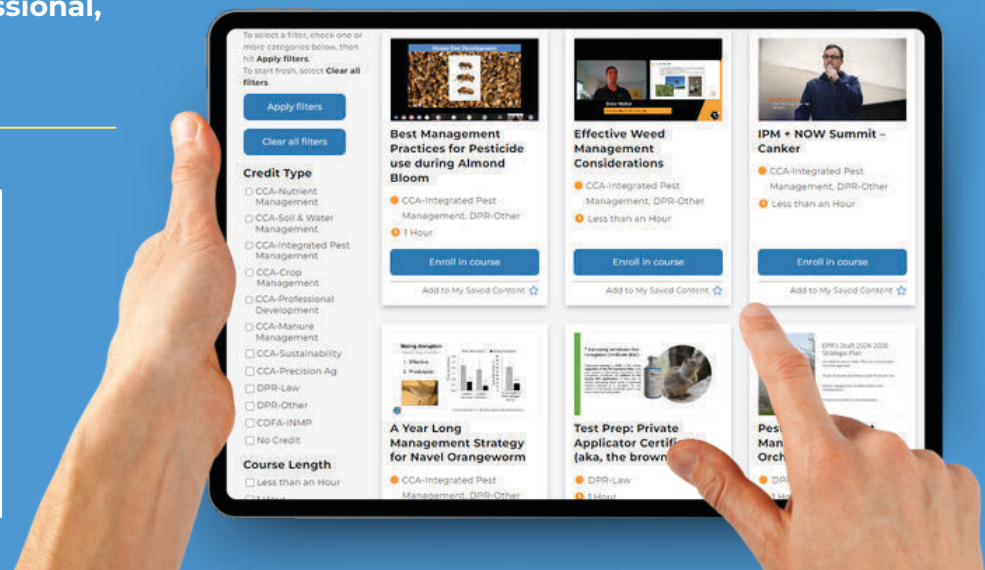
Heather Lang is a family farmer in North Dakota with local, state and national Farm Bureau leadership experience. She currently serves as president of her county Farm Bureau (Burleigh). Follow her on Instagram (ndpiggytales) to learn more about her journey. This column was originally published on North Dakota Farm Bureau's "On Your Table" blog.



NEW: Almond Learning Hub - A FREE Online Resource

Whether you're a grower, pesticide applicator, a handler, or any other almond industry professional, we have a course to fit your needs.

Scan the QR code or visit almondlearninghub.com to login, sign up, take a tour of resources and start getting free credits!



California Farm Bureau president celebrates accomplishments in annual address

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass celebrated the organization's accomplishments this year in an address delivered today at the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey.

Douglass, speaking in her first annual address after being elected last year to lead the Farm Bureau, focused on local achievements and on the organization's strength in unity.

"'Stronger Together' is more than a catchphrase," she said of the Farm Bureau's theme for this year's Annual Meeting, which brought together farmers and ranchers from across California. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus."

Douglass cited examples of the Farm Bureau's impact this year in different parts of the state, beginning with the resounding defeat of Measure J, a Sonoma County ballot measure that within three years would have banned large dairies and poultry farms in the county.

"We recognized that something like this in Sonoma County could easily be replicated" in other counties "and across the country," Douglass said. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau, with support from the California Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus, waged a more than yearlong campaign to defeat the measure.

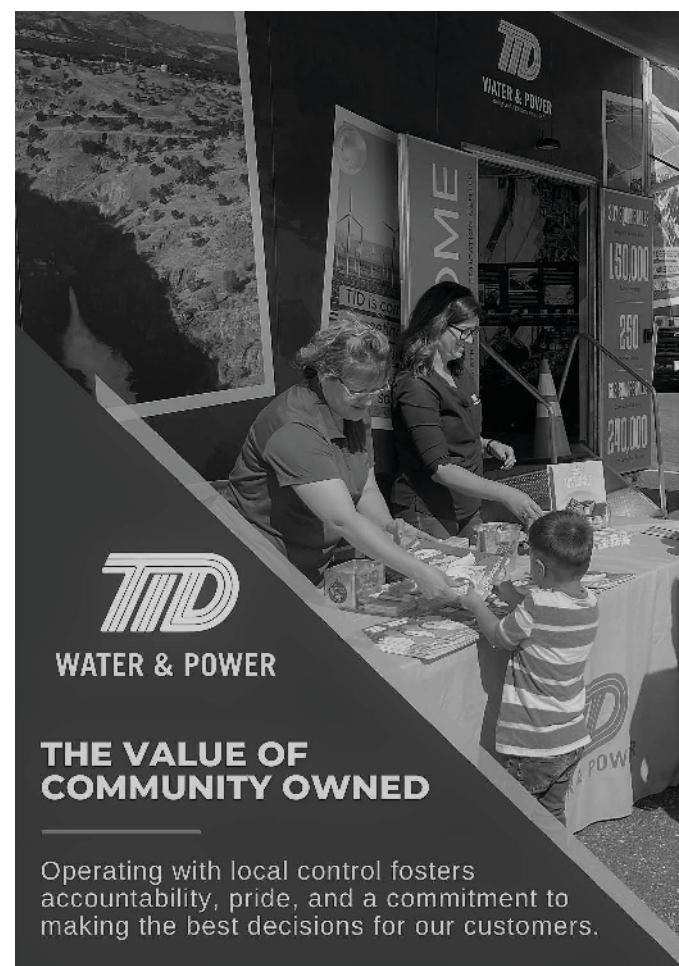
"Not only were they successful, they were ex-

tremely successful," Douglass said, with voters in the county rejecting Measure J by a margin of roughly 85% to 15%.

She recognized several county Farm Bureaus that met goals of increasing their membership, including the Alameda, Calaveras, Humboldt, Inyo-Mono, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Luis Obispo, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity and Tuolumne County Farm Bureaus.

The Lake County Farm Bureau, Douglass said, added more than 60 new members, increasing its membership by more than 20%. Meanwhile, in its first year, the new San Francisco Farm Bureau enrolled more than 100 members.

"Thank you for showing us what's possible when we put our mind to something," Douglass said.



TUOLUMNE COUNTY BUSINESS MEMBERS

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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





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

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

CASH AWARDS! UP TO \$3,000!

Please have your nominations in by 1/17/2025

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

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



Scan to nominate!



From Fencerows on page 7

schedule a chat in Washington, the impact would not have been the same. Rather than just telling Ms. White how we have restored our farmland since I was a boy, I was able to show her the green pastures on my farm and the healthy cattle grazing there. She saw the results of three generations of work to turn unproductive land into rolling hills that now support livestock while reducing erosion.

We were also able to hop in a truck and visit my neighbor down the road for her to see a dairy farm and the sustainable practices in place there. And more importantly, now she has farms and faces to think of when she is working on policy and regulations in Washington. Farm visits like this also build stronger working relationships with government officials, while providing them with the real-world examples they need to consider when weighing policy decisions.

As we head into a new

year, with a new Congress and a new administration, it's important for us to engage. Let's invite more leaders, lawmakers, and government officials out to our farms and ranches to get their boots dirty. It's critical for folks in Washington, and in your state and local governments, to get to see firsthand how the rules, regulations, and programs they are working on impact farms like mine and yours.

There's just no substitute for getting outside the office and onto a farm or ranch to see firsthand how farmers care for our land and animals. I'd like to amend my dad's advice to me. Yes, let's keep on getting outside our fencerows, but let's also find ways to bring others in to see all the hard work and care that goes on inside our fencerows to keep our food supply safe, sustainable and secure.





CONLIN SUPPLY

Sign of Quality, Value & Service

ANIMAL HEALTH - FENCING - RANCH & HOME

576 Warnerville Road
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 847-8977

LIVESTOCK HANDING - HARDWARE - CLOTHING

WWW.CONLINSUPPLY.COM



Since 1986

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

Peter Verdegaal
209-628-1008

Office
209-356-0210

8016 Winton Way, Winton
*Serving Stanislaus &
 Merced Counties*

Avian Influenza Update

As of 12/11/2024, we have approximately 80 dairies and 5 poultry facilities with confirmed Avian Influenza. Below is the information listed on the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency website:

What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, is caused by strains of the flu virus that primarily infect birds and can spread quickly among them. They are novel influenza viruses, meaning they are different from the seasonal flu virus strains that commonly circulate among humans. Bird flu can sometimes infect other animals and humans. A strain of bird flu, H5N1, is currently widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in dairy cows and commercial poultry operations in the U.S.

People working with infected birds, cattle, or other animals are most at risk of becoming infected with bird flu.

How does bird flu spread?

Bird flu primarily spreads through contact with infected livestock, birds, their feces, or environments contaminated by the virus. The risk to the general public is low, but people who work with infected animals are at increased risk.

You may be at risk if you:

Work with infected wild birds, poultry, or livestock.
Have been exposed to contaminated litter, surfaces, or other equipment.
Have been exposed to raw cow milk from infected cows.

Symptoms of bird flu:

Human infections with bird flu can range from mild to severe, with symptoms appearing within 10 days of exposure. Symptoms include:

Fever (Temperature of 100°F or higher)
Feeling feverish/chills
Cough
Sore throat
Runny or stuffy nose
Headache
Muscle aches
Fatigue
Eye tearing, redness, or irritation
Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Steps to protect yourself:

Avoid Contact with Sick or Dead Birds.
Use Protective Gear. If you work with

infected livestock, poultry, or birds, you should always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks, and goggles.

Practice Good Hygiene. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after handling birds or being outdoors.

What to do if you are exposed and symptomatic:

If you believe you have been exposed to bird flu, either through contact with infected livestock, poultry, or a symptomatic individual, and are experiencing flu-like symptoms, follow these steps:

Contact a Healthcare Provider: Inform your provider about your exposure and symptoms. Wear a mask if you go into a healthcare facility.

Get Tested: Your provider may recommend testing, which in-

WATERFORD IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION SUPPLY & DESIGN LIC# 1004196

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

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

 **NETAFIM**™

irritec

BOWSMITH®


FRESNO
Valves & Castings, Inc.

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

SERVING OUR AG COMMUNITY

MID keeps water working for you

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

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

www.mid.org

See UPDATE on page 20

From **UPDATE** on page 19

cludes collecting respiratory and conjunctival swabs for laboratory analysis.

Isolate: Stay home, isolate yourself in a separate room, and avoid contact with others, especially vulnerable household members.

You may be contacted by Stanislaus County Public Health if you were exposed to bird flu through your work. Notify Stanislaus County Public Health if you are having symptoms.

For healthcare providers:

Healthcare professionals should be aware of the risk of bird flu in patients presenting with flu-like symptoms and recent bird or animal exposure. Follow these steps:

Testing and Specimen Collection: Collect nasopharyngeal, throat, or conjunctival swabs for testing. Severe cases may require lower respiratory tract specimens.

Treatment: Initiate antiviral treatment (oseltamivir, zanamivir, or baloxavir) as soon as possible, ideally within 48 hours of symptom onset, even before test results are confirmed.

Infection Control: Implement standard, contact, and airborne precautions when treating suspected or confirmed cases. Isolate patients in a single room with a closed door.

Inform Stanislaus County Public Health: Suspected or confirmed bird flu cases must be reported immediately to Stanislaus County Public Health. Providers can submit cases through the CalREDIE system under the "Influenza-Novel Strain" condition.

For more information, please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention Section at 209-558-5678 or CDNurse@schsa.org.



Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

Gavin Newsom
Governor

TO: Local Health Departments and Farm Owners

SUBJECT: H5N1 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution Update

DATE: November 22, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

On May 28, 2024, a Dear Colleague Letter and a link on [How to Request Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Farmworkers to Protect Against Avian Influenza \("Bird Flu"\)](#) was shared with local health departments (LHDs). This advised that **July 9, 2024**, was the final date for farm entities to request a one-time distribution of PPE.

Effective August 28, 2024, CDPH will strive to honor requests for PPE made by LHDs, and other local government entities, dependent on supplies, using the normal MHOAC process. CDPH will also be supporting farms with confirmed H5N1 cases with direct shipments of limited PPE to the affected farm until **January 15, 2025**. Requests for PPE made by farmworker organizations will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

LHDs and affected farms should continue to reach out to their local MHOAC as a first step.

List of Available PPE

- Safety goggles
- Face shields
- Respirators:
 - Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Kit.
 - N95 masks
- Nitrile powder-free gloves
- Bouffant caps- **Limited inventory- only 1 case (500 total caps) are allowed per affected farm and 2 cases of caps (1,000 total caps) are allowed per LHD.**

If you have any questions, please send an email to: CIDMCM@cdph.ca.gov

CDPH Medical Counter Measures, MS 7300 • P.O. Box 997377 • Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
(916) 552-9700 • (916) 552-8973 FAX
CDPH.ca.gov



Kevin McConnell Construction



General Building Contractor
Specializing in Agriculture Buildings



Over 40 Years Experience



Oakdale Lic #772692
(209) 848-0615 or (209) 613-7087
KevinMcConnellConstruction.com

Farm Labor Survey Released

Source, Lorrie Boyer reporting for AgNet West

Rising farm labor costs are adding to the financial pressures on farmers and ranchers, particularly those using the H2A farm work program. Samantha Ayoub, economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation, explains the latest insights from the newly released farm labor survey highlighting labor costs nationwide.

“The November farm labor survey release told us that combined field and livestock worker wages were \$18.12 nationally, up 3.2% from the 2023 release. However, no one realistically pays the national wage. So regionally, there was an average of about four and a half percent increase in regional wages, there was actually a decrease in the lake region, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan down 2% to \$18.15. But then we have places like the southeast Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina with nearly 10% increases.”

California is no longer the highest paying state for farm labor as Hawaii now leads with an average wage of 2008. That is a 7.2% increase from 2023.

VALLEY PACIFIC



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



We Fuel California

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



YOUR LEGACY IS OUR LEGACY

inquire now!

Nº 1-844-DWN-TREE

DWNTREES.COM

Instagram Facebook @davewilson

Disaster Tax Relief Bill Passes in U.S. Senate

Source, AgNet West

The U.S. Senate has passed the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act (H.R. 5863). The legislation, in addition to providing much needed relief to victims of hurricanes, also provides tax relief for cattle producers who received payments due to wildfires. Previously, these payments counted as taxable income, meaning producers who already suffered from disasters were hurt again by having their relief payments taxed.

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) thanks Senate members for passing this legislation, which previously passed the U.S. House and now goes to the President for his signature.

“It is heart breaking to see your farm or ranch destroyed by a disaster and it only adds to the pain when the payments meant to help you recover come with a tax bill,” said NCBA President and Wyoming rancher Mark Eisele. “With the devastating hurricanes and wildfires the cattle industry has suffered over the past several years, helping producers recover and stay in busi-


ness is a top priority for NCBA. The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act will prevent recovery payments from being taxed and be another tool for producers rebuilding their livelihood.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act addresses limitations in casualty losses and allows producers to take greater deductions for disaster related losses. Additionally, the bill excludes any payments received due to a “qualified wildfire disaster” from being counted as income for federal tax purposes. The bill also retroactively applies to any wildfire payments received in tax years 2020 through 2025. Producers will have the opportunity to file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for relief payments received in

these previous years.

“NCBA has fought to exempt disaster relief payments from being taxed and we are thankful that the House of Representatives and Senate both passed the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act to protect these payments from taxation,” said NCBA Executive Director of Government Affairs Kent Bacus. “We also thank Congressman Greg Steube (R-FL) for leading the effort to get this bill passed.

The NCBA is urging President Biden to swiftly sign this bill into law.



Leaders in Nut Harvesting Equipment

TRADITION

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Serving the agricultural community since 1936

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



MIKE HEINRICH

209.312.4011 | MHeinrich@boyett.net

Inventory Management Competitive Pricing

On Time Delivery

Gas, Diesel, Renewable Diesel, and Red Diesel Available

Agricultural Commercial Fuel

Truck & Trailer Delivery

Bobtail Loads Available



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

NEW! Member Mixer

Sheriff's Department Update

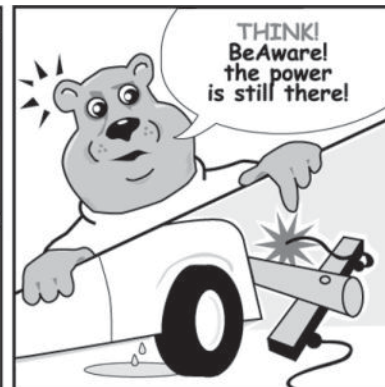
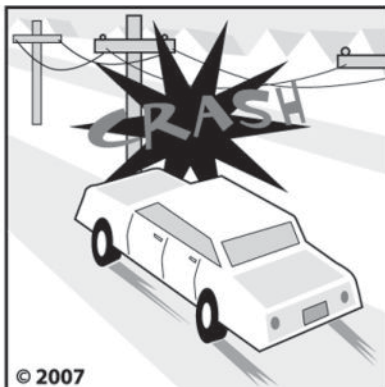
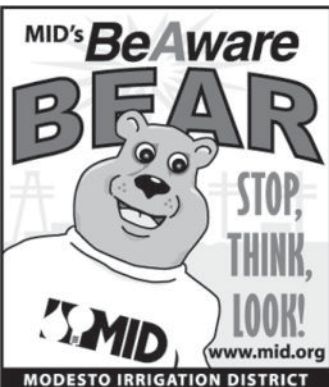
Join us for a **FREE** Farm Bureau meeting to hear an Ag Crimes update from Stanislaus County Sheriff, Jeff Dirkse.

Free to Members and Non-Members, so please bring a friend to enter a drawing!

Thursday, January 30, 2025

5:30PM

Sheriff's Department, 250 Hackett Rd, Modesto



FARM BUREAU SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS

STANISLAUS COUNTY



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

Ag Services

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

Sales

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

Farms/Dairies

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

Farm Management

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

Irrigation/Utilities

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

Nurseries/Horticulture

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

Safety

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

Construction/Engineering

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

Construction/Engineering

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

Insurance

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

Irrigation/Utilities

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

Nurseries/Horticulture

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

Veterinary

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

Attorney

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

Feed/Farm Supplies

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

Fowler Brother Farming

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

Insurance

- **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

Misc. Services

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

Petroleum

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

Banking/Financial

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

Equipment & Repair

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

Melvin Wheeler

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

Insurance

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

Modesto Nuts Baseball Club

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

Processors

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

Grimbleby Coleman CPA's Inc

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

G&F Ag Services

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

Nick Blom

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

Stewart Kriese Ins Agency

- **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

Non-Profit

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

Restaurant

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

For the good of your food.

USDA Implements New Testing Guidelines for Raw Milk

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

The USDA has announced new federal guidelines requiring nationwide testing of raw milk samples to monitor for potential health threats, including avian influenza (H5N1). This directive aims to protect public health and prevent further outbreaks following the detection of the virus in raw milk samples in California.

Dr. Meg Schaefer, an epidemiologist and National Public Health Advisor for the SAS Institute, emphasized the significance of this measure. "The outbreak is so wide-

spread in our dairy cattle right now that we have got to be aggressive in trying to stop it," she explained, noting the potential for serious consequences if the virus spreads unchecked.

The new guidelines mandate that raw milk be tested even before pasteurization and that results be shared with the USDA. This increased information-sharing also extends to data on domestic poultry flocks, helping to provide a more comprehensive picture of H5N1's impact.

While pasteurization remains a safe way to neutralize harmful pathogens, Dr. Schaefer warned against consuming raw milk during this outbreak. "The risk is far too high to expose your children or anyone, especially those who are immune-compromised or pregnant,

For dairy farmers, the USDA's directive serves as a call to action to collaborate in controlling the outbreak. As Dr. Schaefer pointed out, "All of our producers have the power and the ability to help work together with our government agencies and officials to stop this." She said it's important for producers to share information for contact tracing and epidemiologic analysis.

"Those actions are really critical and they're really critical to dampen this down, to stop livestock loss, to stop the spread of illness, to stop Agricultural workers from getting sick," she said. "And you know, at the end of the day, I would think as a producer, you would not want to be the farm that starts or originates the virus that ends up becoming a pandemic. And that possibility is real."



Helping our Members Prosper

LOCAL AGRICULTURE FINANCING

MODESTO
TURLOCK
PATTERSON

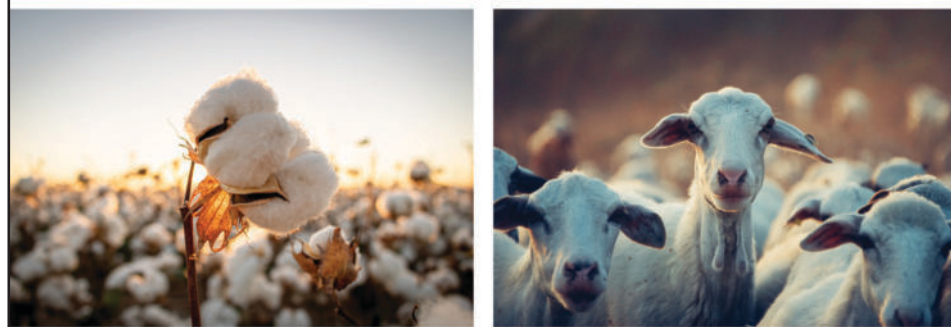
MERCED
LOS BANOS
OAKDALE

yosemitfarmcredit.com   

Wishing you a joyous holiday season that is Merry & Bright

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

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





Edwards, Lien & Toso, Inc.

Agricultural Appraisal Services

Providing Full Service Agricultural Valuation Products

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

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



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

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

WWW.GREENRUBBER.COM

Everything for Agriculture

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

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

Green Rubber
Kennedy Ag
Ag Industrial Supply
Belting & Fabrication



Six locations to serve you. Call today!

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



NEW LOCAL MEMBER BENEFIT!

Monthly Coupons

- Coupon to local Farm Bureau Business Member good for one month
- Starting February 2025
- Coupon will be in the paper the month prior
- Must bring coupon with you to redeem

Please call us with any questions!



Celebrating the season. *Since 1867.*

The holiday season is the perfect time to spread joy to our valued customers and friends. As temperatures fall, leaves tumble, and snow blankets the mountaintops, families and friends come together to celebrate cherished traditions. We are especially thankful for the relationships we share within the communities we proudly serve during this festive time.

Bank of Stockton wishes you the happiest of holidays!



BANK OF STOCKTON

ESTABLISHED 1867

WITHSTANDING THE TEST OF TIME®



Member
FDIC



bankofstockton.com



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

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



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

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



1-877-ALMOND-8 | stewartandjasper.com



**NOW + CARPOPHILUS
BEETLE = MORE
REASONS TO
MUMMY SHAKE**

Mummy sanitation has proven effective for controlling NOW in almond orchards, and early research suggests it also works against Carpophilus Beetle.

Scan the QR code below to estimate your ROI for completing mummy sanitation:



Scan the QR code below to compare and calculate different IPM programs for NOW:



Visit Almonds.com/IPM for more information