

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



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



**Official Publication of Stanislaus
County Farm Bureau
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2023 Fair Special Includes:
Fair Champions, Student Exhibitor Profiles, Photos & More

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

Stanislaus Farm News

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



2023 Pesticide Series DPR & CCA Credit

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"I really appreciate that CAFB is offering these CE classes. It gives me the opportunity to not only get CEUs, but also keep up to date."
-Mariposa County


Upcoming Class Schedule

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


Save the Dates for 2023

- Thursday, June 29th
- Thursday, July 20th
- Thursday, August 24th

- Thursday, September 21st
- Thursday, October 26th
- Thursday, November 30th



Agricultural Commissioner's Office
&
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
2023 Continuing Education (CE) Schedule



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

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

In-Person CE Workshop Schedule

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

Hybrid Schedule (Both In-Person & Online)

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

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

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



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FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Employment Policy

On July 10, Governor Newsom signed AB-102, a budget trailer bill fleshing out the budget passed by the Legislature in June. AB 102 is a 364-page bill addressing numerous subjects, including the revival of the Industrial Welfare Commission. The IWC was established in 1913 to regulate wages, hours and working conditions in California. It was defunded by the California legislature in 2004 but its regulations consisting of 18 "Wage Orders" (including Wage Order 14, regulating agricultural employment) remain in effect, enforced by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. AB 102 appropriates \$3 million to the IWC "to convene industry-specific wage boards and adopt orders specific to wages, hours, and working conditions in such industries, provided that any such orders shall not include any standards that are less protective than existing state law. The commission shall prioritize for consideration industries in which more than 10 percent of workers are at or below the federal poverty level." It's possible that AB 102 is intended as an end-run around the referendum the restaurant industry qualified for the November 2024 ballot to invalidate the Fast Food Accountability and Standards Recovery (FAST) Act, which passed by the Legislature in 2022 and created a quasi-regulatory Fast Food Council in the Department of Industrial Relations with power to mandate restaurant wages up to \$22 per hour. Since the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) reported in 2021 that more than a quarter of Californians live

in or near poverty, the IWC's AB 102 mandate seems to be very broad. AB 102 requires the revived IWC to convene by January 1, 2024 and adopt any changes to wage orders by October 1, 2024. Staff: Bryan Little, blittle@cbbf.com

Several bills of concern to California agricultural employers have moved to the final stages of the legislative process:

AB-524 Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) adds "family caregiver status" to the list of protected classes covered by the Fair Employment and Housing Act. "Family member" is not limited to actual family members, but includes any person the employee considers to be like family, vastly broadening the circumstances under which an employee can invoke family leave rights under FEHA. This will expand employers' exposure to FEHA-related litigation, which is already extensive. AB-524 cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 27 with a 7-2 vote, was approved by the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on July 12 on a 4-0 vote and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee due to the bill's likely fiscal impact. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cbbf.com.

AB-594, Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (D-San Diego) allows local prosecutors like district attorneys and city attorneys to enforce the Labor Code, leading to inconsistent enforcement. Potential violations of Cal/OSHA standards and Workers Comp requirements are exempted. AB-594 does not protect employers from double recovery under the Labor Code and the Private Attorneys Gen-

eral Act (PAGA). AB-594 was approved by the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on June 28 by a 4-0 vote, by the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 11 by a 9-2 vote, and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little, blittle@cbbf.com

SB-365 Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) will forbid a district court judge from staying a civil proceeding if either party appeals the finding as to whether the dispute is subject to arbitration. Staying the underlying litigation while the arbitration applicability decision is pending has been common practice, eliminating the need to litigate a dispute that will likely be found subject to arbitration. Several recent court decisions have upheld federal preemption under the Federal Arbitration Act of attempts by the Legislature to restrict arbitration. SB-365 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 13 by a 8-3 vote, and has been placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file. Farm Bureau opposes SB-365 since arbitration is a useful tool to manage employment litigation liability in California's litigious environment. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cbbf.com.

SB-399 Senator Aisha Wahab (D-Hayward) passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on June 27 on a 5-1 vote; the Assembly Judiciary Committee on July 11 by a 7-3 vote, and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. SB 399 prohibits employers from conducting employee meetings in the context of a unionization campaign to ex-

plain the employer's opposition to unionization. Farm Bureau opposes SB 399 because it is a clear-cut violation of an employer's First Amendment right to free speech, and will curb employer's right to fully inform employees about unionization activities. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cbbf.com.

SB-497 Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), which creates a rebuttable presumption that any adverse personnel action is retaliatory if occurs within 90 days of the occurrence of activities protected from retaliation under the Labor Code, including reporting a violation of the Labor Code and cooperating with investigations related to violations of the Labor Code. As courts already consider proximity in time between protected activities and adverse personnel actions, SB-497 is redundant and further stacks the deck against employers' defense against accusations of retaliation. SB-497 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 20 by a 7-2 vote and the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cbbf.com.

Animal Health and Welfare

Members may recall reading about an outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in previous issues of CAFE @ Work. The virus, which affects horses, cattle, and small ruminants, has now spread to six counties. CDFA has provided the following information:

- The focal map of VSV affected and quarantined premises is posted on the CDFA VSV website and will continue to be updated at least weekly during the outbreak incursion.

- Online VSV case reporting and VSV sampling guidance is available on the CDFA VSV website.
- 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).

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/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/vsv/vesicular-stomatitis>

Please contact CDFA immediately if you have suspicion of a VS case. Contact information for each of CDFA's district offices is attached. 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. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com

CESA and Wildlife

AB 606, a Farm Bureau Sponsored bill, introduced by Assemblymember Devon Mathis (R – Porterville) was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file on July 10. This bill originally aimed to remove the sunset provision on current accidental take statute. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits the taking of an endangered or candidate species. Under CESA, the Department of Fish and Wildlife may authorize the take of listed species pursuant to an incidental take permit if the take is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity. The act also provides, until January 1, 2024, that the accidental take of a candidate, threatened, or endangered species resulting from an act that occurs on a farm or a ranch in the course of otherwise lawful routine and ongoing agricultural activities is not prohibited by the act, and would require a person, when an accidental take is known to occur under these

circumstances, to report the take to the department within 10 days. The bill was amended in the Senate Natural Resource Committee last month to include a new sunset date in 2029, and require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct outreach to stakeholders regarding the reporting requirements. The Appropriations Committee has concerns with the unknown costs of the outreach efforts. CAFB is working with committee and departmental staff to make sure and assist with these efforts to reduce costs. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com


Food Labeling

AB-660 Asm. Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks) would have required changing the food labels in California from Sell by to Use By because Californians Against Waste, who are the sponsors of the bill, claim that more waste is occurring as result of the sell by label. The dairy and beef industry were very concerned with this legislation because there are significant federal regulatory requirements already in place related to labels and there needs to be a broader discussion on the total impacts to this change. Farm Bureau opposed this legislation because it appears to be regulatory overreach and because now this is a two-year bill, we look forward to greater discussion on the impacts of this issue. Staff: Chris Reardon, creardon@cfbf.com

Greenhouse Gases

SB-308 Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) would enact the Carbon Dioxide Removal Market Development Act that would require the state board, no later than December 31, 2027, to adopt a regulation to require certain emitting entities to purchase negative emissions credits equal to a specified amount of their greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the state board, in each calendar year beginning in the 2028 calendar year in accordance with specified requirements. The bill would require the state board, no later than December 31, 2027, to establish rules and processes for certifying carbon

See Review on page 10




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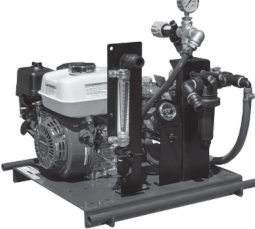
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As another membership service, Farm Bureau members are offered FREE classified advertising in the Stanislaus Farm News. Ads must be 18 words or less and only one ad per month per membership (membership number required.) Ads may be MAILED to the Stanislaus 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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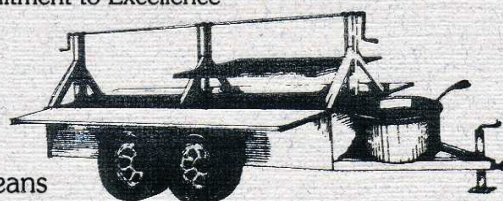
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- **Moss Adams**
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- **Vermeulen Company CPA**
Ripon 599-5051

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- **American Chevrolet**
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- **Stump Construction**
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- **Branelle Properties LLC**
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- **MHK Construction Inc.**
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Feed/Farm Supplies

- **A.L. Gilbert**
Keyes 632-2333
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Columbia, 533-0127
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Equipment & Repair

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- **Turlock Auto Parts**
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Farms/Dairies

- **Ahlem Foothill Farm**
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- **Redwood Ranches LLC**
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- **Stewart Johnson**
Ceres 602-8899
- **Victor M Lopes**
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- **Weaver Bros**
Crows Landing 854-6716
- **Wyeth Dairy Inc.,**
Modesto 545-2101

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- **Benchmark Farm Management**
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- **Crivelli Ins & Fin Sv Inc**
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- **Hoobler Insurance Services**
Patterson 601-0418
- **LG Crop Ins.**
Turlock 262-8140

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

- **Toste Insurance Services Inc**
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- **Western Valley Insurance Associates**
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Irrigation/Utilities

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Breeding may boost machine harvests for peaches

With the rising cost of labor and a shortage of skilled workers to hand-pick fruit, California canning peach growers are looking to science for solutions. They are breeding new varieties that are firm and flavorful and could lead to greater adoption of mechanization at harvest. Thomas Gradziel, a geneticist at University of California, Davis, says new varieties are essential to make peach farming economically sustainable. For more than 30 years, growers have funded breeding by Gradziel to develop new and improved cling-stone peach varieties.

Colleges prepare agricultural workers for high-tech future

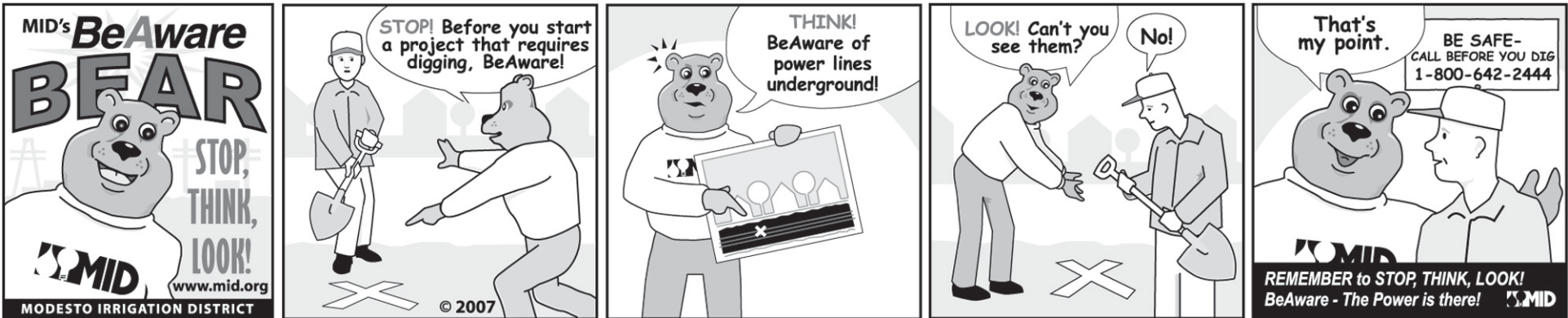
California has led the way in developing cutting edge agricultural technologies, enabling farms to do more with fewer workers and to make farm work safer and more efficient. But these advances are also creating a challenge. “We need more skilled employees to be able to run this technology,” says Johnnie White of Piña Vineyard Management, which manages winegrapes in Napa Valley. College systems and public and private agencies are collaborating to teach experienced farmworkers new skills and support farm interns working with new technologies.

Federal lands plan could limit grazing, public uses

Ranchers, foresters and others who use public lands have urged the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a proposed rule they fear would radically restrict activities such as grazing and timber harvesting. The new BLM proposal emphasizes conservation as the predominant land management priority. Those who hold permits on federal lands also say they were blindsided by the proposal. A coalition including the California Farm Bureau said BLM defines conservation so broadly that it creates unnecessary conflict among users of public lands.

Despite weather challenges, slight increase expected in almond crop

California almond farmers are expected to harvest a slightly larger crop this year, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 2023 California Almond Objective Measurement Report published last week estimates the crop will come in at 2.6 billion meat pounds, 1% above last year’s 2.57 billion pounds. The estimate is up 4% from USDA’s subjective forecast in May and comes after one of the wettest winters on record, limited bee flights because of rain and wind, and a cool spring. The slightly bigger crop comes partly because of larger nut size, USDA reported.



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California contains a deadly citrus threat, but urges vigilance

Spread by the invasive Asian citrus psyllid, Huanglongbing, or citrus greening disease, arrived in Florida in 2005 and has since devastated that state's citrus production. But in California, where the psyllid was first detected in 2008 and the first Huanglongbing—or HLB—infection was found in a residential tree in 2012, no commercial citrus grove has been infected. Officials credit an intensive psyllid detection and eradication program, industry-wide awareness and mitigation tools, as well as the Golden State's climate, for warding off the spread of the disease.

Rivas brings rural agricultural roots to leadership of California State Assembly

California State Assembly

A lawmaker from a rural farming district now leads the California State Assembly. At his swearing-in, Speaker Robert Rivas described growing up in farmworker housing and going on to live "the California dream." Rivas' grandfather immigrated to California's Central Coast from Mexico and began working as a grape picker for Almaden Vineyards. Donald Wirz of the San Benito County Farm Bureau, who knew Rivas from the high school track team, said his "appointment gives me hope that agriculture and the state Legislature will have a positive relationship."

Trade deal with India may boost California nut exports

India has agreed to drop additional duties on American almonds, walnuts, apples, chickpeas and lentils. India's repeal of the retaliatory tariffs in a deal with the U.S. last month would provide American exporters improved access to a key market, industry analysts say. India remains a top export destination for California agricultural products, including tree nuts, cotton, dairy and processing tomatoes, with total export value reaching nearly \$1 billion in 2020, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Researchers helping California date growers with water efficiency

California's nearly \$90 million date industry produces more than half of the nation's dates, with most of the fruit grown in the arid Coachella Valley.

Now University of California researchers are developing methodology to help growers establish guidelines for efficient water management in growing dates in the desert region, including identifying how much irrigation is needed depending on location, soil type and date cultivars. The effort has gained urgency as California date farmers work to conserve water to protect Colorado River supplies.

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FARM BUREAU

From Review on page 5

dioxide removal processes that may be used to create negative emissions credits and for tracking negative emissions credits in accordance with certain criteria. The bill would also require negative emissions resulting from the use of negative emissions credits to be included in the calculation of the state's net greenhouse gas emissions. The Farm Bureau opposes this legislation along with a broad coalition because there is currently very little carbon removal processes in use today and because it's an emerging technology we need to walk before we can run on target dates. The California Air Resources Board also has significant concerns on this bill and the good news, it was held in committee earlier this week. Staff: Chris Reardon, creardon@cbbf.com

Insurance

This week, the California Department of Insurance (CDI) held a public workshop on catastrophe models (cat models) in rating plans for California residential and commercial properties. The workshop was a virtual event that featured a variety of presenters with an interest in whether and how CDI would integrate cat models in rating plans. Cat models use a variety of data sets combined with risk assessment algorithms to determine an insurers' desired rating plan. In California today, those rating plans are only approved to use historical data about risk. Insurers have been requesting cat models to address the future risks of wildfire, predominately, but will include data related to winds, floods, and other property risks. Insurers hope to use cat models to reflect climate change driven impact on their portfolios – primarily focused in California on wildfire. Other states like Florida have adopted cat models to reflect risks from increased hurricane frequencies and intensities.

California Farm Bureau submitted extensive written comments for the public workshop. Led by detailed research conducted by CAFB's legal department,

CAFB's comments focused on the need to meet the consumer protections afforded in Prop 103 and ensure that any cat modeling approach results in rates that are not excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. CAFB did not opine on whether the models should be allowed, but emphasized that to protect policyholders, Prop 103 is clear about necessitating an insurers' transparency on rate modeling.

The first presenter was Verisk, a developer of cat models widely used in insurance and reinsurance around the world. Verisk says CDI needs to produce a regulation that balances the needs for both public access in Prop 103 but with privacy and trade secrets consideration for their algorithms in their models. Verisk says they support a publicly available documentation model that still allows a

modeler to invest in and protect their business.

United Policyholders (UP) presented next, and focused their concerns on the chance that unchecked use of catastrophe modeling will cause more harm to consumers than good. UP represents consumers interests, and has been tracking cat modeling efforts across the country. UP said cat models will overstate risks, because they are created by for profit companies to benefit other for profit companies – and sees spikes in rates and collateral damage to real estate transactions and other insurance dependence industries where cat modeling is adopted. UP is concerned that any gains through home hardening and community and state investments to decrease risks will be lost and overshadowed by spikes to rates from cat modeling. Finally, UP feels the

adoption of cat modeling will frustrate the purposes of Prop 103 and does not guarantee and return to the admitted market by insurers that left, or expansion back into areas that they do not want to insure. The next presenter was Consumer Federation of America (CFA), which was largely aligned with UP from consumer impact, but thinks that cat models can help to address some market ills. They noted that Prop 103 is unique, indicating that Californians do not just trust the insurance industry. We hold in Prop 103 that any model must be testable from anticompetitive corporate interests and be reviewable. CFA notes that Prop 103 has clear guidelines - rates must not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory and any person may initiate a review under Prop 103 under those standards. CFA notes that Florida has created



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a public facing tool that allows insurers, regulators, and consumers to look deeply into the loss risk modeling CFA says this could be accomplished in California with a California Public Wildfire Catastrophe Model developed by academic experts and this transparent model can be offered to insurers, instead of trusting their industry driven approach.

Next RMS, a Moody's company, presented the views of another private modeling company. Their position seemed more protectionist than Verisk, stating that historical data is insufficient to set rates and that new modeling must be brought to bear to keep insurers healthy. RMS discussed the notion that the models inherently overstate risk and said it's not true because the model works as a "ruler" between the rates that primary and reinsurance companies already negotiate. RMS feels cat modeling only faces challenges with regulators, who do not license and use cat modeling because of required public disclosure, lack expertise to re-

view cat models or rates, and do not want to incur license costs to do so. RMS detailed the type of disclosures they would be willing to make, but also those items like software programs, source code, the model data sets, would be off limits. RMS says it is not a black box, but they will not disclose anything that goes into the model. RMS states that the model does not create higher rates, but that the combination of the models use with additive data sets leads to higher rates.

Finally, the UC Cooperative Extension presented some general information about cat models and said that many exiting modeling techniques about extreme events already exist. They did not opine on whether to adopt cat modeling or not, but felt that cat modeling for rates could go through peer review so that it is less of a black box while still protecting the modelers' private information. Staff: Peter Ansel, pansel@cfbf.com

Water

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

Puts AB 1337 on Ice

The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee put the brakes on AB 1337 (Asm. Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland), which would bring the most senior water diverters under control of the State Water Board and allow the board to curtail diversions in any watershed for any year type (not only under an emergency order during droughts). The bill was scheduled for a hearing on July 10, but the author pulled it from the agenda because she couldn't get enough "yes" votes confirmed from committee members. This bill, along with AB 460 (Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda), was one of the top water-related bills Farm Bureau was opposing this year. The author has made AB 1337 a two-year bill, which means that she may decide to move it in January 2024, although probably not in this form as she knows it wouldn't have enough support. Staff: Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com

SB 389 Opposition Trending Neutral

After several weeks of negotiation with representatives of the 200+ opposition coalition organizations (with includes Farm Bureau), Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) amended his bill SB 389 to remove the most problematic provisions, including those that would have made it easier for the State Water Board to find that water rights have been forfeited, and focus instead on clarifying existing

parts of the law. For example, the bill now modifies an existing code section that lays out the State Water Board's investigative abilities, rather than creating a new code section that could be interpreted to endow the board with new, different authority. The opposition coalition also secured a requirement that the State Water Board show the need for any information requested from diverters about the nature of their water rights. As a result, during the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee hearing on July 11, the Farm Bureau and other coalition members stated their intent to reevaluate their "oppose" positions on the bill with the intent to go neutral. Staff: Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com

AB 1205 Now a Study Bill on Investment Fund Water Transfers After facing opposition from many water and agriculture groups, Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, (D-Orinda) accepted Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee amendments to her bill AB 1205, which had previously been a bill to declare all water transfers or sales from agricultural land owned by investment funds to be "wasteful" and "unreasonable" uses of water. The bill will instead merely direct the State Water Board to produce a study on the existence of speculation or profiteering by an investment fund in the sale, transfer, or lease of an interest in any surface water right or groundwater right previously put

to beneficial use on agricultural lands. These changes allowed most of the opponents of the bill, including Farm Bureau, to instead take a neutral position. Staff: Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com



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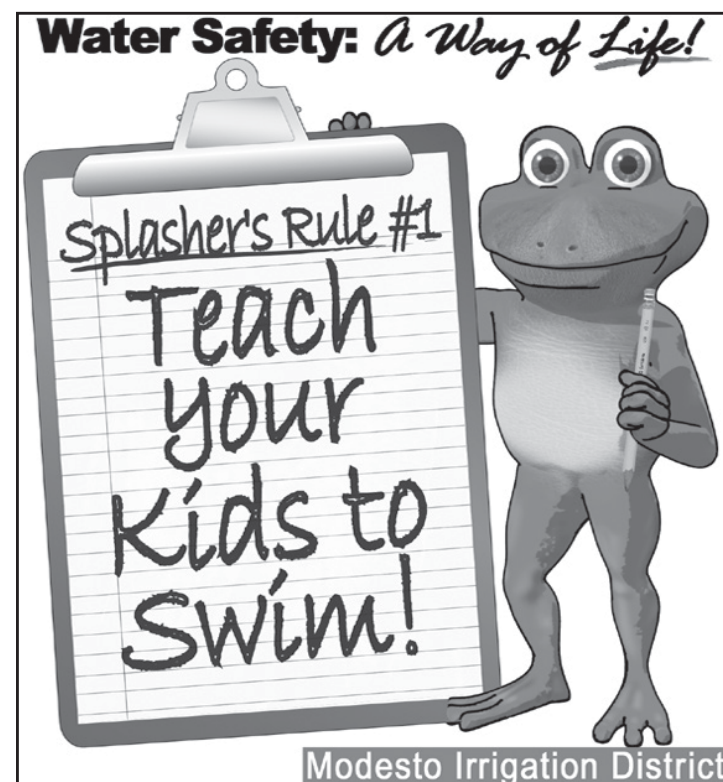
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Joshua Ludwig

Showing a steer named Randy and a pig named Dolly this year.
Senior at Central Valley in FFA.
Wants to go into the Fire Safety Program at Modesto Junior College.
Loves showing and being in the ring. He has been showing since he was 9 years old.



Gianna Genasci

Modesto FFA, going into her Junior year.
Showing sheep since she was 9 years old.
This year she had the Champion Middle Weight Lamb, named Choppa!
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Elexi Pulido

**Pitman FFA, going into her Junior year.
Showing a WhiteX named Melatonin,
“I have learned a lot. I know more about pigs
by spending time with my animal, day and
night I am at the school farm taking
care of her.”**





Allison Moring

Hughson FFA, going into her Junior Year. Showing a pig named Brandi, “named after my hitting coach.”

**Was second in her class this year!
She loves seeing how the pig performs in the ring.**



TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM NEWS

Mother Lode Fair Attendance And Livestock Results

Sonora, CA — The extremely hot temperatures may have kept some people from visiting the Mother Lode Fair, based on the gate figures.

Fair Manager Kim Helmbold reports that an estimated 9,500 people visited the fair over the four-day period. She says it was “down slightly” from a year ago.

The junior livestock auction brought in \$810,815. The number is similar to 2021, but notably down from last year’s record-breaking auction, which saw bids totaling \$1.1-million. There was still an enthusiastic crowd on hand at the auction to help support the work of the youth in the community. A total of 267 lots were sold.

This year’s theme was “Comin’ in Hot – Show Us What You Got.”

Source: mymotherlode.com



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Tuolumne County Farm Bureau
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Rowin Reisz, Hughson 4H

12 years old, going into 7th grade.
Showing a steer named Carl Wayne.
Has loved getting to know her steer and what he likes.

Ashlyn Machado, Waterford FFA

Sophomore at Modesto Junior College, working on the Beef and Equine Units as an intern.
Showing a Beef Steer at the Fair & plans to transfer to Oklahoma to study animal nutrition.



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Ramping Up for Recess

Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

August Recess is just around the corner here in Washington, starting on July 31 for both the House and Senate. While the halls of Congress will be quiet as members clear out until September, this is a busy time for them to be visiting their home districts, meeting with the men and women they represent. It's also a prime time for Farm Bureau grassroots members to engage on top issues for agriculture as our senators and representatives will be right in our hometowns and neighborhoods.

The formal practice of August Recess goes back more than 50 years. It was established by an act of Congress in 1970, after legislating at the national level had become a full-time job. Members of Congress recognized then, and now, the importance of getting back home to meet with constituents. From county fairs to town hall meetings, there are a number of opportunities to meet with your representatives and for them to hear from you. I encourage you to get out there, show up to these events and maybe even host an event in your community. Your county or state Farm Bureau is a great place to start to learn more about how you can be involved.

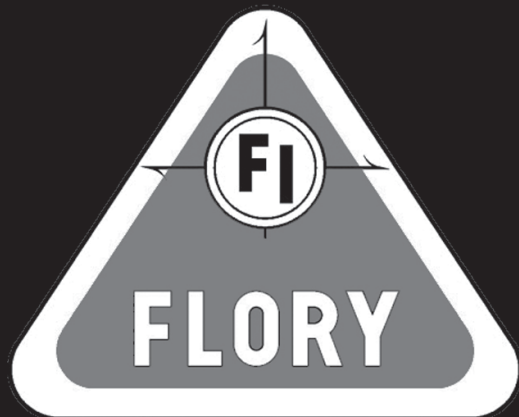
Nothing can replace sitting down for a face-to-face conversation. We can solve some of our greatest challenges by sitting down and talking things through. Our team in Washington often hears from

members of Congress and their staff about how much they value meeting with farmers and ranchers, and how those meetings help shape their work throughout the year. At American Farm Bureau, we are honored to host hundreds of farmers every year when you come to Washington to visit congressional offices. But this is the time of year when Washington comes to you, and I urge you to take advantage of this time. You can reach out to your congressional district and state offices now to schedule a visit with your representative while they're back home.

Invite members of Congress and their staff out to your farm or ranch. They will surely carry that experience with them. What they see firsthand—how you and your family pour your heart and soul into caring for the land and growing the food, fiber and fuel we all rely on—will inspire them and impact their decisions back in Washington.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you that, among all those members of Congress heading home for recess, there are 260 who have never worked on a farm bill. Does one of those members represent you? Now is the time for them to meet a farmer and hear directly from you about how important this legislation is to your farm and our food supply. Every meeting, every conversation makes a difference.

Let's work together to engage our lawmakers and help them make the most of their August Recess. And let's send them back to Washington with a clear assignment this fall: to pass an effective 2023 farm bill that protects our farms, ranches and food security for all Americans.



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There are many counties in the western United States where a significant portion of the county’s land base is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Many of California’s timber and cattle families have partnered with the federal government for generations for mutually beneficial uses such as timber production and cattle grazing. Public land management decisions and what uses are permitted are vitally important to county governments, their local economies, and their citizens, who depend on the ability to use public lands. BLM's own economic report estimates that lands managed by the agency account for nearly \$201 billion in economic output in the United States.

With this in mind, you can imagine it was particularly disconcerting for our rural mountain counties and federal lands permit holders to be informed of a significant and far-reaching rule change regarding permitted uses that was handed down by the BLM with no advance notice, limited and reduced opportunity to comment and no in-person meetings or listening sessions in California. This proposed rule elevates conservation use to equal status as grazing, timber production and other traditional beneficial uses, potentially taking thousands of acres out of grazing or timber production and is a gross over-reach of the statutory authority granted the BLM while also being contrary to the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLMPA).

Upon learning of this proposed change, Erin Huston of California Farm Bureau’s Federal Policy team went to work. Erin analyzed the proposed rule, understood its consequences, and devised a response plan. She immediately began reaching out to legislators and engaging stakeholders and other Western state Farm Bureaus to support our efforts. Coalitions were formed, letters drafted and, over a holiday weekend, five pages of formal analysis, well-stated concerns, and comments were submitted to the BLM on behalf of California Farm Bureau members.

In meetings in Washington DC on Wednesday, I, along with other state Presidents from the Western Farm Bureaus, personally shared these comments with a Principal Deputy Director of the BLM, while strongly voicing our concerns and asking the agency to withdraw the rule.

We articulated not only our dissatisfaction with the lack of notice and opportunity for permit holders to engage in the land management decision-making process but also the other problems and unintended consequences of this rule.

Particularly, we noted the proposed rule:

- lacks meaningful economic analysis;
- is contrary to FLMPA;
- lacks appropriate determination and evaluation mechanisms of what constitutes a beneficial conservation lease and the subsequent success of said lease;
- expands BLMs use of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

(ACEC) allowing BLM further overreach without accountability, and lastly; lacks meaningful local coordination.

No decision has been made, but rest assured California Farm Bureau is determined to get the results our permit holders need. We will continue to sound the alarm regarding this rule that is rife with problems, and we will continue to lead the charge for solutions for rural California.

Jamie Johansson
President, California Farm Bureau

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Let's talk about land Because the future of your farm- land matters most

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The farmland market is red-hot. Though such a bullish marketplace is a boon for landowners, it also changes the game for tenants who depend on rented land for a large share of their crop revenue. High prices make it even more important to make sure everyone involved has the right insurance coverage in place.

Complicating the equation for lessees is the recent rise in absentee farmland ownership. According to a USDA report**, around 40% of the land farmed in the U.S. is rented. Of that share, around 31% is owned by an absentee or non-operator, a number that continues to rise, especially as active farmers retire and sell land.

The combination of these trends creates year-over-year operational and managerial challenges for leasing farmers and their landowners. One of those is ensuring both parties are adequately managing the risk of a land lease for which the two parties may be thousands of miles apart.

Sharing insurance responsibilities

In most cases when a farmer rents land from an absentee landowner, risk management responsibilities are split between the two parties. Each lease should spell out who is responsible for different operational and management responsibilities. And what is fair is not always equal.

For example, if adding improvements like tile drainage can boost the long-term productivity of a field, installation costs should be shared based on the equity it creates. If a lessee anticipates only renting the land for one year, he or she should not bear as much cost as the landowner, who will likely see greater value in the

form of higher rents over time as a result of the improvement.

But if such improvements are part of a multiyear leasing strategy in which the lessee will remain in the picture, he or she will likely pay a larger share of the cost. In general, the duration of a lease often is a major contributor to how land improvement costs are spread between the landowner and renter.

Think about how land is used

There are several factors that influence how farmland is insured. First, it's important to consider the basics of the property and its intended purpose. Some land is obviously for cropping. But grassland or pasture land may have multiple uses. All of a piece of land's intended uses should be accounted for in both the written lease as well as the chosen insurance coverage.

Coverage options also vary widely based on lease land's use. A basic homeowners policy rarely covers all of the operational risk of leased farmland. Sometimes endorsements cover those specific risks, but in other cases, altogether different policies specifically designed for farmland are the best solutions.

Especially with an absentee leases, it's always a good idea to have regular meetings during which the lessee can update the landowner on all activities on the leased land and how they impact things like lease price and optimal insurance coverage options.

Talk with your insurance agent

No matter how you're involved with farming – whether you're currently farming or new to owning or renting farmland – it's important to talk with your local Nationwide Farm Certified agent. Nationwide is the only farm insurance company that trains and certifies its agents. When you see that an agent is Nationwide On Your Side Farm Certified, you can be confident you've found a trusted, knowledgeable advisor.

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Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Office...at the Fair?!

By: Amy Lomeli
Agricultural, Weights & Measures Inspector
Stanislaus County

Blue, red, and white ribbons abound at the Stanislaus County Fair this time of year. Historically, fairs provide a way to showcase the best of the best of the regional agricultural industry and exemplary livestock genetics. From livestock to horticulture, to fruits and vegetables, many of these exhibits, or the standards they are judged on, have crossover with programs and activities within the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Office. Weeks or months before entries are due, exhibitors planting vegetables, plants or flowers by seed reference label information enforced by inspectors through the Seed Services Program. Inspections through this program ensure exhibitors have the expectation that purchased seed is of quality, will germinate, isn't contaminated with weed seeds and of the variety stated on the label.

The abundance and variety of

entries within the Ornamental Horticulture and Floriculture exhibit creates a green and colorful oasis - a cool respite during the often sweltering 10-day fair run. The high-quality flowers, foliage, gardens and other plant materials on display is a result of the exhibitor's attention to plant health, another area of inspection the Commissioner's staff performs.

Inspectors perform annual and as needed inspections of plant health and cleanliness as part of the nursery and quarantine programs. Anyone selling plants for planting, propagation, or ornamentation in California must have a License to Sell Nursery Stock and are subject to an annual inspection. When beginning their project, exhibitors may not realize the industry supplying fruit trees and vines and vegetable starts is inspected and regulated by the Agriculture Commissioner before even reaching their garden. During the process of growing their fair entries exhibitors are monitoring for many of the same pests-disease, insects, weeds, etc.- that inspectors look for during nursery and quarantine inspections.

As part of their entry's production, agricultural exhibitors will be practicing integrated pest management, a major tenet in

the Commissioner's Pesticide Use Enforcement Program. If a pesticide is necessary, whether a fungicide for mildew on roses, or a miticide for poultry, the product label will be consulted for information such as active ingredients, correct application rates, safety precautions and signal words, any required personal protective equipment and first aid instructions among other information. The Commissioner's Pesticide Use Enforcement team ensures the safe use of pesticides through training, outreach, inspections, and investigations, all influencing how pesticides are labeled and used in California.

When fair receiving day finally

rolls around, exhibitors select and present fruit and vegetable specimens representing the best examples of quality and maturity, falling directly in line with Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Program inspections. At the request of the fresh fruit and vegetable industries to promote superior California produce and curb substandard product reaching the marketplace, minimum standards for maturity, quality, size, and standard pack for fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables were established by the state legislature in 1915, just a few years after the first Stanislaus Fair, originally the Turlock Melon Carnival, was held.



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Today, produce entries are judged on the entrant's ability to grow, grade and subsequently present produce as close to the standard as possible. Commercially, over 30 commodities require commodity-specific standards, while all other commodities have minimum general standards.

Similar to fruit and vegetable standards, the Natural Egg Show special contest held in the poultry exhibit features chicken eggs that adhere to classes and standards used by inspectors for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Egg Safety and Quality Management Program and the United States Department of Agriculture.

An auctioneer's chant encouraging bidders at the Junior Livestock Auction held the last Saturday of the fair stirs excitement for visitors, exhibitors, and buyers alike. The fair livestock weigh-in at receiving will be a primary factor in determining the weight class the animal will be shown in, and the official auction weight-and potentially how big the final payout will be.

Understandably, the accuracy of the scale used to weigh the animals is vital to the process. In California, livestock being sold by weight are required to be weighed on a sealed scale.

The County Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for checking annually that any scale-or other weighing or measuring device-being used for commercial transactions meets the tolerance and specification requirements, ensuring that neither party is shorted in the sale. Like many of the previously mentioned programs, this ensures fairness in the marketplace.

In fact, weights and measures plays a frequently unseen part of the process of producing an agricultural commodity by making sure weighing and measuring devices are performing properly. Project exhibitors probably don't think much about accuracy of the hopper scale filling feed sacks, or the hardware store cordage meters measuring rope for a halter, or even the fuel dispenser at the gas station (for the endless trips to and from project meetings). All of these and more are tested by Weights and Measures inspectors annually, ensuring consumers are protected.

Visiting the Stanislaus County Fair as an exhibitor or an attendee is an exciting and memorable experience. While observing the various exhibits, consider the behind-the-scenes role and influence of the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Office's programs.

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2023 Stanislaus County Fair Champions		
Name of Award	Exhibitor's Name	Club / Chapter
Supreme Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Bethany McGrath	Modesto FFA
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Jake Dein	Turlock Christian FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Grace Rodriguez	Patterson 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Troy Lionudakis	Westport 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Bethany McGrath	Modesto FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry Meat Pen	Jake Dein	Turlock Christian FFA
Supreme Champion Market Turkey	Wyatt Crabtree	Kiernan Klovers 4-H
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Turkey	Ashlynn Lemaster	Waterford FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Turkey	Wyatt Crabtree	Kiernan Klovers 4-H
4-H Reserve Grand Champion Market Turkey	Mason Curry	Hughson 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Turkey	Ashlynn Lemaster	Waterford FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Turkey	Willow Piotrowski	Enochs FFA
Supreme Champion Market Rabbit Meat Pen	Vincent Sterling	Hilamr Colony 4-H
Reserve Supreme Market Rabbit Meat Pen	Ethan Larson	Hughson FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Rabbit Meat Pen	Vincent Sterling	Hilamr Colony 4-H
4-H Reserve Grand Champion Market Rabbit Meat Pen	Lexie Sterling	Hilamr Colony 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Rabbit Meat Pen	Zac Christianson	Deinar FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen	Ethan Larson	Hughson FFA
Supreme Champion Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Marrin Wolf	Beyer FFA
Reserve Supreme Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Marrin Wolf	Beyer FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Madison Guerrero	Sierra 4-H
4-H Reserve Grand Champion Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Sabrina Rodriguez	Turlock Grange
FFA Grand Champion Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Marrin Wolf	Beyer FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Rabbit Single Fryer	Marrin Wolf	Beyer FFA
Supreme Champion Market Steer	Gerogia Cozzitorto	Central Catholic FFA
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Steer	Miya Borba	Hilamr Colony 4-H
4-H Grand Champion Market Steer	Miya Borba	Hilamr Colony 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Market Steer	Copper Brown	Sierra 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Steer	Gerogia Cozzitorto	Central Catholic FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer	Tiago Armstrong	Central Catholic FFA
Supreme Champion Replacement Heifer	Levi Cabrall II	Shiloh 4-H
Reserve Supreme Champion Replacement Heifer	Jax Borba	Shiloh 4-H
4-H Grand Champion Replacement Heifer	Levi Cabrall II	Shiloh 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Replacement Heifer	Jax Borba	Shiloh 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Replacement Heifer	Case De Jong	Turlock Christian FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Replacement Heifer	Mayci Lozano	Turlock FFA
Supreme Champion Market Goat	Degan Homen	Chatom 4-H
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Goat	Nicole Carter	Oakdale FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Meat Goat	Degan Homen	Chatom 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Market Meat Goat	Colby Crofts	Sierra 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Meat Goat	Nicole Carter	Oakdale FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Meat Goat	Rhys Ludlow	Oakdale FFA
Supreme Champion Market Lamb	Dante Mazzanti	Oakdale FFA
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Lamb	Bryce McDaniel	Hughson FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Lamb	Gianna Mazzanti	Sierra 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Market Lamb	Hayli McDonald-Serpa	Sierra 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Lamb	Dante Mazzanti	Oakdale FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb	Bryce McDaniel	Hughson FFA
Supreme Champion Market Swine	Allison Stonebarger	Chatom 4-H
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Swine	Trent Watje	Turlock Christian FFA
4-H Grand Champion Market Swine	Allison Stonebarger	Chatom 4-H
4-H Reserve Champion Market Swine	Drew Watje	Shiloh 4-H
FFA Grand Champion Market Swine	Trent Watje	Turlock Christian FFA
FFA Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine	Matthew Bailey	Waterford FFA

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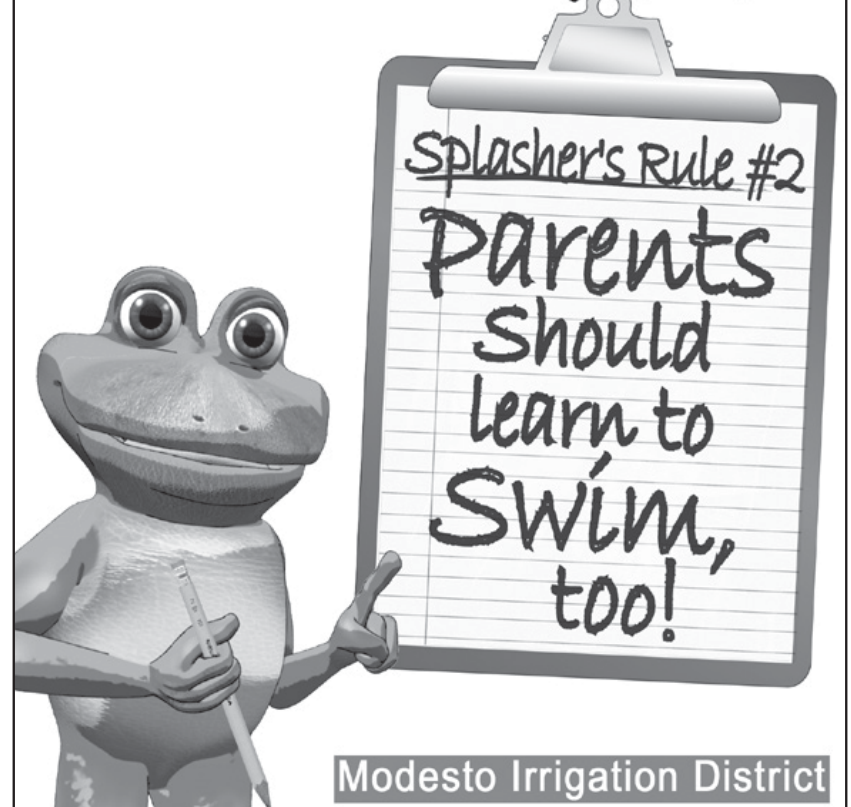
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- Increased pollinator forage
- Improved water holding capacity



Open enrollment for the Seeds for Bees program runs through August 31 or until funding is exhausted. Scan the QR code and apply today to see the potential benefits of cover crops.



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