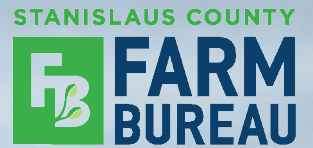


The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



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



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County Farm Bureau
Vol.74 No.11 June 9, 2023

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

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- Classes are available in English and Spanish.
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- Use the QR code to register or go to stanfarmbureau.org/events/

Tuesday, June 13th CPR & First Aid

8:00-12:00 pm : Spanish

1:00-5:00 pm : English

CalOSHA requires that at least 1 employee for every 20 employees be trained.

Thursday, July 13th Equipment Safety

11:00-noon : Spanish

1:00-2:00 pm : English

CalOSHA requires that employees who operate equipment be trained annually.

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Upcoming Class Schedule

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

Save the Dates for 2023

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



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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Agricultural Employment Policy

The Senate moved three Farm Bureau-opposed measures to the Assembly for further consideration.

SB-553 Senator Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) passed the Senate on May 31 on a 29-8 vote with three abstentions. The imposes the expansive and detailed requirements of Cal/OSHA's healthcare workplace violence regulation on all California employers, regardless of industry or size. SB 553 disrupts an ongoing Cal/OSHA regulatory process in which the agency is seeking to craft a workplace violence regulation more suited to general industry. Several Senators commented on the unsuitability of the workplace violence regulation SB 553 will impose for workplaces other than hospitals and healthcare facilities, and Senator Cortese pledged to address those concerns in the Assembly. Farm Bureau remains opposed. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

SB-399 Senator Aisha Wahab (D-Hayward) passed the Senate on May 25 on 26-7 with some moderate Democrats abstaining in response concerns raised by employers. SB 399 prohibits employers from conducting employee meetings in the context of a unionization campaign to explain the employer's opposition to unionization. Farm Bureau remains opposed because SB 399 is a clear-cut violation of an employer's First Amendment right to free speech, and will curb employer's right to fully inform employees about unionization activities. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

SB-616 Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) passed the Senate on a 27-9 vote with four abstentions. SB 616 increases the paid sick leave mandate first established by AB 1522 (L. Gonzalez) in 2013 from three days or 24 hours to 7 days 56 hours. No provision is made in SB 616 to allow employers to manage misuse of paid sick leave. Farm Bureau remains opposed. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

Ag Technology

AB-1016, authored by Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), passed from the Assembly 72-0 and moves to the Senate. The bill is sponsored by the California Farm Bureau. This bill aims to modernize aerial pesticide applicator credentialing requirements by expanding the Department of Pesticide Regulations' authority to create training programs for drone aerial applicator licensing independent of existing journeymen/apprenticeship requirements. As a result of the bill's progress, Orange Coast Community College announced the creation of an Associate Science degree in Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) with an emphasis on aerial applications. OCC (and hopefully other community colleges) will train students to have the skills needed to attain journeymen level status through academic coursework and real world training, establishing a viable agriculture technology workforce development pathway. The bill is opposed unless amended by the California Agriculture Aircraft Association, which represents a few hundred aerial pesticide applicator aircraft pilots. CAAA offered amendments to AB

1016 that would roll back the existing legally permitted use of drones, completely removing the technology from any commercial applications. Of course, these amendments were rejected by the Farm Bureau because UAS aerial application licensing is already allowed by applicators that pass the DPR administered aerial applicator examinations. AB 1016 solely addresses that training to allow other institutions, like our colleges, to train people to apply for an aerial applicator license. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Air Quality

This week, AB-985 by Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) passed off of the Assembly floor. Farm Bureau, alongside a large coalition of agricultural stakeholders, oppose this bill. AB 985 would eliminate the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's emission reduction credit (ERC) allowance. This will severely inhibit the capacity for the District to achieve state and federal air quality standards and effectively prohibit the permitting of any critical business operation within the District's jurisdiction. AB 985 would dismantle this ERC program and require all existing and future emission reduction credits in all banks to expire as of January 1, 2024. CARB has reviewed the District's ERC program and determined that further changes are unnecessary. AB 985 is also a substantial overreach, eroding local control offered to jurisdictions, including the District, to take meaningful, locally approved steps to improve air quality. This bill stirred a long floor discussion with many

democrats either abstaining or voting "no" on the bill. The bill narrowly passed with 45 votes and moves to the Senate. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

Animal Health and Welfare

A few weeks ago, the United States Supreme Court released their decision to uphold Proposition 12. This animal-welfare law, approved by California voters, mandates that pork, eggs and veal products sold in the state must come from animals housed in confinement systems that comply with specific minimum standards for freedom of movement, cage-free design, and minimum floor space. The Proposition, which passed in 2018, was due to take effect last year, but The National Pork Producers Council and American Farm Bureau went to court to challenge the provisions affecting their industry. The Supreme Court ultimately decided that states can set their own food and safety standards, and that other states must comply if they wish to sell within those markets. Following the court decision, the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released several documents to help producers adhere to these regulations. The Animal Care Program website has additional documentation and information including how to address county fair animals. CDFA has also released dates for a series of webinars for various stages of processing:

- Tuesday, June 6th at 11 am Pacific Webinar for "End-Users" – retailers, restaurants, food processors
<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9a0d5944-173c-4836-8a32-e7f8648d809b@>

afdfd251-a222-4897-8cba-ae-68cabfffbc
 •Tuesday, June 13th at 11 am Pacific
 Webinar for “Distributors” – selling or distributing covered product to an end-user in California
<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/52a763bf-a0f1-4342-a890-564ccbae6b2e@afdfd251-a222-4897-8cba-ae-68cabfffbc>
 •Tuesday, June 27th at 11 am Pacific
 Webinar for “Pork Producers” – keeping or housing breeding pigs
<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5b68b1dd-d84b-40b4-a337-3cd0b6f71e25@afdfd251-a222-4897-8cba-ae-68cabfffbc>

All producers and distributors are required to have third-party compliance certification by January 1, 2024. More information on dates and deadlines can be found here. If you have any questions, please contact AnimalCare@cdfa.ca.gov. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com
 This week, CDFA released a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the Trichomonosis Control Program – Bull Slaughter Agreement Exemption & Cattle Special Entry Permits. The Department is proposing the amendment to sections 820 and 820.4 under of Article 12, Chapter 2, Division 2, of

Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to update the Bull Slaughter Agreement exemption to provide clarity for the application and scope of the regulated exemption. The benefit of this amendment is to provide the public with clear and accurate information for the requirements of the Bull Slaughter

Agreement exemption and allow for easier movement of animals through sale to slaughter while maintaining disease control and to provide consistency with existing regulations previously amended related to cattle movement. The public comment period begins May 26, 2023 and ends on July 10, 2023. CAFB is planning on submitting written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Department. If you would like more information, or provide staff with pertinent information about the effects of the proposal, please contact Katie Little. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

Members may have also received notice that horses in Southern California have been diagnosed with Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). Cases have been predominantly concentrated in Riverside and San Diego Counties at this time. With the confirmation of VS in California, CDFA would like to ensure

awareness of the cases, and share reporting and prevention information for livestock producers and industry. Please contact CDFA immediately if you have suspicion of

a VS case. 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. While VS is rarely fatal, it is highly contagious and can cause severe discomfort and significant production losses in affected individuals. The lesions are clinically very similar and indistinguishable from those associated with the devastating Foot and Mouth disease. Vector mitigation (specifically black fly and sand fly control) is critical in containing a potential VS outbreak. 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. For more information, please contact CDFA. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

CESA and Wildlife

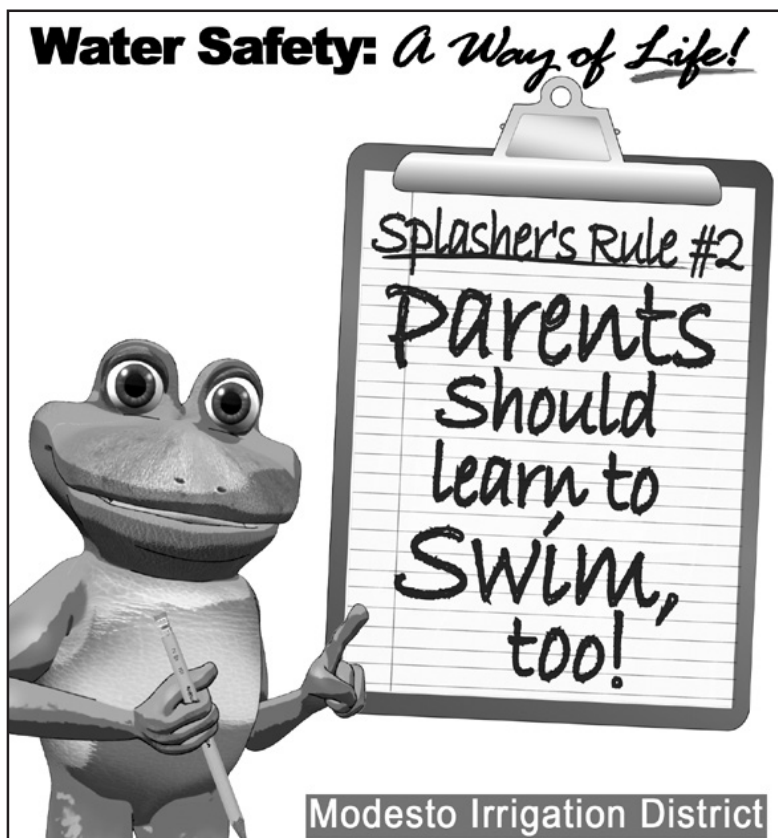
As members may recall, earlier this year the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) shared the final draft of the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program with key stakeholders. CAFB reviewed the draft and provided comment on areas that were concerning to our ranching and farming community. Wolf depredation reports have drastically increased in the last year as pack numbers are growing in the Northern region of the state. To help ranchers with the increasing number of wolves in the region, the 2021 budget allocated \$3 million for the creation of the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program within CDFW. Through the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program, ranchers are able to apply for reimbursement for

damages that wolves cause to livestock. On Wednesday, the Department launched the final “prong” of the 3-pronged program – Indirect loss compensation. The other two prongs that were already in place are 1) direct loss/wolf attack (market value) and 2) compensation for deterrence measures. Farm Bureau has long advocated the importance of this last form of compensation. The indirect effects of wolf/predator presence on cattle can be costly to ranching operations. Stress, caused by constant predator presence, can affect birthing weights, weight gain, and pregnancy rates in livestock. Although the last prong was just launched, producers may apply for losses incurred on or after September 23, 2021. Ranchers seeking assistance in applying for these state funds may contact CDFW at wolfprogram@wildlife.ca.gov. This spring, CDFW conducted three technical assistance workshops in northern California to help ranchers navigate the application process for this program. Additional workshops are planned in the coming months. More information is available on CDFW’s Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program web page. To date, CDFW has processed 41 applications seeking \$750,509.02 in compensation under both prongs of the program. CDFW has approved all 41 applications and they are in the process of being paid by the California State Controller’s Office. Farm Bureau staff encourages membership to report wildlife/livestock interactions to the Department. All questions, comments, or concerns regarding wolves and, other predators, can be addressed directly to Katie Little. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

Forestry and Wildfire

AB-297 , authored by Assemblymember Vince Fong (R-Bakersfield), passed from the Assembly 80-0 and moves to the Senate. The bill seeks to prevent disastrous wildfires by expediting funding for wildfire prevention projects. Specific-

See Review on page 10



FREE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

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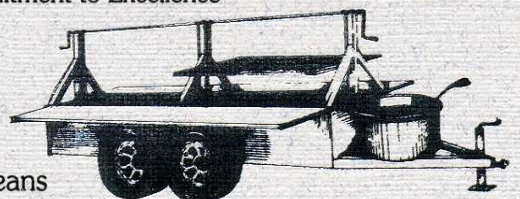
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Federal Court Sides with Counties, Cities, and Forestry Groups, Ruling USFS

May Continue Use of Aerial Fire Retardants to Fight Wildfires

MISSOULA, MT — Today, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana (Court) issued a ruling in a case brought by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) seeking to enjoin the USFS' use of aerial fire retardants during firefighting activities. The Court ruled that USFS may continue using aerial fire retardants while pursuing a Clean Water Act (CWA) permit. This ruling came after a broad coalition of communities and landholders affected by wildfires filed an amicus brief and participated in oral arguments supporting USFS' ability to use aerial fire retardants.

"Today's decision is a victory for communities and industry stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on the Forest Service's ability to successfully fight catastrophic wildfires. Fire retardant is one of the most important tools we have in our toolbox, and the Court's decision to safeguard this tool was ultimately a decision to prioritize lives, land, businesses, and forested environments. I am grateful to the Court for considering how truly important this decision was to California forests and the American West as a whole." – Matt Dias, President and CEO of the California Forestry Association

"Montana and states across the west need access to every tool available to suppress wildfires to protect lives, property, and natural resources. The Court's decision allowing the Forest Service to continue the use of aerial fire retardants will lead to safer firefighting conditions for firefighters on the ground and more effective suppression. We applaud the decision and can move forward confidently into the peak of our fire year knowing we can continue to prioritize the protection of human lives and property." – Amanda Kaster, Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

"The health, vitality, and stability of the communities within which our AFRC members work are reliant on prompt and effective fire suppression efforts by the Forest Service and other federal agencies. AFRC's members depend on the health and productivity of public forests, and many of our members own private forestlands that are directly adjacent to public forests managed by federal agencies. We are pleased with the outcome of this case, because the ability to deploy aerial fire retardant until a CWA permit is issued will help protect local communities, national forests, and private forestlands." – Travis Joseph, President and CEO of the American Forest Resource Council


"Catastrophic wildfires can endanger fish and wildlife species, compromise air quality, and threaten the safety of Washington's communities. The greatest threat of catastrophic wildfire today is in U.S. National Forests, and because fire ignores ownership boundaries, private forest landowners rely on U.S. Forest Service to deploy aerial fire retardants to suppress these wildfires. This decision will protect healthy, sustainable forests across Washington State, benefiting our air and water quality as well as the flourishing wildlife habitats in and around our forests." – Jason Spadaro, Executive Director of the Washington Forest Protection Association

"Today's court decision will literally save lives. The aerial application of fire retardant is a critical part of the U.S. Forest Service's firefighting strategy, and it unquestionably reduces a fire's rate of spread, intensity, and danger to firefighters and the public. Taking this tool away would undermine the health and safety of our communities and cause significant economic harm to businesses navigating the constant threat of wildfire. Because the court rightfully chose to prioritize public safety, Americans across the West can breathe a sigh of relief." – Ken Pimlott, Former Director of CAL FIRE


"Our farmers and ranchers face severe threats from wildfires that can occur in national forests and spread to agricultural lands, and

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they rely on state and federal agencies to use every tool possible to fight these fires. Continuing the use of aerial fire retardants will save the lives of livestock, preserve grazing operations, and protect our rural agricultural communities from peril.” – Jamie Johansson, President of California Farm Bureau

“As stewards of our forest land, it is our responsibility to fight for the protection of this precious resource at every level, which is why we are relieved the court ruled the U.S. Forest Service may continue to deploy fire retardants until a Clean Water Act permit is obtained. When a wildfire cannot be prevented, effective suppression capabilities are crucial for protecting our forests.” – Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition

“As a result of today’s decision, lives will be saved, less property will burn, and small Western economies will have more opportunity to flourish. The health, welfare, and economic prosperity of the residents of Butte County, along with many other rural communities, are uniquely reliant on—and impacted by—the Forest Service’s wildfire suppression efforts, which is why I am thrilled the Court ruled to allow the Forest Service to continue deploying aerial fire retardants.” – Doug Teeter, Butte County Supervisor and Board Chair of the Rural County Representatives of California

"Fire retardant has no substitute — not water, fuel breaks or ground crews. Prohibiting its use would harm forest conservation, threaten endangered species and impede our ability to save lives. I am glad the court recognized and acted upon the importance and urgency of this matter." – Brian Fennessy, Fire Chief of the Orange County Fire Authority

"No one knows the damage that these fires can cause more so than communities like mine. We lost our town to one of the biggest fires

in California history, so this case was very personal for us. Our brave firefighters need every tool in the toolbox to protect human lives and property against wildfires, and today’s ruling ensures we have a fighting chance this fire season.” – Greg Bolin, Mayor of the Town of Paradise, California

BACKGROUND:

On March 9, the California Forestry Association joined the Town of Paradise, California, which was devastated in the 2018 Camp Fire; Butte and Plumas counties, California; Rural County Representatives of California; American Forest Resource Council; National Alliance of Forest Owners; Federal Forest Resource Coalition; Montana Wood Products Association; Oregon Forest Industry Council; Washington Forest Protection Association; California Farm Bureau Federation; National Wildfire Suppression Association; and California Women for Agriculture in petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana to join the case brought in October 2022 by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

On March 31, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana granted the coalition the right to file an amicus brief and participate in the upcoming oral arguments on the summary judgment motion.

On April 14, the coalition filed an amicus brief in opposition to FSEEE’s motion for summary judgment, which included a declaration in support of the putative intervenors’ opposition to the plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment from Ken Pimlott, former director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

On April 24, the Court heard oral arguments from FSEEE, USFS, and the coalition of amici curiae.

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From Review on page 5

ly, the bill extends the authorization provided to the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) to send advance payments from a fire prevention grant from 2024 to 2034. Farm Bureau supports the bill. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

AB-338, authored by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar Curry (D-Winters) passed the Assembly by a vote of 66-8 with 8 members abstaining. The bill moves to the Senate. This bill would, commencing January 1, 2025, expand the definition of "public works" to include fuel reduction work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project. The bill would limit those provisions to work that falls within an apprenticeship program in the building and construction trades for which an apprenticeship program has been approved and to contracts in excess of \$100,000. The bill would delay the application of those provisions until January 1, 2026, for nonprofits holding those "public works" contracts. Farm Bureau has not taken a position on the bill. The vote provides an interesting study where Republican members split between opposing the bill or not voting against the bill, and all Democrats including those from wildfire prone areas across the state, in support of the bill. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

Pesticides

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) today released a report finding that 97% of fruits and vegetables sampled within the state in 2021 met federal pesticide safety standards. The 2021 California Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program Report shows that 97% of domestically grown and imported produce samples collected in 2021 had either no detectable pesticide residues or had residues within the allowable federally-established tolerances. In addition, more than

98% of produce samples labeled as "grown in California" had no residues or tolerances that exceeded allowable levels. These results, compiled annually, are consistent with the department's last several years of produce residue monitoring, and reflect the strength of California's pesticide regulatory program and compliance with it. The 2021 report's findings are based on 3,444 produce samples collected by the department at approximately 500 locations. The pesticide residue monitoring program supports DPR's mission to protect people and the environment. Federally established tolerances identify the

maximum allowable residue level of a specific pesticide on food that provides a 'reasonable certainty of no harm.' "DPR's produce monitoring program is the largest and longest-running state program for testing fruits and vegetables for illegal pesticide residues," DPR Director Julie Henderson said. "With a focus on food eaten by children, as well as the state's diverse ethnic communities, this program helps protect all Californians from pesticide residues on both domestic and imported produce."

DPR scientists throughout the year visit food distribution centers, stores and outdoor

markets to collect samples of foreign and domestically grown produce. The samples are tested by California Department of Food and Agriculture labs for more than 500 pesticide residues and breakdown products. U.S.-grown produce continues to have significantly fewer illegal pesticide residues than imported produce. Imported produce accounted for nearly 77% of illegal pesticide residue samples. Of the imported commodities sampled, cactus pads and fruit originating from Mexico continue to show high percentages of illegal pesticide residues.

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detected, DPR investigators trace the suspect crop through its lines of trade – from store shelves, to shippers, importers or growers. Tainted products and crops are quarantined and subject to reconditioning, such as washing to remove residues, or potential destruction. In addition to potentially losing their inventory, growers and distributors whose produce exceeds tolerances can face fines and other penalties. During 2021, DPR issued 120 quarantine notices for more than 70,000 pounds of produce carrying illegal pesticide residues. In addition, DPR referred 22 cases of illegal California-grown samples to local County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) for investigation of potential illegal pesticide uses. CACs issued statutory fines against growers in instances where produce sources were able to be identified. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cbbf.com

Rural Crime

AB-1519 by Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains (D-Bakersfield) passed unanimously off of the Assembly floor. This bill would prohibit any person, except as exempted, from removing, altering, or obfuscating the vehicle identification number that has been added to a catalytic converter, or from knowingly possessing 3 or more catalytic converters that have been so altered. "We need to give law enforcement the tools they need to hold thieves accountable," stated Dr. Bains. "My bill will

put some real teeth into our laws. This is a reform that has been tried multiple times over the last few years, but all of those efforts have failed to pass. I am incredibly proud to get this measure passed in my first year in office." This bill now moves on to the Senate. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cbbf.com

Transportation

California Air Resources Board (CARB) has released its annual reminder for the reporting of Large Spark-Ignition (LSI) Engine Fleet Requirements. This regulation extends to all operators that are required to report their equipment to CARB pursuant Cal. Code Regs., Title 13, § 2775.1 (a)(5) of the LSI Regulation to submit an annual attestation between June 1 and June 30. The LSI Fleet Regulation applies to operators of forklifts, sweeper/scrubbers, industrial tow tractors, and airport ground support equipment. For each annual attestation, a fleet must report any changes to the fleet, hour meter readings for limited hours of use vehicles, and an attestation that the information is true, accurate, and complete. To assist fleets with compliance, CARB developed an electronic attestation tool in DOORS, the on-line reporting tool. The electronic attestation is now available for fleets to access. CARB provides the electronic attestation as a convenience for fleet operators. For additional guidance on how to submit an annual attestation, review the DOORS User Guide

How to Submit an LSI Annual Attestation. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cbbf.com

This week, CARB also announced The Fiscal Year 2022-23 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives allocated \$182 million to the Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Program (CORE). CORE is intended to accelerate the adoption of cleaner, commercially available off-road technologies by providing a streamlined way for fleets ready to purchase specific zero-emission equipment. On July 18, 2023, CALSTART the CORE project administrators will open the 22-23 CORE funding for CORE eligible zero-emission off-road equipment vouchers. CORE provides vouchers to California purchasers and lessees of zero-emission off-road equipment on a first-come, first-served basis, with increased incentives for equipment located in disadvantaged communities and small businesses.

Did you know that some CORE funded equipment can be used to meet regulatory compliance requirements? Recent CARB adopted proposed amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation include voluntary compliance flexibilities for fleets that incorporate zero-emission technology into their off-road fleets. For more information, visit the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation, see section 2449.1(d) and (e) of the regulation for detailed information.

To participate in the CORE program owners/operators reach out to CORE eligible dealers. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cbbf.com

Water RIGHTS BILLS ADVANCE (Just Barely)

The three major water rights bills that Farm Bureau has been activity lobbying

against all session passed the floor this week and advanced to the second house, but under circumstances that give us encouragement.

AB 460 by Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), which would allow the State Water Board to issue interim orders for curtailment and severely restrict due process for diverters, was voted off the Assembly floor by a margin of only three votes (43 "yes," 20 "no," and 17 abstentions). Floor debate on this bill lasted nearly 30 minutes with nearly 10 members speaking in opposition and only two in support.

AB 1337 by Asm. Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), which would allow the State Water Board to curtail riparian and pre-1914 water rights without an emergency order and during non-drought years, was voted off the Assembly floor by a margin of only five votes (45 "yes," 20 "no," and 15 abstentions).

SB 389 by Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), which would allow the State Water Board to investigate at will any claim of water right to determine its validity, was voted off the Senate floor by a margin of just three votes (23 "yes," 11 "no," and 6 abstentions). In order to receive enough votes for passage, Sen. Allen made a commitment on the floor to remove the bill's provisions that made it easier for the State Water Board to determine a water right claim is forfeited.

The coalition opposing all three bills, which includes the Farm Bureau, believes that Sen. Allen is open to continuing to work on SB 389 to improve it and remove a substantial amount of opposition. Both Assembly bills barely survived, and we now have at least three opportunities to stop these relatively unpopular bills in the Senate, especially if Sen. Allen's bill is improved and emerges as the "water rights bill frontrunner." Staff: Alex Biering; abiering@cbbf.com

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For 50 years, farm workers in California have held certain fundamental rights to decide for themselves, in the absence of coercion from anyone with an interest in the outcome, whether or not they wish to be represented by a union. The protection against coercion has, since the inception of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, been a secret ballot election supervised by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Today in California, those fundamental rights have been stripped from farm employees through a side deal between Gov. Gavin Newsom and labor unions seeking to serve their own interests.

In his Ag Alert commentary earlier this month, Bryan Little, director of employment policy for CAFB and Chief Operating Officer for Farm Bureau's wholly owned affiliate, the Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS), described the back door deal this way:

"In late March, in a normal routine process to update the state budget to conform to a law passed in a previous legislative session, a California Assembly subcommittee approved a budget change proposal for Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2023-24 state funding plan. This action marked a significant change in state policy on how labor relations in agriculture will be managed.

This action advanced a side deal between Newsom, the United Farm Workers and the California Labor Federation to ease the unionization of agricultural workers while eliminating requirements for secret-ballot elections for organizing.

The governor initially signaled last year that he would not sign the mail-in ballot card-check legislation, Assembly Bill 2183. But then the governor and the labor groups agreed amongst themselves to amend the bill—and he reversed course and signed it into law."

Sadly, back-door deals and empty promises are nothing new in politics, but what is especially unconscionable in this circumstance is the undermining of basic rights and freedoms held by every other private employee of the state. In California, a farmworker no longer has the right to vote their conscience in secret, free from intimidation by a union, and many employees will be forced into a union without ever even knowing about it. Once in a union, 3% of their paycheck is gone and the employee has relinquished their right to speak and negotiate for themselves.

Where do we go from here?

While we continue to work through solutions using legislative channels, the next step forward in this battle centers on education. In recent months, Farm Employers Labor Service invested over \$80,000 in radio ads to reach farm employees on the new reality of these unionization tactics. These ads sought to inform farm employees of the harsh reality that their signature on a union card entitles the union to strip them of their right to freely choose union representation (or not) at their current place of employment and any to come. No secret ballot, no protection of rights and no ability for an employer to work collectively with their employees for the betterment of all.

Moving ahead, FELS is offering grower webinars to help you better understand and address this issue on your farm. FELS continues to offer training and education in both English and Spanish on a wide variety of topics and remains your boots on the ground for all agricultural employment-related issues.

The fight to maintain fundamental individual rights is one we'll keep fighting in California, and, as our farm employees know all too well, sometimes your opponent is the very one you thought would be fighting alongside you.

To read Bryan Little's Ag Alert Commentary: Farm workplace tested by a side deal on unionizing, check out <https://cfbf.com/>

To learn more about the Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS) and its educational trainings and webinars, click here.

Jamie Johansson,
President, California Farm Bureau

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New Research Offers Clarity on Actual Water Use by Agriculture

Recent scientific work by the California Bountiful Foundation, the 501(c)(3) science and research arm of the California Farm Bureau, has found that California farmers and ranchers use only 15% of the total water the state receives.

These findings, now available on the California Bountiful Foundation website under Research and Studies, offers a data-based analysis of water use of California agriculture, the largest food producing sector in the U.S. The data contradicts stereotypes often repeated on the share of water used for agriculture.

A policy brief and peer-reviewed scientific publications will follow to memorialize this work, said Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, director of science and research for the California Farm Bureau.

“We set out to understand how agriculture water is allocated, portrayed, and presented,” Dr. Gunasekara said. “What we found out is that commonly expressed beliefs over water use by farmers and ranchers are simply not supported by actual data on how much

water California receives.”

The California Bountiful Foundation, in collaboration with the Governmental Affairs Division of the California Farm Bureau, has started to release policy briefs to educate policy makers and stakeholder groups.

“For an agricultural sector that leads the nation in food production and provides a diverse, nutritious, affordable and safe food supply, this data shows that California agriculture is highly efficient,” said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson. “We are working hard to educate our policy makers to bring understanding to California’s critical agricultural food production.”

More information on policy briefs can be found here. A recent commentary in the Ag Alert newspaper on the agriculture water-use findings may be found here.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members.

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

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

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

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


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

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

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



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

Rev. 5/22



Join the Journey!

Have you heard? Brought to you by the Almond Board of California, the *Almond Journey Podcast* explores how growers, handlers, and other stakeholders are making things work in their operations to drive the almond industry forward.





▶ Episode 40: Monitoring and Mass Trapping of Navel Orangeworm Females with Dennis Notsuya and Elonce Peterson

▶ Episode 39: The Business of Family Farming with Keith Yamamoto

▶ Almond Byte, April 2023: Decree 248, Transportation Updates and Upcoming Turkish Visit

⏪ ⏩ ⏸

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Learn how almond leaders throughout California are finding innovative ways to improve their operations, connect with their communities, and advance the almond industry. Hearing the voices of industry leaders might spark a connection or idea you can use in your own journey!

Document #2023IR0044

Farm Bureau president urges Congress to address fire risks

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson is calling for increasing the pace and scale of forest management, including employing livestock grazing and prescribed burns to reduce dangerous fuels and protect communities and the environment. On May 23, Johansson testified in Washington, D.C., before a federal lands subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources. He told the panel, "Given the extensive number of wildfire related impacts in California, California Farm Bureau has a vested interest in quality and quantity of forest management activities."

Researchers: Lab-grown meat may be worse for environment than retail beef

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, have found that lab-grown or "cultivated" meat's environmental impact is likely to be significantly higher than retail beef. Researchers conducted a life-cycle assessment of energy needed and greenhouse gases emitted in all stages of production compared with beef. Based on current and near-term production methods, they concluded that lab-grown meat will be worse for the environment and more expensive than conventional beef production.

Farm Bureau: Small farmers need help after storms

The California Farm Bureau is calling on the state to improve mechanisms for disbursing disaster relief payments for damages suffered in devastating 2023 storms. Testifying before a joint informational hearing of the California Assembly Agriculture Commit-

tee and the Assembly Emergency Management Committee, Farm Bureau Administrator Jim Houston said the storm impacts have been especially hard on small farmers, including many that may lack insurance. "There is no good mechanism for people to recover their losses," Houston said at the May 23 hearing.

Winter storms may have increased risks of tree pathogens

Atmospheric rivers that swept across the state this year have created conditions for plant pathogens that haven't been seen for decades in California. Florent Trouillas, a plant pathologist at the University of California, Davis, said he is getting more calls from growers and farm advisors concerned about potential crop damage. Recent tests in an orchard showed the presence of *Phytophthora syringae*, a pathogen that can affect almond crops but is rarely seen in California. Researchers are working to diagnose fruit and nut crop ailments that could be enhanced by wet weather.

Dairies in Tulare, Kings counties resuming operations after flooding

Dairy operators in Tulare and Kings counties say they are thankful to return to the normal rhythms of feeding, milking and calving after historic flooding in March burst levees and forced dairies to rapidly evacuate their cows. Tulare County is California's leading milk and milk products producer. Kings County ranks fourth. Thousands of cattle were evacuated during the storms. While most have returned to dairy ranches, they are being closely watched by veterinarians for stress, which can open doors for disease. No cattle illness spikes have been noted to date.

U.S. Supreme Court rejects challenges to California animal housing law

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld California's Proposition 12. Now out-of-state producers of pork, eggs and veal have decisions to make: Change their operations to comply with the law's animal housing requirements or stop selling their products in California. The Golden State enjoys a 13% share of the U.S. consumer pork market, making it economically infeasible for many pork producers to exit the California market. Because of the interconnected nature of the U.S. pork industry, all or most hog farmers would be forced to comply with the state's requirements.

Salinas Valley lettuce farmers hope for better year after floods, crop virus

Things are even more challenging for lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley after this year's storms. Farmers in 2022 had suffered an estimated \$150 million in crop losses as impatiens necrotic spot virus—a destructive plant disease spread by thrips—moved from field to field. Then this year, vast flooding from atmospheric storms damaged multiple crops, with lettuce growers suffering an additional \$54.4 million in losses, according to recent figures released by the Monterey County agricultural commissioner. Still, lettuce growers say they are hoping for a successful crop this year.

Monterey County winds soothe winegrapes, frustrate tourists

Coastal winds in Monterey County create some challenging contradictions for a wine region trying to build its brand and attract more tourism. Some winegrape producers say they fear winds that push the fog and help cool vineyard leaves can also discourage winery construction and dissuade tourists who may not want to sip fine wine varietals in gusty settings. Still, the upstate coastal wine region is winning acclaim for its pinot noir and "premium, coastal, cool-weather chardonnay." The wine sector produces \$1.4 billion in economic activity for the county and provides 10,491 jobs.



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Funding Questionable for New Specialty Crop Farm Bill Programs

Source: AgNet West, Sabrina Halvorson

The specialty crop industry wants farm bill funding for research and new programs, but lawmakers ask, where's that money coming from?

Dave Puglia, president and CEO of Western Growers and co-chair of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance says it's hard to say what is the most important of all the priorities for specialty crops in the farm bill. However, he said there are some important goals.

"It's hard to pick among your children. The specialty crop Farm Bill Alliance is 125 organizations, 19 of us on the steering committee. We have 109 proposals into Congress," he said while speaking at the Food and Ag Policy Summit in Sacramento, California on Monday. "We've all been meeting with the chairs and ranking members of the committees and other members of the committees to make sure they have clarity on what those 109 proposals entail. I would just put it this way. I think going into any farm bill cycle where the specialty crop industry still has a toehold, and doesn't necessarily have the strongest toehold politically, the first order of business is: no going backward."

Puglia said his second most important goal was to find new money for new research and programs that would directly benefit specialty crops such as research into automation. Still, he said that is going to take some work, as he learned at a meeting with Michigan Senator and chair of the Senate Ag Committee, Debbie Stabenow.

"She immediately looked at myself and a couple of my colleagues who were with me from the alliance and said, 'There won't be any new money, so don't ask.' And she's our great champion for specialty crops," he said. "I love Senator Stabenow, but I just couldn't sit there and hear that after seeing the federal government come up with \$3.5 trillion in the last two years that wasn't there prior."

Yet, speaking Tuesday at the Midwest Agriculture Summit held in Fargo, North Dakota, former long-time Congressman Collin Peterson reiterated that there won't be any new money.

"I think the biggest issue now is all these groups that want to get in the bill, all these folks who want more money, and where's that going to come from? The Republicans are not going to stand for any extra revenue, in my opinion. That's off the table," Peterson said. "And so, if we're going to cut spending, it's very difficult to take money cut from one part of the farm bill and try to add it to the other part."

Meanwhile, Puglia isn't giving up. He asks lawmakers to look seriously at the proposals the alliance put forward around things such as automation, mechanization, research into biologicals, and more.

You can hear more about the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance and its requests for the farm bill in this interview with Robert Gunther, chief public policy officer of the International Fresh Produce Association and secretary of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance.

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Sites Reservoir Continues Progress with Water Board Decision

Source: Brian German, AgNet West

The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that the Sites Reservoir water rights application is officially complete. That moves the development process to the next step with a 60-day public comment period being opened. The public can provide input regarding the Sites Project Authority (Authority) receiving a new water rights permit for the project. A permit would provide state authority for diverting water within specific guidelines.



“We are excited to move into this next phase of the permitting process, which builds on the momentum

we’ve had this past year,” Executive Director of the Authority, Jerry Brown said in a press release. “We welcome the public review of our work, and we are confident in our analysis that the Sites Reservoir Project can safely and reliably serve as a key component of new infrastructure to manage California’s water in light of our changing climate.”

Several factors will be considered during the comment period. Potential impacts on senior water rights holders, the environment, and public trust resources will all be weighed during the process. The State Water Board will issue a water rights permit if the project meets the criteria which includes assurance that unappropriated water is available and will ultimately serve the public interest. While largely supported by various industries including agriculture, environmentalists are encouraging the public to object to the Sites Reservoir Project. Friends of the River (FOR) has described the project as a “boondoggle.” FOR Executive Director Jann Dorman said the project “is a waste of time, money, and resources.” The group asserts that the expansion of water storage through the project is not worth the impact on grasslands and riparian habitats.

The Authority notes that it has run several scenarios in its analysis of the project and that the Sites Reservoir can benefit the public while simultaneously meeting environmental standards. Alicia Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager of the Authority said that every analysis that was run demonstrated that water would be available for the project. “This year is a great example. In 2023 alone—after multiple atmospheric rivers—roughly 700,000 acre-feet of water could have been stored in Sites Reservoir and saved for later use,” Forsythe explained.



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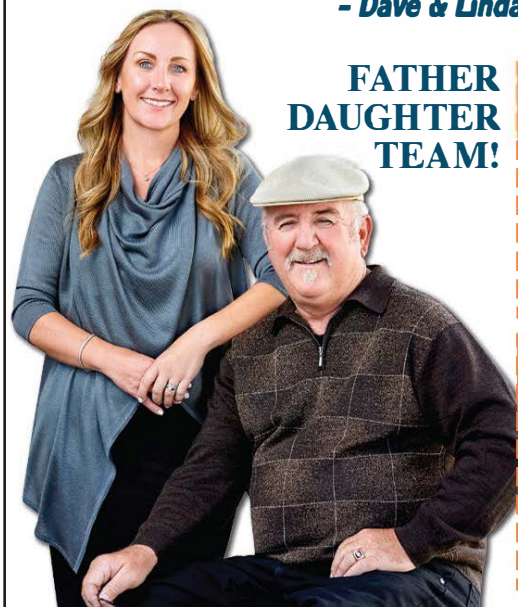


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Understanding farm succession planning

Finding time to talk to your family about succession planning for your farm may be difficult. You may also be uncomfortable with the thought of selling your farm or handing over control to family members.

Make the time to develop a solid transition

plan for your farming business. You'll help ensure that your family's wishes are met, and emotional stress is minimized.

What you should know up front about transitioning your farm Unlike estate plans, which concentrate on tax liabilities and the various ways to lessen the tax burden, succession plans focus on the future of the farm. They're an integral part of an estate farm plan.

When you decide to retire, your farm succession plan may include:

- Transferring or selling ownership to a vested family member. To be fair to non-farming heirs, you may leave them with equal settlements of money, stock or other assets.
- Liquidating farm assets, such as auctioning equipment and livestock or selling land.
- Renting or leasing your land and equipment.
- Selling or contracting the property.

Determine the desired end result

Concentrate on the desired final outcomes of the succession.

Among the important questions, you should ask yourself:

- What do my spouse and I envision for the future of the farm?
- Do I want to stay involved with the operation on a smaller scale?
- What kind of income might I need for retirement or health care costs?

If you have a family member who could and may want to take over the operation, you should be comfortable that they have the knowledge and skills to run it profitably. Also, think about siblings who might each want a piece of the farm. Are you being pressured to sell by those who don't share your love of the land?

Getting it right the first time

Succession plans sometimes fail because certain risks were not considered during the planning stages, including:

- Inadequate cash flow
- Liquidation of some assets to provide for retirement
- Poor farm estate planning
- Unresolved issues between family members or a successor who's not prepared to lead and manage the farm business

It's important to enlist the help of qualified professionals who don't have a stake in the final decisions. They can help you make sound, unbiased decisions for your farm estate. Qualified professionals may include:

- A financial or estate planner who specializes in farm estate planning
- A moderator or arbitrator to help with family discussions
- Your banker to help with finance resources
- Your accountant who has income records and projections for your business
- Your personal attorney, or one who specializes in tax issues

Get connected to financial specialists who can help protect your farm, family and future by visiting Nationwide.com/YourLand.



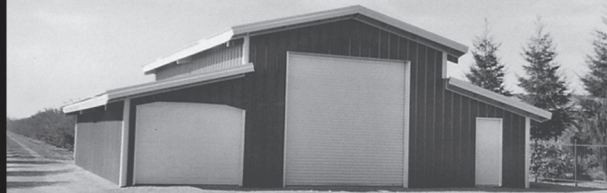
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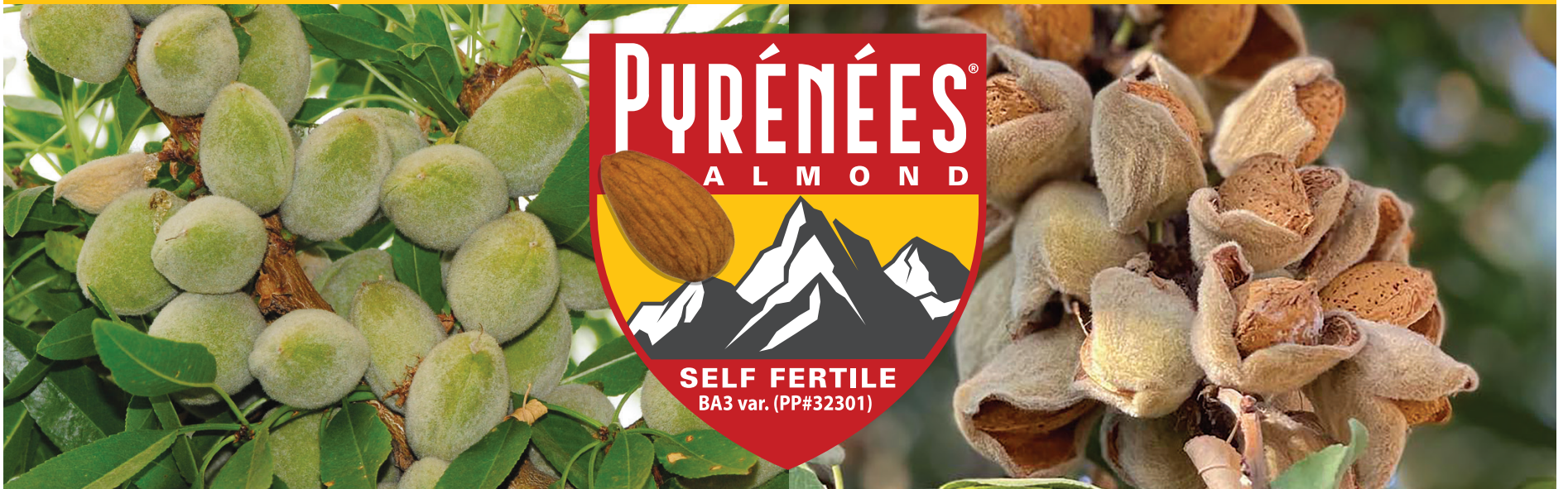


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