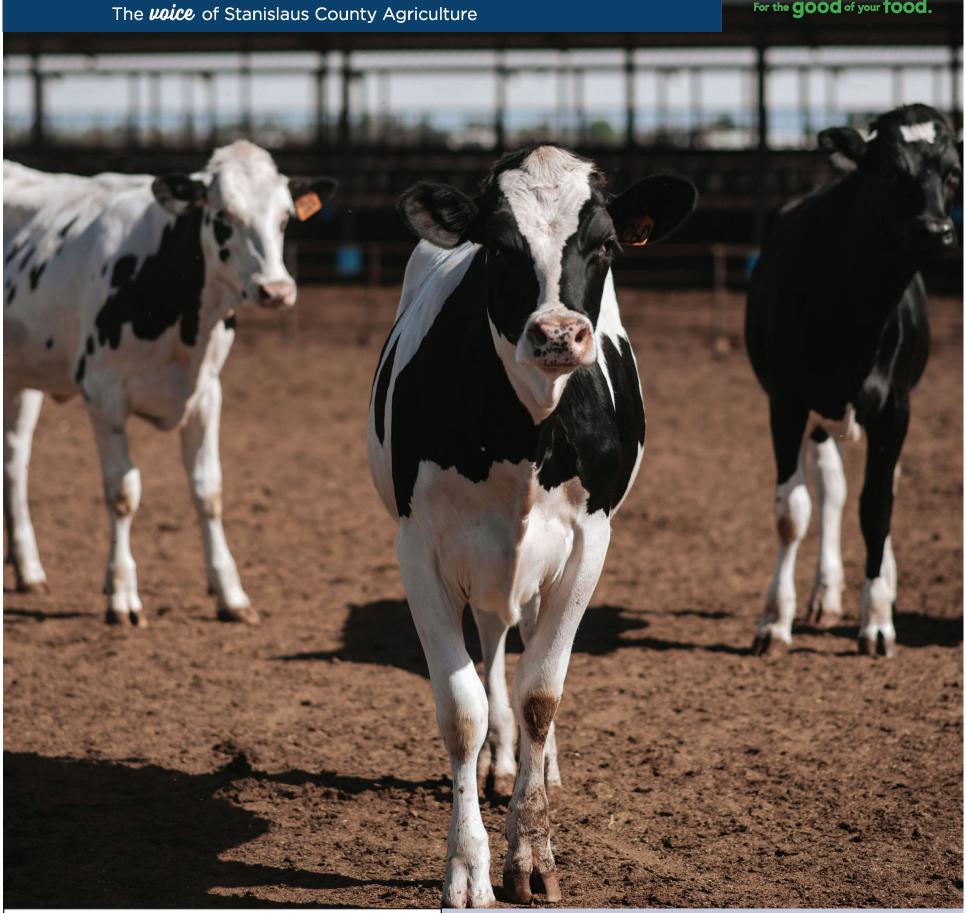
The Stanislaus Farm News



For the good of your food.



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For the good of your food.

Stanislaus Farm News

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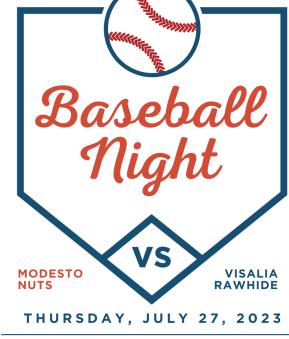
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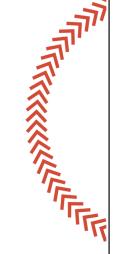
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Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

2023 Continuing Education (CE) Schedule

FARM BUREAU

ses 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 Bureat 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

<u>Hybrid Schedule (Both In-Person & Online)</u>

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, comuniquese una semana antes de la fecha de la clase, para intentra hacer acomodacion. "Coming Boons Privata Applicator Cortificato Tost Datos and Study Bossions."

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Informational Hearings on Governor Newsom's Infrastructure Package

This week several legislative committees held informational hearings focused on the Newsom Administration's package of Budget Trailer Bills intended to smooth the pathway for infrastructure projects, and especially those related to water and High-Speed Rail. Among other things, the package would make it easier and quicker to compile Administrative Records for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); limit the litigation window challenging projects under CEQA to a maximum of 270 days; update the list of Fully Protected Species under the California Endangered Species Act, remove three species from the list, and eliminate conflicting definitions in the California Fish and Game Code; and improve review processes for habitat restoration, flood control, and infrastructure projects affecting the Delta. Staff: Alex Biering; abiering@ cfbf.com

Agricultural Employment Policy

Several Farm Bureau-opposed measures were moved prior to the house of origin deadline: 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 Senate on a 30-9 vote, with one absence or abstention. Farm Bureau opposes SB-365 since arbitration is a useful tool to manage employment litigation liability in California's litigious environment. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

SB-497 Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles), which creates a rebuttable presumption that any adverse personnel action is retaliatory if occurs with 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 Senate on a 29-10 vote with one absence or abstention. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

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

the circumstances under which employers will experience FEHA-related litigation, which is already extensive. AB-524 passed the Assembly on a 47-15 vote with 18 absences or abstentions. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf. com

AB-594 Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (D-San Diego) allowing local prosecutors like district attorneys and city attorneys to enforce the Labor Code, leading to inconsistent enforcement. 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 General Act (PAGA). AB-594 passed the Assembly on a vote of 52-17 with eleven absences or abstentions. Farm Bureau opposes. Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.

Animal Health and Welfare

Many readers may recall last week's update on Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). This week, CDFA released on update on further spread of the virus: As of Wednesday, June 7, 2023 there have been a total of 62 VSV- affected premises (25 confirmed positive, 37 suspect) in four counties (Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties) in California. There has only been one (1) premises with clinically affected cattle (San Diego County) with sixty-one (61) premises with only equine species clinically affected in 4 counties (Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties). 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 is HERE.

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

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

Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf. com

Pesticides

The Farm Bureau and a broad coalition of agricultural interests submitted comments by

close of business on June 2, 2023 outlining our strong concerns related to the Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) proposal to raise the mill assessment from 21mil to 33mil in budget year 2024. This also in on the heels of our opposition to DPR's Budget Change Proposal this year for new positions that should be tabled until next year because we will be talking about these same issues next year in our budget discussions. The letter clearly states our unified opposition to the 12mil increase which effectively raises the DPR's budget over 50 million dollars and does not explain what that means for their proposal to fund Sustainable Pest Management, which Farm Bureau strongly opposes. We expect robust discussions on this issue in the coming weeks and months as we approach the budget for next year. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cfbf.

CESA and Wildlife

This week the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released and implemented a new policy recognizing the ecological benefits of beavers while mitigating conflict over damage to land and property (depredation). CDFW's new policy includes a process that enables beaver relocation as a restoration tool and a new non-lethal option. The policy also outlines a process to mitigate beaver depredation conflict, prioritizes the use of nonlethal deterrents whenever possible and ensures that lethal removal of

depredation beavers is done

in a humane manner. The new policy, signed by CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham on June 5, is available on CDFW's Beaver web page. Here are a few key take-aways related to depredation permits:

• CDFW shall document all nonlethal measures taken by the landowner to prevent damage prior

to requesting a depredation permit.

• CDFW shall require implementation of feasible non-lethal corrective actions by the landowner to

prevent future beaver damage.

• CDFW shall determine whether a property is located within the range of listed species and add

permit terms and conditions to protect native wildlife.

• CDFW shall continue to prioritize issuance of depredation permits if it determines that an

imminent threat to public safety exists, such as flooding or catastrophic infrastructure damage. CDFW staff will provide technical assistance to landowners to prevent future occurrence of beaver damage. In 2020, the CDFW Human-Wildlife Conflict Program created a comprehensive online Human-Wildlife Conflict Toolkit that includes accessible resources with logistically and economically feasible options to help property owners prevent damage due to beaver activity. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

The Fish and Game Commission has a scheduled meeting

taking place in Sacramento next week. Amongst the many agenda items the Commission will hear, the Sage Grouse petition and the candidacy of the species will be heard. The Commission received the petition at its February 8-9 meeting for evaluation. Because sage-grouse depend on high-quality habitats that historically were relatively extensive in nature, they are often used as an indicator of the health of a broader ecosystem of sagebrush dependent species. CAFB has historically worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CDFW, and US Fish and Wildlife Services when concerns regarding the species have developed. Farm Bureau's ranching members continue to work proactively within these habitats to reduce conflict between livestock and the Sage Grouse. Farm Bureau staff has submitted formal comments with the California Cattlemen's Association and will be participating in the hearing and providing comments. Staff: Katie Little; klittle@cfbf.com

CDFA AWARDS \$4.1 MIL-LION FOR CLIMATE-SMART DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH PROJECTS

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) today announced the award of \$4.1 million in grant funding to three research projects as part of the California Livestock Methane Measurement, Mitigation, and Thriving Environments Research Grant Program (CLIM³ATE-RP), funded by Budget Act of 2021 (SB-170, Chapter 240).

The research projects' goals are threefold: 1. Verify the greenhouse gas and environmental co-benefits of climate-smart practices on

California dairies 2. Evaluate alternative methane mitigation strategies, including those that address enteric methane 3. Advance manure recycling and innovative products development.

"This funding will help ensure that California continues to see emissions benefits from ongoing projects and achieve additional reductions from new practices that address enteric methane and turn manure into useful products," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "We are excited about these proposals from our grantees and look forward to seeing their innovative work."

To verify the greenhouse gas and environmental co-benefits of climate-smart practices on California dairies, CDFA awarded \$1.6 Million dollars to Bubbleology Research International for the project titled, "Evaluating the New, Smart, Climate-Friendly California Dairy: Measuring the Climate and Environmental Air Emissions Footprints of Improved Manure Management Practices." This project aims to improve CDFA's ability to assess the benefits and co-benefits of the Department's greenhouse gas reduction incentive programs through more comprehensive greenhouse gas and air quality data from the dairy industry. The project will assemble this new data using a unique mobile air quality lab, airborne remote sensing, and data mining.

To evaluate enteric methane mitigation strategies, CDFA awarded \$500,000 dollars to Mooteric LLC for a project titled, "Feeding Seaweed to Accelerate Enteric Methane Emissions Reductions in Central Valley Dairies." This project aims to conduct on-farm feeding trials to verify the methanemitigating benefits of seaweed-based feed additives within the regular feed rations of Central Valley dairy cows.

To advance manure recycling and innovative products development, CDFA awarded \$2 Million dollars to FYTO for a project titled, "Aquatic Crop Production as a Nutrient-to-Feed Solution for California Dairies". This project will demonstrate the installation of a commercial-scale, automated aquatic crop farm in Modesto, CA. When complete, the demonstration project will efficiently recycle manure effluents into valuable agricultural inputs.



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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For the good of your food.

Milk is a legenDAIRY Refreshment

By Emmy Powell

Milk is the ultimate drink. It helps your body rehydrate, repair and replenish. It is full of nutrients and helps your body build strong bones and supports your immune system.

Milk contains 13 essential nutrients and minerals: protein, calcium, potassium, vitamin D, vitamin B12, vitamin A, riboflavin, phosphorus, niacin, zinc, iodine, selenium and pantothenic acid. Holy cow! That's impressive.

Compared to alternatives, milk has the least amount of ingredients. It has none of the stabilizers or flavorings often found in the ingredient list of non-dairy alternatives.

Milk is not only is the top food source of calcium in the American diet, but it also has a lower carbon footprint than most

foods.

For centuries, dairy farmers have been good stewards of the environment, and they continue to look for ways to improve and learn more sustainable practices each day.

Tasty, nutritious and sustainable...milk will always be my first choice in the morning!

That's not all! Let's milk a few more udderly delightful facts about dairy:

It takes 12 lbs. of whole milk to make 1 gallon of ice cream. It takes 10 lbs. of milk to make 1 lb. of cheese; the U.S. produces more than 300 varieties of cheese.

95% of U.S. dairy farms are family owned and operated. Dairy farmers have decreased their carbon footprint by 2/3 since 1960.

Holstein cattle, which are known for their black and white markings, are the most common dairy cattle in the U.S. Milk travels from the farm to

Milk travels from the farm to the grocery store in about 48 hours.

The average U.S. dairy farm has 337 cows producing milk; production across the nation totals 226 billion pounds annually.

Emmy Powell is a communications specialist at Texas Farm Bureau. This column was originally posted on the Texas Table Top blog and is republished with permission.



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Dairy Leaders Program, Anthony Agueda

By: Michelle Borges, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Intern

From Hickman, California, Anthony Agueda (pictured second from left) lives and loves the dairy industry. Attending Hughson High School on to Modesto Junior College, transferring this fall to Fresno State University, majoring in agricultural business, Agueda thrives in his education, leadership, and his family's dairy.

Agueda lives on this family's dairy farm called Alberto Dairy located in Hickman. This is where his passion developed to truly love the dairy industry. In high school, he was actively involved in the leadership program and FFA. Through holding multiple leadership positions to being the 2022 National FFA Dairy Production Proficiency Recipient, Agueda has put in endless effort of hard work and dedication to strive for excellence.

Recently, Agueda attended Washington D.C. and Chicago as part of the Dairy Leaders Program through Western United Dairies. This program consists of a variety of training and workshops to enhance communication, education, and leadership all revolving around the dairy industry. Examples of trainings include public relations, the state legislative process, the federal pricing system, and how to advocate for the dairy industry.

Agueda, the youngest member of this program, saw this opportunity of traveling to the east coast as an eye-opening experience. During his time, he was able to meet with the USDA, American Farm Bureau, and the Dairy Management Institute in Chicago.

"I had such a positive experience during my trip. I enjoyed being able to network with key representatives and to expand my knowledge about the dairy industry," Agueda said.

One of his biggest takeaways was being able to positively advocate for the dairy industry on the national level. He saw the national growth of the dairy industry but also was able to discuss the key struggles the industry was facing. He felt the impact of these conversations

especially when meeting with legislators.

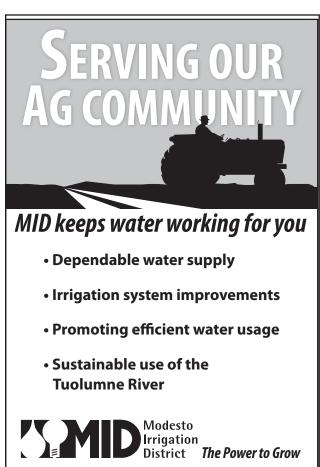
When thinking about what information he can bring back to his family dairy, he discovered how important it is to step outside of your comfort zone with his own dairy especially when trying new techniques or technology.

He saw the importance of being involved within the entire industry, state and national, instead of focusing on just your own personal dairy.

In addition, he hopes to educate California dairy farmers how their milk check offs are being used properly. Agueda enjoys learning more about the policies and regulations that are facing agriculture. He hopes to use this knowledge to tell the true story about agriculture.

Through his constant motivation and determination for the agriculture industry, Agueda is a young, passionate leader that will go far and wide to advocate for the dairy industry and agriculture as a whole.





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From Review on page 5

FYTO, academic, and dairy industry partners will jointly validate the environmental impact, economic feasibility, and product efficacy of aquatic crops grown on different effluent types as a high-protein dairy feed ingredient. A list of awarded projects and additional

information about this program can be found at HERE.

CDFA ACCEPTING AP-PLICATIONS FOR BIO-LOGICALLY INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEMS GRANT PROGRAM

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis (OPCA) is now accepting grant applications for its **Biologically Integrated Farming** Systems Grant Program (BIFS). The goal of the BIFS grant program is to fund the on-farm demonstration and evaluation of innovative, biologically based farming systems that employ sustainable pest management (SPM) strategies. This program aligns with the State's new pest management strategic planning document, "Accelerating

Sustainable Pest Management: A Roadmap for California," which seeks to guide a transition toward the adoption of safer, sustainable pest control practices.

'The BIFS program is distinct in that it facilitates the creation of grower-to-grower learning networks in which grower skills and experiences can be shared," said Dr. Hanna Kahl, a past BIFS grant recipient, and the **Ecological Pest Management** Specialist with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. "We have heard from walnut growers we work with in San Joaquin, Sutter, Yuba, and Butte counties that this approach makes it easier for them to visualize and practically apply alternative pest management strategies like mating disruption to their farms." OPCA received a one-time ap-

propriation for this program as

part of the AB-179 Budget Act

of 2022, and \$1 million of this appropriation will be available during this funding cycle. Applications for the BIFS program are due by 5 PM PST, July 31, 2023. Public or private colleges and universities, local, State, and federal government entities including tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and commodity groups are eligible to apply. The project lead(s) and their institutions must be based in California. Detailed information on the BIFS program, including the application process and requirements, is available HERE. A public information workshop is scheduled to provide details on the BIFS grant program. This workshop will be held as a webinar on the date provided below: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 11 AM to 12 PM (Pacific Time) Topic: CDFA OPCA BIFS Public Information Workshop Register in advance for this webinar at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/we-

CDFA ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR
EXTERNAL REVIEWERS FOR BIPOC
PRODUCER AND
SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER ADVISORY
COMMITTEES

The California De-

partment of Food and

TQusQrMn4DQPlg

binar/register/WN_uKB-ysvZ-

Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to announce that the application is now available online for an external technical review committee for the BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer Advisory committees. Interested members of the public may apply online now through June 23, 2023.

The review committee will consist of four members of

the public with expertise and/ or lived experience related to socially disadvantaged producers and small-scale producers in California. Reviewers are required to recuse themselves from the review of any applicant with whom the reviewer has a substantial interest. The external review committee will meet to identify and select the top candidates for each committee after the application period ends June 30. These are volunteer positions; committee

Members will review and score applications between July 1 and July 12 and will have one meeting as a group to select recommended candidates. The estimated time commitment is between 5 and 10 hours of time, between July 1 and July 12. Committee members will review applicants based on review criteria and will meet virtually to compile a final list of recommendations for the CDFA Secretary by July 17.

members receive no compensa-

tion.

The link to apply as an external technical reviewer can be found here: HERE

CDFA ANNOUNCES VA-CANCIES ON SEED ADVI-SORY BOARD

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Pest Exclusion Branch is announcing a vacancy on the Seed Advisory Board. The board is composed of seven members who are seed labelers, and two members who may be seed dealers. These nine members must be registered to sell seed under provisions of the California Seed Law and represent the functions of seed production, conditioning, marketing, or utilization. The board also has two public members. The one vacant position is for one agricultural seed labeler. The successful candidates will be appointed to serve a three-year term beginning on April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2026. The term of office for board members is three years. Mem-



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bers typically meet twice a year but can meet more frequently if needed. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration.

Enforcement of California Seed Law ensures an orderly market of high-quality seeds in California. The Seed Advisory Board makes recommendations to the CDFA secretary on all matters pertaining to seed law and regulations, enforcement, seed laboratory diagnostics and annual budgets required to accomplish the purposes of the California Seed Law. Individuals interested in being considered for this board appointment should send a brief letter of interest and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire with resume to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Pest Exclusion Branch, 1220 N Street, Sacramento CA 95814, Attention: Brenda Lanini,

by July 1, 2023.

For additional information, and a Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire, visit the Seed Services

Program web page under "Seed Advisory Board" HERE You may also contact Brenda Lanini, Environmental Program Manager, Nursery, Seed, and Cotton Program (916)403-6715 or e-mail seedservices@cdfa.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPART-MENT OF FOOD AND AG-RICULTURE ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON THE CALI-FORNIA COTTON PEST CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

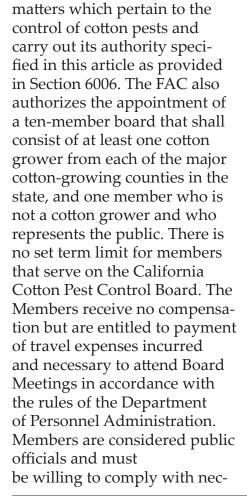
The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Integrated Pest Control Branch is announcing two vacancies on the California Cotton Pest Control Board.

The Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), Sections 6001-6006.6, authorizes the Secretary to establish the California Cotton Pest Control Board (CCPCB). The Board shall be

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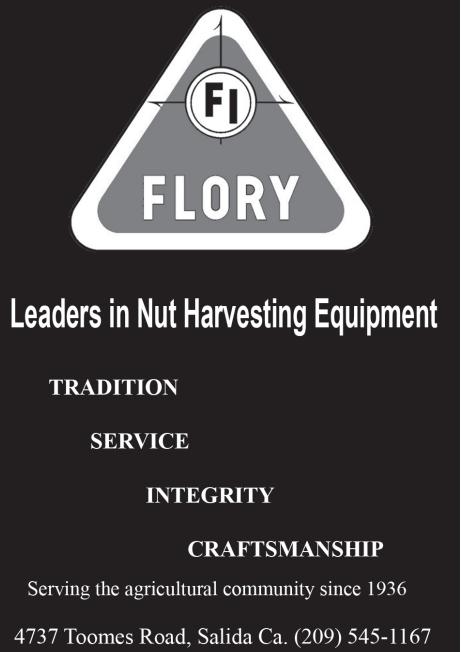
advisory to the Secretary on matters which pertain to the control of cotton pests and carry out its authority specified in this article as provided in Section 6006. The FAC also authorizes the appointment of a ten-member board that shall consist of at least one cotton grower from each of the major cotton-growing counties in the state, and one member who is not a cotton grower and who represents the public. There is no set term limit for members that serve on the California Cotton Pest Control Board. The Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of travel expenses incurred and necessary to attend Board Meetings in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration. Members are considered public officials and must

essary disclosure requirements. One vacancy is for a Cotton Grower representative from a major cotton-growing county. The second vacancy is for a Public Member representative that is not a cotton grower. Individuals interested in being considered for a Board appointment should send a brief letter of interest and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire with resume to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Pest Control Branch, 2895 N. Larkin Ave, Suite A, Fresno, CA 93727, Attention: Canh Nguyen, by November 30, 2023. The Appointment Questionnaire is located at: HERE For additional information, visit: https://www. cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC/pinkbollworm/pbw_hp.htm





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180,000

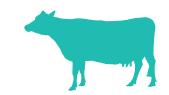
depend on the state's milk production and processing

Dairy-Related Economic Activity

California produces more than 19% of the nation's cheese production¹

Annual cash receipts from milk production¹





Dairies house milk cows1

More than 32% of California milk goes to make BUTTER, NONFAT DRY MILK and WHEY PROTEIN¹

More Cheese, Please CHEESE IS CALIFORNIA'S FASTEST-GROWING DAIRY CATEGORY

of the state's milk supply goes to cheese production1



>50 California cow's milk cheesemakers

produce varieties & styles

CALIFORNIA DAIRY PRODUCTS ANNUAL PRODUCTION¹

534 M LBS

105.8 M GALS 442 M LBS



Yogurt



Cottage Cheese

Nonfat Dry Milk

562 M LBS

39.8 B LBS **2.5** B LBS



(total production)

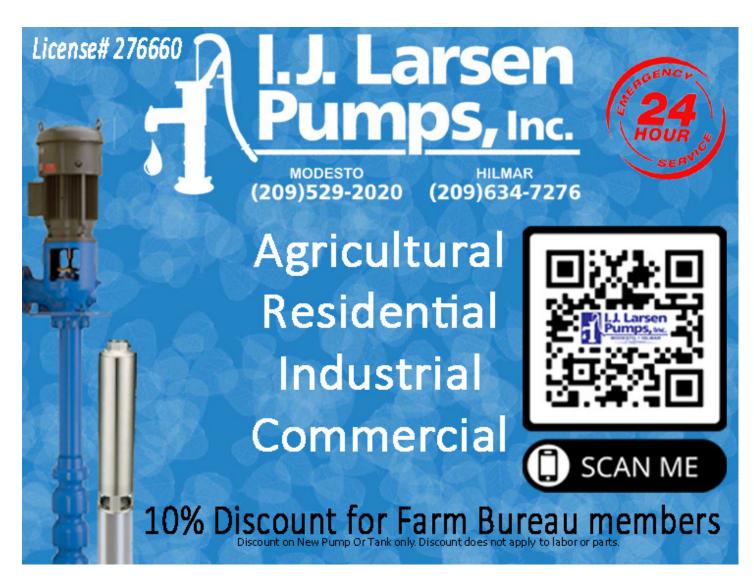
Cheese





Ice Cream









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

	Employers with 26 or more employees					Employers with 25 or fewer employees			
	at any time during a pay period ("large employers")				at all times during a pay period ("small employers")				
	at any time during a pay period (large employers)				at all tilles during a pay period (sirial employers)				
	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum	Minimum Exempt	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum	Minimum Exempt	
Year	Wage	hours/workday	hours/workweek	Employee	Wage	hours/workday	hours/workweek	Employee	
	(\$/hour)	at regular rate	at regular rate	Salary (\$/wk / yr)	(\$/hour)	at regular rate	at regular rate	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 / 6 <mark>4,480 ↑</mark>	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.

Rev. 5/22



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).

California Dairy Families Partner With Raley's Food For Families to Deliver Nutritious Milk to Families in Need

Real California Milk CADAIRY4GOOD initiative focuses on increasing access to dairy at California food banks

TRACY, Calif. – June 2, 2023 – One in 5 Californians — about 8 million people — currently struggle with food insecurity. In commemoration of World Milk Day, the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB) has announced a partnership with Raley's Food For Families program to deliver milk, one of the most requested but least donated items, to California food banks during June Dairy Month.

During a June 1st event at the Raley's location on Freeport Blvd in Sacramento, the CMAB and representatives from Raley's and the Yolo Food Bank outlined the matching funds initiative that will provide up to 13,000 gallons – more than 200,000 servings – of fluid milk to 12 food bank sites. Part of the Real California Milk CADAIRY4GOOD program and Raley's well-known Food For Families charitable organization, the partnership is part of an ongoing commitment from both to providing resources to food banks and feeding programs to increase access to nutritious foods.

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Throughout the month of June, California dairy families, through the CMAB, will match customer in-store and online Food For Families donations, dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 to provide fresh milk to those suffering from food insecurity in northern California. Prompts with the "Do Good with Dairy" message will be shared through in-store signage and digital communications to alert consumers to the initiative.

California Agriculture Secretary, Karen Ross, was onsite to help make the announcement, stating: "In California, we're so fortunate to grow many crops and our number one crop is from our dairy families. It's not just about the economics of dairy, which is significant, it's about the social good and the environmental good that our dairy families provide to the state. It's a thrill to be here about something I'm so passionate about - being able to ensure that every person in California, the state that grows the bounty, shares the bounty. That's what our farm families do, and our dairy farmers are always first in line. I think about the children, the adults, those people in need that are going to have fresh milk as part of a healthy, nutritious diet."

"California dairy farms like mine have a commitment to nourishing families with one of the most nutritious foods available – milk – with its 13 essential nutrients," said California dairy farmer Maureen Lemos. "On a day when we celebrate the wholesome goodness of dairy milk, I'm so pleased to be here to announce this partnership and focus on the impact it will have on our local communities."

The California milk donations will be distributed to 12 Food For Family partner food banks – Alameda County Community Food Bank, Central California Food Bank, Food Bank for Monterey County, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Food Bank

See Milk on page 22











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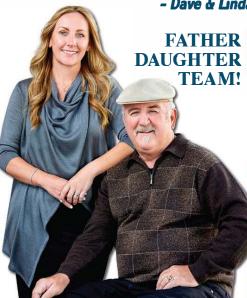
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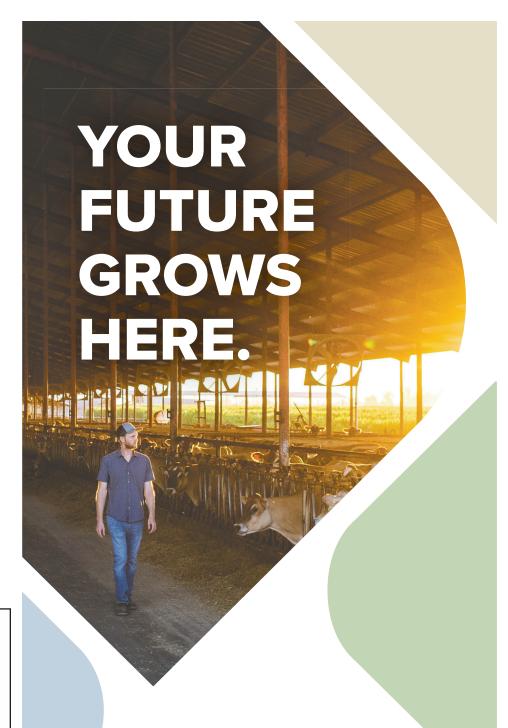
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Supreme Court limits "waters of United States" regulations in win for farmers

Farmers for years sought relief from what they called government overreach into vast swaths of land and water through the "waters of the United States" regulations. They got their wish last month when the U.S. Supreme Court set limits on how the Environmental Protection Agency can regulate wetlands and waterways. Farmers argued that EPA was regulating features that are often not recognizable as water bodies. Though the high court reined in the scope of the 51-year-old Clean Water Act, states retain authority to regulate waters within their own borders.

U.S. officials protest Mexico's move to ban genetically modified corn

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are contesting Mexico's move to largely ban imports of geneti-

cally modified corn from the U.S. Tai said the U.S. has "repeatedly conveyed its concerns that Mexico's biotechnology policies are not based on science and threaten to disrupt U.S. exports to Mexico to the detriment of agricultural producers." Vilsack called for "fair, open, science- and rules-based trade." Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador is seeking to phase out genetically modified corn by 2024.

California Farm Bureau delegation makes its voice heard in Washington D.C.

Leaders of the California Farm Bureau are calling attention to important agricultural issues, such as the next federal farm bill, labor, water, forestry and the response to disasters, including flooding and wildfires. During the May 23-25 advocacy trip, the board of directors and federal policy team for California's largest agricultural organization met with lawmakers, including House Agriculture

Committee Chairman Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson. Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson testified before a House subcommittee on reducing wildfire dangers to protect California agriculture.

Bill training for use of agricultural drones passes California Assembly

Legislation seeking to make it easier for farmers to use drones for targeted pesticide applications passed 72-0 in the California Assembly and moves to the Senate. Sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, Assembly Bill 1016 would expand the Department of Pesticide Regulation's authority to create training programs for drone aerial applicator licensing. As a result of the bill's progress, Orange Coast College recently announced the creation of an associate science degree in unmanned aerial systems, or drones, with an emphasis on aerial applications.

Imperial Valley farmers await water deal, weigh planting decisions

California, Arizona and Nevada reached a long-sought consensus last month on how to conserve water and prevent the Colorado River from running dry. Farmers in the Imperial Valley, who are expected to shoulder much of the burden, had been readying to fallow some acreage to save water as early as this year. But many will plant as

normal this year and look to reduce acreage next year. That's because a \$1.2 billion federal compensation plan is yet to be worked out for those curbing water use, including details on how much each water user will be paid to leave water in the river.

California ranchers have ample pastures, but high costs for rebuilding herds

Short supplies of cattle nationwide have sent prices soaring at a time when California ranchers have less to sell after years of drought forced them to shrink their herds. With more rain and an explosion of feed on pastures this year, ranchers are eager to rebuild their numbers while the market is hot. But buying cattle at current prices may not be palatable for some. In its May forecast, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it anticipates beef production in 2024 to decline 8%, resulting in the lowest per capita beef available domestically since records began in 1970.

Storms improved outlook for California farming, agricultural summit is told

The outlook for California's agricultural economy shows some signs of improvement after several years of supplychain constraints, high input costs and a multiyear drought that forced farmers to fallow acres and remove orchards. Drenching storms that hit the state early this year turned the tide, contributing to a more positive outlook for agriculture this year, economic analyst David Magaña of Rabobank told attendees during a food and agriculture issues summit in Sacramento. The event featured discussions on topics including water, labor and farm policy.

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Grassroots Advocacy In Action

By Zippy Duvall, AFBF President

The American Farm Bureau kicked off the week hosting more than 150 farmers and ranchers from across the country for our premier advocacy event, the Advocacy Fly-In. Our grassroots leaders know the importance of boots on the ground to get things done, and this week, those boots brought them to our nation's capital to advocate for agriculture's most pressing issues, with the 2023 farm bill at the top of the list.

While the team here at American Farm Bureau works yearround with lawmakers and their staff, nothing can replace the face-to-face meetings between farmers and ranchers and our elected officials. Agriculture is critical in every state, from growing the food, fiber and fuel we all need to supporting 46 million jobs across the economy. The issues that matter to agriculture matter to all Americans, and farm policy presents a unique opportunity to bring folks from both sides of the aisle together to find solutions.

Yesterday, our members heard from the leaders of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, who took our questions on how we can work together to get a farm bill passed THIS YEAR.

All the leaders thanked our grassroots members for coming to Washington to meet with lawmakers, and encouraged them to share their personal stories.

"As you tell your story, talk about your day. Talk about the things you worry about, the things you juggle as you work to create the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

That is really important in giving people an appreciation of what the farm bill is all about," Senator Debbie Stabenow, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee said.

Senator John Boozman, ranking member on the Senate Agriculture Committee, noted, "There is simply no substitute for speaking directly with lawmakers about the impact decisions made in Washington have on your livelihoods at home. The best ideas come from the ground up."

"To have an effective farm bill, we must reach across the aisle and the Capitol," Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson, chair of the House Agriculture Committee added. "Conversations like the one we had here today highlight the importance of bipartisan and bicameral work to support our nation's farmers, ranchers, foresters, producers and consumers."

Representative David Scott, ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee, who was not able to join in person, sent a video message to our members to encourage them in their advocacy efforts. "Today's discussion is critical to ensuring the next farm bill adequately supports America's diverse agriculture industry. I am committed to working with my colleagues across the aisle to pass a bipartisan farm bill that gives America's farmers the reassurance they need to continue ensuring America's position as a world-leading producer of food and fiber, and to ensuring we continue our fight against poverty and hunger with a strong nutrition title."

In the 118th Congress, there are 260 members who have never worked on a farm bill before. That's nearly half of Congress, so we certainly have got our advocacy work cut out for us. But farmers and Farm Bureau never shy away from a challenge.

Across the agriculture and food supply chain, we know how important the farm bill is to keeping our food supply secure and sustainable. Our grassroots members took that message straight to their representatives and senators this week, and we'll keep sharing that message on and off the Hill till we've gotten the 2023 farm bill done.

We know this could more accurately be called a food and farm bill, so engagement with the public will also be important in getting the farm bill passed. Our research earlier this year showed that 71% of folks have not read or heard much at all about the farm bill. But when we shared just the basics of what's in the farm bill and what it means for all Americans having access to the safe, affordable food, support for the farm bill increased. In fact, 73% then said there would be a significant impact on the country if we did not get the farm bill passed this

The farm bill isn't the only big issue for agriculture, however. During the Advocacy Fly-In, we also brought in policy experts from our team at AFBF to talk about the latest on WOTUS and farm labor. When it comes to water regulations, farmers got a big win with the Supreme Court ruling in Sackett v. EPA,

but there's still work to be done. Farm Bureau members have been active in coming to the table on this issue, and we will keep engaging with EPA and advocating for clear rules that respect our careful stewardship.

Also top of

mind for farmers is the need for ag labor reform. This continues to be one of the greatest limiting factors for American agriculture. We need a guest worker visa program that provides the flexibility farmers and their employees need, and we need to bring stability and sound data to H-2A wages. We have achieved some bipartisan agreement on the Adverse Effect Wage Rate's fundamental flaws, and I hope we can get similar consensus on the Department of Labor's latest regulatory overreach with these wage rates. It's time for us to build on our common ground here and deliver a solution that works for all.

There's no doubt, we have some big items on our checklist for the 118th Congress, but every time I see our Farm Bureau members here in Washington, I am confident of what we can achieve together. Farmers and ranchers aren't just advocating for policy, we're advocating for the food, fiber and fuel supply that we're committed to producing for our communities and our country. I have no doubt, that our elected leaders were inspired by their meetings with farmers and ranchers this week, and I hope that will spur them in working together to deliver the solutions that will strengthen American agriculture.

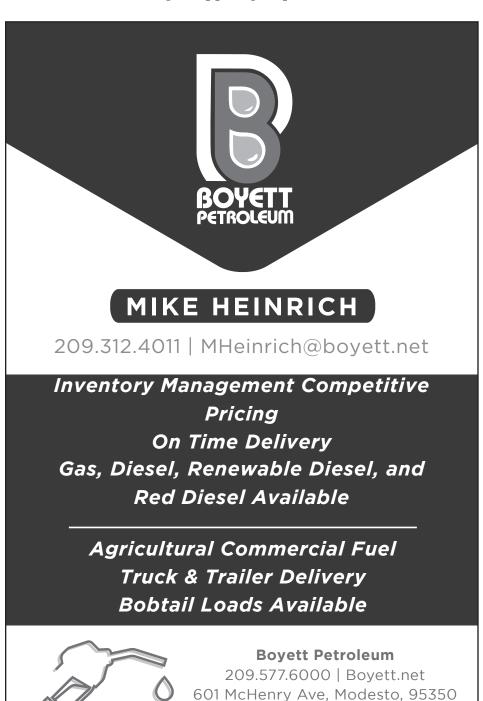


Getting Involved in Farm Organizations can Make You a Better Farmer

By Julianne Holler, Ohio Farm Bureau Member

I recently returned to the farm from a long weekend trip to Jacksonville, Florida. I went on behalf of Ohio Farm Bureau's Special 10. While in Jacksonville, I attended the American Farm Bureau Fusion Conference. This conference had representation from numerous states throughout the U.S., all members involved in Young Farmers & Ranchers, Women's Leadership, or educating and promoting about agriculture. It was during this conference that I took a moment to reflect and thought to myself how getting involved in agricultural organizations – even more so for me, Farm Bureau – has made me a better farmer.

One might ask, "How has being involved in farm groups made you a better farmer?" You are probably thinking that it is just one more thing to have to do, one more meeting to have to attend, one more set of dues that needs paid. While you do have to pay membership fees for certain organizations, and many do have meetings or events that as a member you should attend, the truth is that it will make you a better farmer for many different reasons. I picked the first three that came to mind for me, and I will share those with you today. You may end up having your own reasons, but for me, the first three reasons are: time management, building connections and having a support group.



When most people hear the term time management, I feel that they often think of how they are going to fit everything that needs to be done into their day. While that does hold true, time management is a lot more than that. For me, time management not only is how I am going to get everything that I need to get done in a reasonable time frame, but it is also making time for things that are a priority to me and setting boundaries. Being involved in Farm Bureau and other farm groups does add more things into my already busy farming schedule, and farm chores must come first. However, having an extra activity to do that is of great interest to me motivates me to get my work done so not only can I do what I love by actively farming, but I can also have time to stand up for farmers and agriculture in a grassroots organization.

Next is building connections. By nature, I am a person who tends to focus on what's in my lane and not venture from my path or routine. I tend to have "my" group of people that I know I can count on, and I never really cared to find ways to meet others. Well, on the first conference trip that I went on as an adult a few years ago, that rapidly changed. All of a sudden, I found myself sitting with people I had never met before and having to room with a fellow female in ag who I had only known for 20 minutes. Quickly, I found myself having to make small talk to break barriers. Within a short amount of time, I learned so much not only about these people but their farming operations and involvement in the farming world as well. To this day, I still talk to some of these individuals, follow their farming journeys on social media, and even bounce farming ideas and theories off of them on a regular basis.

The third reason that getting involved in farm-related groups has made me a better farmer builds upon my second reason, and that is having a support group. Like I previously mentioned, I was never really outgoing or trying to go out of my way to meet new people until I was basically thrown into it. We often have our circle of friends who we have met throughout life, whether it be from school, sports, a job, etc. And more often than not, these people are there for us no matter what. Finding a group of people that genuinely understands your life as a farmer; knows the hard work, long hours, blood, sweat and tears; and literally has lived that life and is still pursuing it day in and day out – those are my kind of people. Those are people who are in your corner and are there to support you when you had a rough planting season or a sick calf. Those people have been in your shoes before, and they know what it is like.

No matter how busy you are on the farm, I highly encourage you to make time to get involved in a farming organization. Whether that be Farm Bureau, 4-H, FFA, a breed association or a milk co-operative, get involved in some way. There are so many ways that people farm throughout the country and to be able to share your ways with others, and listen to their ideas in return, is such a valuable moment. Meeting these people who then turn into lifelong friends that have the same passion you do is priceless. We are all in the farming world for the same reason: to raise, grow and develop wholesome products that provide for and feed others. This is a huge undertaking and often comes with challenges and obstacles, so what better way to navigate these than with a group of like-minded people who are always on your side?

Julianne Holler is a farmer and Farm Bureau member in Ohio. This column originally appeared as a blog post on the Progressive Dairy website and is republished with permission.

From Milk on page 15

of Northern Nevada, Placer Food Bank, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, Second Harvest of the Greater Valley, and Yolo Food Bank.

Karen Baker, Executive Director for Yolo Food Bank, said: "On behalf of Yolo Food Bank and the rest of the food banks benefitting from this effort, I'm honored to thank our dairy farmers who are always there to feed our families. Milk is an important source of nourishment for the more than 21,000 households we serve monthly. And the donation couldn't come at a more important time. Not only does food insecurity often spike during the summer with children spending more time at home, but we've also seen a 20% increase across food bank distributions since a year ago. I can't stress enough how critical this donation is, it's like liquid gold for our food bank. Many thanks Raley's Food For Families for their role in this innovative partnership."

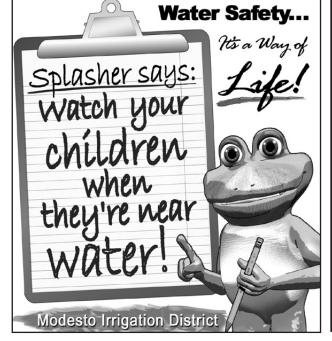
With help from customers, vendors, and Raley's team members, Raley's Food

For Families has provided millions of meals to local families. Raley's absorbs all administrative costs, maximizing the impact of every donation.

"Raley's Food For Families has been around for 37 years with the sole mission of helping alleviate hunger. And we do that with great partners," said Chelsea Minor, Executive Director of Food For Families. "When the California Milk Advisory Board approached us and said, we'd like to give you \$20,000, can you help us deliver dairy to our food banks? We said, absolutely. We appreciate the leadership of the dairy farmers to ensure that dairy is getting to every person in our community, whether you purchase it at Raley's or pick it up at your local food bank."

The CADAIRY4GOOD platform focuses on increasing access to nourishing dairy foods for individuals and families throughout California through partnerships to pilot programs to deliver product and refrigeration resources to the state's food banks and feeding programs.

California is the number one dairy state. Its 1,100 family dairy farms are focused on delivering the wholesome goodness of California milk while creating a greener, more sustainable future for dairy in the state.





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New Report Finds 97% of Fruits and Vegetables Sampled in CA Meet Pesticide Safety Standards

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 communi-

ties, 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.

When illegal residues are 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 Californiagrown 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.

As part of enforcement activities, DPR staff provide guidance to growers and importers for ways to prevent sales of illegal produce.

For previous reports and more information about the department's residue testing program, please visit the Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program's webpage.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation's mission is to protect human health and the environment by fostering safer and sustainable pest management practices and operating a robust regulatory system to monitor and manage the sale and use of pesticides across the state. DPR's work includes registering all pesticides sold or used in California, conducting scientific evaluation of pesticides to assess and mitigate potential harm to human health or the environment, monitoring for pesticides in the air and water, and enforcing pesticide regulations in coordination with 55 County Agricultural Commissioners and their 500 field inspectors. DPR also conducts outreach to ensure pesticide workers, farmworkers and local communities have access to safety information. DPR invests in innovative research to encourage the development and adoption of integrated pest management tools and practices. More information about DPR can be found at www. cdpr.ca.gov.



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Stanislaus County YF&R Hosts Regional Mixer

By Mark Avilla, California Young Farmers & Ranchers District 13 Representative

Every year, the California Young Farmers & Ranchers hold a regional mixer event, hosted by a county's YF&R committee. This year, Stanislaus County YF&R hosted 25 members throughout central and northern California, showing them some of the unique ag businesses our county has to offer.

After meeting at the Modesto Junior College pavilion, our first stop was Kelley Flower Farm located in northwest Modesto. Sharon Kelley and her business partner Kelley Bowman grow various types of flowers for sale to the public, as well operate a farmstand on their property. Sharon showed us some of their new structures and equipment they use to keep up with demand for their flowers. We learned about how they started, their challenges and what they enjoy about their business.

Next was Tony Garcia's goat dairy, located south of highway 132 in Modesto. Tony milks 1,500 dairy goats on his operation, which he converted from a typical cattle dairy. "I used to have close to 3,000 goats, but I'm now getting the same amount of milk with half of the herd I once had," said Garcia. Our group walked

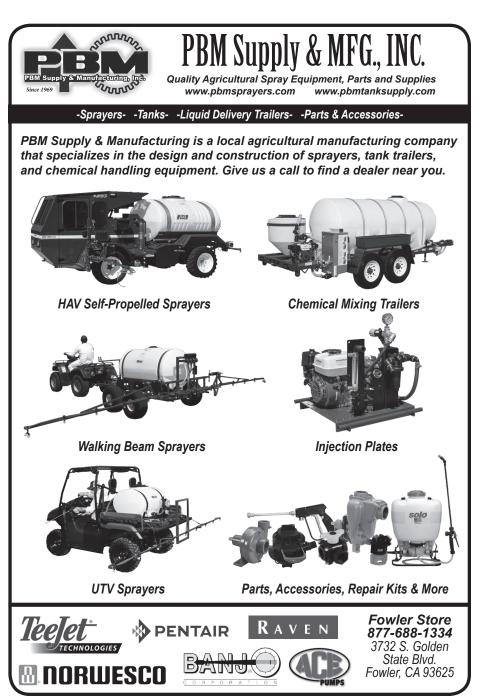
around the dairy, which included his milking parlor, freestalls and kidding barn.

Then we had lunch at the Almond Wood restaurant in Patterson, where we had an opportunity to interact with our gold sponsors Yosemite Farm Credit and Underground Service Alert. Michael Marsh, Vice President and Senior Loan officer at Yosemite Farm Credit, spoke with our group about the challenge of getting loans for first time farm buyers and the many options that are available to assist them. Matt Dodd, Marketing Coordinator, and Chris Botting, Education Coordinator from Underground Service Alert, spoke to the importance of checking before starting digging or trenching projects, even on agriculture land. They also spoke to their mission to learn more about the agricultural community they serve so they can provide a better service for us.

Our final tour stop was Blossom Hill Packing Company in Patterson (pictured right). Dave Santos, a longtime supporter of Stanislaus County YF&R, showed us the apricot packing facility. Blossom Hill is one of the largest apricot packers in the nation. "Pretty much every apricot you buy in a Costco, Target or Trader Joes, comes from us," said Santos. We got to witness their electronic sorter, assembly line and see their sustainable packing materials, which Santos was very passionate about.

After we returned to Modesto Junior College, we ended our mixer with a social event at Blaker Brewing in Ceres.





When asked about what people got out of the event, Stanislaus County YF&R executive team member Bastiaan Weststeyn said "the regional mixer gave a great experience to young ag entrepreneurs seeking advice from fellow farmers in becoming the next generation's success stories."

We want to thank our sponsors, executive team and staff for making this event possible!



For more information about getting involved in YF&R please reach out to Abi Fair, 209-522-7278 or abid@stanfarmbureau.org



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TUOLUMNE COUNTY FARM NEWS

Majority Narrowly Denies TUD's Rate Increases As Proposed

Sonora, CA — After hearing overwhelming opposition from ratepayers, the Tuolumne Utilities District board scrapped the planned steep rate increase that was proposed to customers.

However, all five board members agreed that some form of increase is needed, imminently.

We reported earlier that the proposal on the table called for water rates to go up by 28%

in year one, and then smaller increases of 2.6% in 2024, 2.4% in 2026, 1.2% in 2027, and 1.5% in 2028. The year-one increase would have cost customers an average of \$18 more per month.

The original plan also called for sewer rates to go up by 17% in year one, 14% in year two, and then smaller increases in the years after. The average year-one increase would have been \$9.

Over 20 people spoke in opposition at today's meeting, but more notably, 874 people signed written protests against

the water increase and 455 against the sewer increase.

In the end, board members Ron Ringen and Glen Jacobs were in favor of moving forward with the proposed plan, and members David Boatright, Barbara Balen, and Jeff Kerns were opposed. The three in opposition wanted a smaller impact on ratepayers, especially in year one. Kerns and Balen both indicated that their phones have been blowing up over recent weeks with calls from ratepayers.

A legal complication is that a state-required 218 notice that

was issued to ratepayers laid out the proposed specifics. If any changes are made, the rate increase can be reduced, but not increased. So, when it comes to water, in year one the maximum increase could be 28%, and in year two the most it can go up is 2.5%. Making changes outside of those parameters would restart the lengthy 218 process.

The board discussed various options, with most centering around reducing the year-one increase, and then reassessing it in the following years.

TUD's Finance Director Steve

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Sheffield urged the board to allow him to go back and crunch the numbers, as opposed to passing a random new reduced percentage today. Staff noted that any reductions would negatively impact capital improvement projects, and liability risks.

In the end, the board decided to continue the rate discussions at a meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 28, at 9am. Other different options and scenarios will be discussed at that time.

Written by BJ Hansen.







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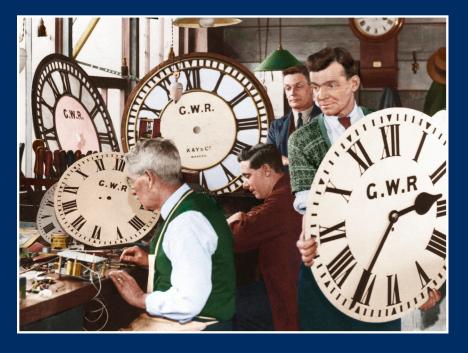
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the safety of the depositors in mind" was a promise to our customers and the community to keep depositors' money safe and secure. As we enter our 156th year of community banking, we've weathered many historical challenges along the timeline of our existence but the foundation upon which we began remains a constant you can bank on.

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WITHSTANDING THE TEST OF TIME