

# The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



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

## AG SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM WEEK

### March 6–10, 2023



Official Publication of Stanislaus  
County Farm Bureau  
Vol.74 No.5 March 3, 2023

Ag Safety Awareness Week  
March 6-10, 2023

*The well-being of our nation's farmers and agricultural workers is vital to strong communities and the U.S. economy. Safety training gives farm families the awareness and information they need to reduce safety hazards and protect their children who often work on the farm.*

## Stanislaus Farm News

Published Fridays by the  
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

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# Annual Meeting of Members

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 • 5:30 PM

AT THE STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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[www.stanfarmbureau.org](http://www.stanfarmbureau.org)

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### EVENT DETAILS

Thurs. April 13th, 2023

Stanislaus County Fair: 900 N Broadway, Turlock

5:30 Social Hour, Silent Auction & Tradeshow

6:30 Steak Dinner

7:15 Short Business Meeting, Program,

Guest Speakers



### TICKETS \$50.00 PER PERSON

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## SCFB MISSION STATEMENT

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



March 6–10, 2023



American Farm Bureau Federation's 2023 Ag Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) Week was created to bring awareness to safety and health issues facing the agriculture industry. The U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers are joining American Farm Bureau Federation in keeping friends and family safe and healthy this year by recognizing common agricultural hazards with the theme "Lead the Way in Agriculture."

Themes

- Monday – Mental Health
- Tuesday – Preventative Health Care
- Wednesday – Safety Culture
- Thursday – Situational Awareness
- Friday – Temperature-Related Safety

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# FRIDAY REVIEW

## LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

### Air Quality

Assemblymember Garcia introduced AB 1401 would require the CARB to give additional preference to air quality improvement projects under the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) based on the project's ability to promote the use of clean alternative fuels, biofuels, and vehicle technologies. The bill would also require the state board to include certain information relating to renewable fuels and biofuels in its biennial report to the Legislature on the program. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com)

SB 768 by Senator Caballero was introduced last week. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would create a new transportation impact analysis for rural areas for purposes of CEQA. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com)

**Animal Health and Welfare**  
SB 780 by Senator Alvarado-Gil is a spot bill that would state the intent of the Legislature to

enact subsequent legislation requiring the secretary to have the final determination regarding whether a feed additive or ingredient is safe for both livestock and consumers and can be distributed within California. Existing law establishes the Department of Food and Agriculture regulates, among other things, certain animal feedlots, and requires operators of those businesses to be registered with the secretary. Existing law also establishes the Feed Inspection Advisory Board in state government and generally requires it to serve in an advisory capacity to the secretary with respect to the operation of the law governing commercial feed. Farm Bureau will continue to monitor this bill as language is developed. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com)

### Broadband

Assemblymember Wood introduced AB-1714 . This bill would define "public utility" to include a corporation providing broadband service to the public or a portion of the public. Currently, the Public Utilities Commission does not regulate broadband providers as a "public utility" in any capacity. Staff: Peter Ansel; [pansel@cfbf.com](mailto:pansel@cfbf.com)

### CESA and Wildlife

Assemblymember Flora (R – Modesto) has introduced AB 1629, a spot bill relating to endangered species. Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture and specified persons, to adopt regulations that authorize locally designed voluntary programs for routine and ongoing agricultural activities on farms or ranches that encourage habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species,

and wildlife generally. Existing law requires these authorized programs to, among other things, be supported by the best available scientific information for both agricultural and conservation practices. Farm Bureau will track the bill as substantive language will be added in the coming weeks. Staff: Katie Little, [klittle@cfbf.com](mailto:klittle@cfbf.com)

### Food Safety

SB-701, as introduced by Hurtado. Existing law, the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law, requires the State Department of Public Health, whenever the department finds that a class of food distributed in the state

may, by reason of contamination with micro-organisms during manufacture, packing, or storage, be injurious to the health of a man or other animal that consumes it, and that the injurious nature cannot be adequately determined after the food has entered commerce, to adopt regulations providing for the issuance of permits to manufacturers, processors, or packers of the class of food. Existing law, the California Retail Food Code, requires all food to be manufactured, produced, prepared, compounded, packed, stored, transported, kept for sale, and served so as to be pure and free from adulteration and spoilage.



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**FEBRUARY 22**

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau  
1201 L Street / Modesto  
6 - 8 p.m.

Event RSVP: [dvanklaveren@agleaders.org](mailto:dvanklaveren@agleaders.org) / 209-765-2476  
Application questions: [jsparacino@agleaders.org](mailto:jsparacino@agleaders.org) / 831-585-1030

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation regarding food and safety standards to ensure general food safety requirements are updated and aligned with the evolving goals of the Legislature. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cbbf.com

**Herbicides and Pesticides**  
 AB-1752, as introduced, Committee on Agriculture. Existing law requires the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to adopt regulations necessary to minimize the hazard to bees, while still providing for the reasonable and necessary application of pesticides toxic to bees to blossoming plants, as specified. Under existing law, a failure to comply with those regulations is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each day that the violation continues and, after a warning notice of 7 days is given, is an infraction.

In addition to the civil penalty and infraction described above, this bill would authorize a county agricultural commissioner, in lieu of a civil prosecution by the secretary, to levy a civil penalty of not more than \$3,000 per violation against a person violating those regulations, as specified. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cbbf.com

AB-99 as introduced, Connolly. Existing law vests the Department of Transportation with possession and control of the state highway system and associated property. Existing law prohibits each state agency that has responsibility for roadside vegetation control operations on, or along, a roadway, including a state highway, from conducting a roadside vegetation control operation on a portion of the roadway for which a property owner has made a request for information related to the roadside vegetation control operation until certain conditions are satisfied, as specified. This bill would require the department to develop and adopt a statewide policy to discontinue roadside spraying of herbicides and synthetic pesticides in each

county where the county board of supervisors has adopted a resolution that opposes the spraying of herbicides and synthetic pesticides in the county, except where no alternative vegetation management practice is feasible or during a state of emergency relating to wildfire if the spraying is solely for purposes of preventing, combating, or mitigating the risk of wildfire. The bill would require the department, in developing that policy, to consider. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cbbf.com

**Marketing**  
 AB-1715, as introduced, Committee on Agriculture. Existing law authorizes the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to act as an adviser for producers and distributors, if requested, and assist them in the economical and efficient distribution of any product at fair prices. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to this provision. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cbbf.com

**Taxation**  
 AB-1500 from Assemblymember Irwin introduced a spot bill that states the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to taxation and the base year value of real property that is substantially damaged or destroyed by a disaster. Current property tax law provides, pursuant to a requirement of the California Constitution, that the property tax base year value of real property that is substantially damaged or destroyed by a disaster, as declared by the Governor, may be transferred to a comparable property located within the same county that is acquired or newly constructed within a prescribed time after the disaster as a replacement property. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

**Water**  
 Assemblymember Juan Carrillo introduced AB-1364 a spot bill related to lake and streambed alterations. Current law prohibits an entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank

of, any river, stream, or lake, or from depositing or disposing of certain material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, without first notifying the Department of Fish and Wildlife of that activity, and entering into a lake or streambed alteration agreement if required by the department to protect fish and wildlife resources, except as specified. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

AB-1488 from Assemblymember Wallis would create streamlining of judicial review for water conveyance or storage projects challenged under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). AB 1488l would require the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court applicable to actions or proceedings brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification or adoption of an environmental impact report for water conveyance or storage projects or the granting of project approvals, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court to an action or proceeding seeking judicial review of the lead agency's action related to those projects. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

AB-1563 from Assemblymember Bennett has been introduced. Existing law authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency to request of the county, and requires a county to consider, that the county forward permit requests for the construction of new groundwater wells, the enlarging of existing groundwater wells, and the reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the agency before permit approval. This bill would instead require a county to forward permit requests for the construction of new groundwater wells, the enlarging of existing groundwater wells, and the reactivation of abandoned groundwater wells to the groundwater sustainability agency before permit approval. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com  
 Assemblymember Garcia has introduced AB-1567, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Pre-

vention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15,105,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

AB-1572 from Assemblymember Friedman has been introduced. Existing law establishes the state water policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water. This bill would make legislative findings and declarations concerning water use, including that the use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf is wasteful and incompatible with state policy relating to climate change, water conservation, and reduced reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. The bill would direct all appropriate state agencies to encourage and support the elimination of irrigation of nonfunctional turf with potable water. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

Also introduced from Assemblymember Friedman is AB-1573. Current law, the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act, requires the Director of Water Resources to convene a working group comprised of representatives from the landscape nursery industry, the agricultural community, the landscape retail industry, environmental organizations, urban water agencies, and other professionals to examine the current state of consumer information available and accessible regarding water use associated with landscape plants and to explore and identify options for improving the availability, accessibility, and quality of consumer information regarding water use associated with landscape plants. This bill would delete that requirement. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cbbf.com

## FREE ADS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

Classified Ad's \$4.40 per run.

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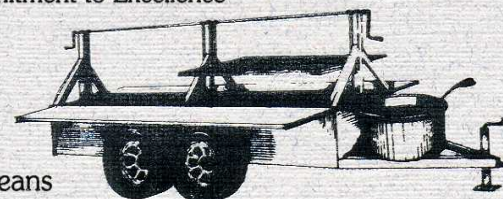
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## Commodity Fact Sheet

**Cotton**

Information compiled by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

**How Produced** – In early spring, seeds are planted one to three inches deep, by mechanical planters, in seedbeds. Plants are irrigated, fertilized and weeded, as needed, during the 25 week growing cycle. The first true leaves appear after two to four weeks with the bud, also known as a "square," appearing about five to seven weeks after planting. The white blossoms become pollinated, turn light pink and then wither at about nine weeks, letting the cotton boll develop, producing the fibers and seeds that are harvested. The cotton bolls open naturally over time and a defoliant chemical is applied by ground or air to ensure top quality. This helps the leaves dry and fall off and any remaining closed bolls to open.

A mechanical cotton harvester moves through the field picking the cotton, which is then packed into truckload sized "modules" and taken to the gin. The gin separates the cotton fibers from the seeds. Cleaning equipment removes twigs and other debris. The fiber, now called lint, is packed into 500-pound bales and then transported to textile mills. The cotton is carded or combed, making all of the fibers run parallel, and then spun into thread. Some whole cotton seed is fed to cattle. Some seed is further processed. The fine "linter" fibers are removed and the seed is pressed and cooked, producing cottonseed oil and meal.

**Uses** – Like lumber, cotton comes in many varieties and qualities, each suitable for different purposes. The long lint fibers are used for many things, most of which begin with a thread, yarn, or cotton fabric. Clothing and bedding items are common products. The smaller cotton fibers, known as linters, are removed from the seed and are used as stuffing for furniture and components of linoleum, plastics, and insulation. Cotton seed oil is used in foods and cosmetics. Cotton seed hulls are eaten by cattle.

**History** – The oldest cotton fibers and boll fragments, dated from around 5000 B.C., were discovered in Mexico. In 5 B.C., the Greek historian Herodotus reported of a plant that "bore fleece." Cotton has been worn in India and Egypt for over 5,000 years. Cotton was grown by Native Americans as early as 1500. In England in the 1700s, it was against the law to import or manufacture fabric made of cotton since it was a threat to the sheep and wool industry.

American colonists were able to grow lots of cotton, but processing was difficult. It was not until the 1700s that the cotton industry flourished in the United States. It was then that Samuel Slater, an Englishman, built the first American cotton mill. These mills converted cotton fibers into yarn and cloth.

In 1793, Eli Whitney developed the cotton gin, which mechanically separates the seed from the lint fiber. Whitney named his machine a "gin," short for the word "engine." Technology has improved over the past centuries making cotton growth and production much more efficient.

**Varieties** – There are five main cottons varieties grown throughout the world—Egyptian, American Pima, Sea Island, Asiatic, and Upland. The most prominent types of cotton grown in California are Upland, whose fiber lengths are  $\frac{13}{16}$  inches to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, and American Pima, whose fiber lengths are  $1\frac{5}{16}$  inches to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Seventeen states in the

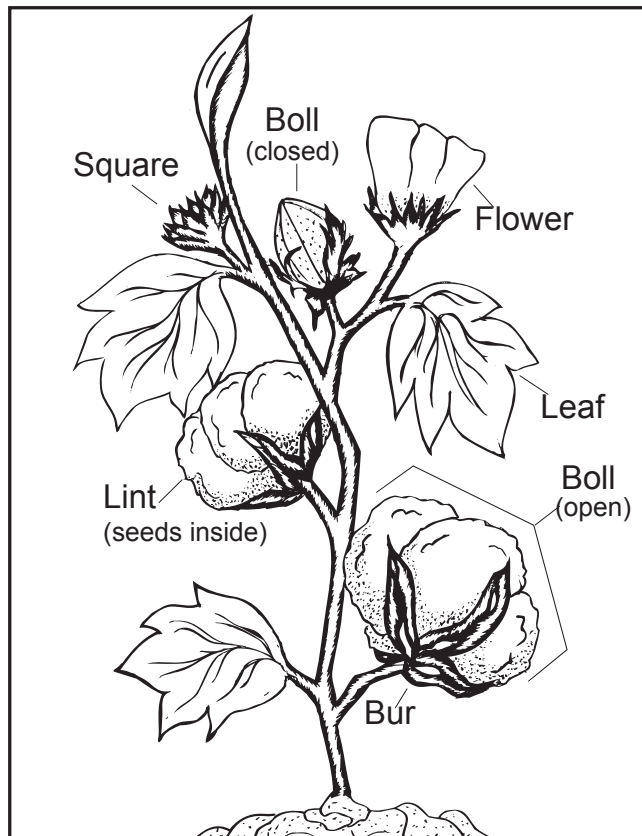
nation produce cotton with roughly 12 million acres of cotton planted annually.

**Commodity Value** – Cotton is a leading cash crop nationally, ranking behind corn, soybeans, and wheat. In California, cotton and cottonseed rank 5th and 4th in terms of value of sales by commodity group. In 2015, California's cotton and cottonseed crop value was over \$336 million.

**Top Producing Counties** – The majority of cotton is produced in the cotton belt of the United States, ranging along the southern part of the nation from California to Florida and Virginia. In 2015, the top five cotton producing counties in California include Kings, Fresno, Merced, Kern, and Tulare.

**For additional information:**

National Cotton Council

Website: [www.cotton.org](http://www.cotton.org)Website: [cottonsjourney.com](http://cottonsjourney.com)

*From Review on page 5*

Assemblymember Bains has introduced two spot bills AB-1613 and AB-1648. Existing law, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critically important natural resource for California and the nation. AB 1613 would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation requiring the Department of Water Resources to identify permanent and temporary salinity barriers that would reduce the amount of fresh water outflow required to combat saltwater intrusion into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. AB 1648 would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would prohibit the City and County of Los Angeles from achieving federally mandated conservation of Colorado River water supplies by increasing water imports from other regions, including the San Joaquin Valley. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

AB-1736 from Assemblymember Juan Carrillo has been intro-

duced. It is a spot bill related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Senator Eggman introduced SB-638, which would enact the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,500,000,000, pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, for flood protection and climate resiliency projects. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

SB-651, introduced by Senator Grove has been introduced. This bill would make it the policy of this state that, to help advance groundwater recharge projects, and to demonstrate the feasibility of projects that can use available high water flows to recharge local groundwater while minimizing flood risks, the state board and the regional water quality control boards prioritize water right permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance

the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water right priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

SB-659 has been introduced by Senator Ashby. This bill would establish that it is the policy of the state to recharge groundwater by a minimum of 10 million acre-feet of water annually. The bill would require the department to promulgate regulations necessary to implement this policy. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com


Senator Hurtado introduced SB-737. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to capture floodwater to recharge groundwater basins and to require the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to work together to expedite the regulatory steps necessary to store significant rainfall and excess water underground, while still ensuring protections for the environment and other water users as required by state law.

Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com


SB-753 has been introduced by Senator Caballero. This bill would create a felony for planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, or processing marijuana that results in substantial environmental harm to surface or groundwater, a violation of pesticide provisions, taking or using water from a conveyance or storage facility without permission, and extraction or use of groundwater from an unpermitted well or from a permitted well in excess of a restriction. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Senator Dahle has introduced SB-836. This bill would authorize a landowner, in the County of Siskiyou, where a conduit is constructed across or buried beneath the lands of 2 or more landowners, and the conduit is not under the control or management of any public agency or authority, to modify or replace the conduit on or beneath their land if the modification or replacement is made in a manner that does not impede the flow of the water to any other water

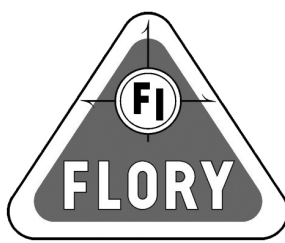
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right holder receiving a benefit of the conduit. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Also from Senator Dahle, SB-861 would require the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court related to California Environmental Quality Act actions or proceedings brought to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the certification or adoption of an environmental impact report for water conveyance or storage projects, as defined, or the granting of project approvals, including any appeals to the court of appeal or the Supreme Court, to be resolved, to the extent feasible, within 270 days of the filing of the certified record of proceedings with the court to an action or proceeding seeking judicial review of the lead agency's action related to those projects. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Senator Allen has introduced SB-867, which would enact the Drought and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Park Creation and Outdoor Access Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for drought and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate smart agriculture, and park creation and outdoor access programs. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

bill would expand the definition of fire prevention activities to include prescribed grazing, defined as the lawful application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or conservation goals, including reducing the risk of wildfire by reducing fuel loads, controlling undesirable or invasive plants, and promoting biodiversity and habitat for special status species. The bill would expand allowable public education outreach activities to include training on livestock management and community-supported prescribed grazing. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

**CDFA ANNOUNCES ONE VACANCY ON THE CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is announcing one vacancy on the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee. The Committee advises the CDFA Secretary on activities associated with the statewide citrus specific pest and disease work plan that includes, but is not limited to outreach and education programs and programs for surveying, detecting, analyzing, and treating pests and diseases specific to citrus. The members receive no compensation, but are entitled to payment of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration. The Committee member vacancy exists for one grower representative from Fresno County and the member term expires on September 30, 2024. Applicants should have an interest in agriculture and citrus pest and disease prevention. Individuals interested in being considered for a committee appointment should send a brief resume by March 10, 2023 to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814, Attention: David Gutierrez. For additional information, contact: David Gutierrez, Branch Chief, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division at (916) 274-6300, or e-mail David.Gutierrez@cdfa.ca.gov.

CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing vacancies on the Certified Farmers Market Advisory Committee (CFMAC). The CFMAC advises the CDFA Secretary on all matters pertaining to the Direct Marketing Program, including legislation, regulations, enforcement, and administrative policies and procedures pertaining to the direct marketing of California-grown agricultural products at Certified Farmers' Markets (CFMs). California currently has more than 2,700 certified agricultural producers participating in approximately 650 CFMs within the state. Current CFMAC vacancies include producer or representative of agricultural organization that represents producers; alternate producer or organization that represents producers; alternate CFM operator or representative of operator; and county agricultural commissioner alternate. The term of office for committee members is two years. While members do not receive compensation, they are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources.

Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment should complete the Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ) available at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i\\_&\\_c/pdfs/CFM-PMAQ.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i_&_c/pdfs/CFM-PMAQ.pdf) and obtain a letter of recommendation from an industry member. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Applications should be sent to Sarah Cardoni, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch, 1220 'N' Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via email to Sarah.Cardoni@cdfa.ca.gov. For further information regarding the Direct Marketing Program and CFMAC vacancies, please contact Jennifer Leidolf at Jennifer.Leidolf@cdfa.ca.gov.


Wildfire AB-1544 from Assemblymember Patterson would expressly exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a project reduction of fuels in areas within moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Senator Limon introduced SB-675. Current law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a local assistance grant program with advance payments for eligible fire prevention and home hardening education activities in the state, including public education outreach activities. This



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## First 2023 House Agriculture Committee Hearing Focuses on Challenges

Source: AgNet West

The House Agriculture Committee held its first hearing of the new congressional year, titled "Uncertainty, Inflation, Regulations: Challenges for American Agriculture". Opening statements from the committee leaders were partisan and politically charged.

Committee Chair Glenn "G.T." Thompson (R-PA) listed several recent problems agriculture has faced, such as the rising costs of fuel and inputs, and the problems caused by the war in Ukraine.

"Over the last several years, I have traveled to more than 40 states and have heard firsthand from our farmers on issues related to labor, fuel, fertilizer, inflation, and interest rates. The average cost of diesel fuel per gallon increased 95 percent between 2020 and 2022," Thompson said. "The 2022 average Henry Hub real natural gas spot price increased 53 percent from 2021. Fertilizer inputs such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium increased 125 percent in 2021 and an additional 30 percent in the first five months of 2022 alone. Urea, the most applied nitrogen fertilizer, increased 205 percent in price between 2020 and 2022." Thompson said the Biden Administration has not done enough to mitigate the problems.

"The Biden Administration continues to ignore these crises, neglecting America's producers and consumers," said Thompson. "In fact, this Administration continues to promote nonsensical regulations and policies that create needless uncertainty for farmers, ranchers, and working families, further limiting our ability to meet the growing food demands of our nation and the world." Committee Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA) also talked about current problems during his opening statements. He

mentioned the impacts of the pandemic on supply chains and manufacturing around the globe.

"The Biden Administration has taken important actions to address these issues," Scott said. "President Biden signed the Ocean Shipping Reform Act last year and helped avert a rail crisis. And the President worked with Congress to pass two historic pieces of legislation: the bipartisan Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act which included more than 2.9 billion dollars for USDA's rural broadband programs, water storage, and a new Bioproduct Pilot Program – the largest infrastructure investment ever." Scott put some blame on the Trump Administration.

"We have also seen how international conflicts continue to reverberate throughout our economy. Former President Trump's trade war with China was devastating to many American producers and domestic manufacturers, and more recently the Russian invasion of Ukraine has had significant impacts on fertilizer, grain, and fuel costs," Scott said. "The cause of inflation isn't singular in nature; it is the result of a variety of factors."

American Farm Bureau president Zippy Duval was among the six witnesses at the hearing. He encouraged lawmakers to look beyond party lines.

"The farm bill has been a bipar-

tisan effort in the past. The 2023 farm bill presents an important opportunity for lawmakers to rise above partisanship," Duvall said. "I encourage you work together again to pass legislation that protects food security for all Americans and the future success of our farmers and ranchers."

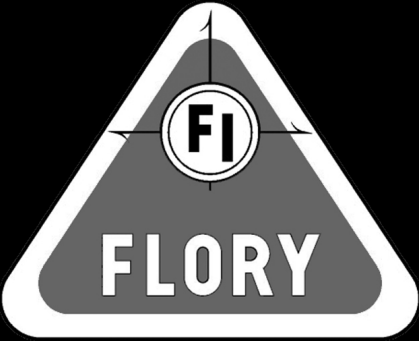
Duvall also laid out the principles supported by Farm Bureau for the 2023 Farm Bill.

"We support increasing the baseline funding for commitments to farm programs. We want to maintain a unified farm bill that includes nutrition programs and farm programs together and we want to prioritize funding for risk management tools, which include both federal crop insurance and commodity programs," he said.

Along with Duvall, the witness list included another five agricultural leaders including:

- Peter Friedmann, Executive Director, Agriculture Transportation Coalition, Washington, D.C.

- Corey Rosenbusch, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Fertilizer Institute, Arlington, VA
  - Michael Twining, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Willard Agri-Service, Wor-ton, MD
  - Mike Brown, President, National Chicken Council, Washington, D.C.
  - Rob Larew, President, National Farmers Union, Wash-ington, D.C.
- This was the first House Agriculture Committee hearing since last September.



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## The ABCs of ATVs

By: Theresa Kiehn  
President and CEO, AgSafe

In today's agricultural industry, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have become an increasingly critical tool in managing operations in orchards. Starting in the 1980s, when companies began exploring how ATVs could be used in a variety of on-farm capacities, there are now tens of millions of these pieces of equipment being used in agriculture across the United States. As a result, it is critical to know the hazards associated with ATVs and how to operate them safely.

### The Law

It is important to understand that ATVs, when used in an agricultural operation, are legally viewed differently than when being operated recreationally. If you are enjoying an ATV for fun or in any personal capacity, the safe use is governed by California Vehicle Code 38503 and enforceable by both local law enforcement agencies as well as the California Highway Patrol.

Alternatively, when used in an agricultural operation, the legal jurisdiction falls to the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and is guided by the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3664. This section specifically refers to the operating rules of agricultural equipment. It specifically lays out what is required of an operator in terms of safely using the equipment. To read CCR, Title 8, Section

3664 in its entirety, visit <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3664.html>.

### Essential Elements of an ATV Safety Program

Given that CCR, Title 8, Section 3664 is so explicit in its directive on how to safely operate agricultural equipment, it should come as no surprise that a business needs to have a written ATV safety program that includes several important elements. Programs need to outline expectations of safe operation, maintenance, vehicle pre-inspection, the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn, and the protocol for responding to an ATV-related emergency. As with any written safety program, employees operating these machines need to be trained in the program's components as well as be educated in how to safely operate the ATV.

Here are a few key concepts to keep in mind relative to the needed elements of an ATV safety program\*:

#### Safe Operation

Use the elements outlined in CCR, Title 8, Section 3664 as your guide:

- Where possible, avoid operating the ATV near ditches, embankments, and holes.
- Reduce speed when turning, crossing slopes, and on rough, slick, or muddy surfaces.
- Stay off slopes too steep for safe operation.
- Watch where you are going, especially at row ends, on roads, and around trees.

- Do not permit others to ride.
- Operate the ATV smoothly -no jerky turns, starts, or stops.
- Hitch only to the drawbar and hitch points recommended by the ATV manufacturer.
- When the ATV is stopped, set brakes securely and use park lock if available.

#### Vehicle Pre-Inspection

- Create an ATV pre-inspection checklist log to be reviewed and signed daily by operators.
- Ensure that the log has space for operators to note any maintenance-related issues.
- Coordinate log review by the operators' supervisor and/or maintenance staff to ensure that maintenance issues are reported in a timely fashion.
- Pre-inspection checklists should include, at minimum, review of:
  - o Tires and wheels
  - o Controls and cables
  - o Lights and electrical systems
  - o Oil and fuel levels
  - o Chain and/or drive shaft
  - o Brakes
  - o Caution and warning labels
  - o Emergency tool kit
  - o First aid kit

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- The leadership of each business needs to consider the various uses for ATVs within their operation to best determine the most complete list of personal protective equipment that needs to be worn by operators.
- All PPE must be provided by the employer at no cost to the employee.
- PPE should include, at minimum, the following:
  - o US Department of Transportation (USDOT) approved helmet

- o Eye protection
- o Gloves
- o Boots
- o Long-sleeved shirt
- o Long pants
- o High visibility vest/jacket/outer clothing

#### Now What?

The busy season is here and it is critical that agricultural operations ensure they have a complete and robust ATV safety program in place. According to the US Department of Labor, California leads the nation in the number of annual ATV fatalities which is as much a reflection of the wide-spread use of these pieces of equipment as it is our not having holistic safety operating programs in place. Do not allow your employees to become a statistic and invest the time now into creating the safest possible ATV program. For more information about ATV safety, do not hesitate to contact AgSafe at [www.agsafe.org](http://www.agsafe.org) or 209-526-4400. AgSafe is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide practical health and safety resources to the agricultural industry. Since its formation in 1991, the organization has trained over 100,000 growers, farm labor contractors, packers, shippers, and processors, along with their supervisors and workers, in the most critical safety, health, human resources and pesticide compliance issues.

*\* This is not a complete list of elements. A complete ATV safety program must include company-specific protocol, hazards, unique identifiers, and other applicable processes unique to each individual operation.*



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California Bountiful TV season to begin on Feb. 25

California Bountiful TV, the California Farm Bureau's weekly program that connects people with the food they eat and the farmers and ranchers who grow and raise it, will debut its new season Feb. 25 with new host and executive producer Aubrey Aquino.

A California native raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Aquino is a longtime media professional in lifestyle and entertainment television. Before joining the California Farm Bureau last summer, she was a host for Bay Area LIFE on ABC 7 KGO-TV in San Francisco, as well as for Your California Life on ABC 10 KXTV in Sacramento.

Her media experience also includes work for CNN, E! News, the NFL Network and iHeart Media.

"The show is about the people, places, food and farms that make California so delicious," Aquino said of the new California Bountiful TV season. "There's farm to fork, farm to beauty, farm to closet, agritourism and, of course, California wines. Plus, I'm a California girl, so it's exciting to be telling these stories about California's bounty."

For a preview of the program, visit [bit.ly/3xqGOI6](http://bit.ly/3xqGOI6) and [californiabountiful.com](http://californiabountiful.com), which also features Farm Bureau's award-winning California Bountiful magazine. California Bountiful TV may be seen on the following stations:

- KCAL Los Angeles, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
  - KCBA 35 Monterey-Salinas, Fridays at 12 p.m.
  - KMAX 31 Sacramento, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
  - KUSI 51 San Diego, Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
  - KRON 4 San Francisco Bay Area, Sundays at 6:30 p.m.
  - KHSL 12 Chico-Redding, Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m.
  - KVPT 18 Fresno-Visalia, Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
  - KSBY 6 Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 a.m.
  - KMIR 36 Palm Springs, Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.
  - KERO 23 Bakersfield, Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.
  - RFD-TV (Dish channel 230, DirecTV channel 345), Sundays at 8 a.m.
- 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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#### Thursday, March 9th Sexual Harassment Prevention

830-930 am : Spanish, Employee  
 1000-noon : Spanish, Supervisor  
 1245-145 pm : English, Employee  
 200-400 pm : English, Supervisor

California legislation requires employers with at least five employees or contractors to provide sexual harassment training every two years to all employees, including supervisory and nonsupervisory employees.

#### Thursday, April 6th Heat Illness Prevention

930-1030 am : Spanish, Employee  
 1100-noon : English, Employee

California employers are required to train employees on heat illness prevention annually.



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## Water Board Suspends Flow Restrictions to Improve Water Storage Opportunity

Brian German, AgNet West

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has decided to improve water storage levels after an Executive Order from Governor Gavin Newsom. Pumping requirements in the Delta have been suspended, allowing more water to be stored for later use. The announcement was made right as California braced for another storm system to bring a sizable amount of rain and snow. Concerns had been raised during the previous atmospheric river events that the state was not taking advantage of the opportunity to store more water.

“It was really damaging this year when we were at flood stage throughout the state, and we were literally limping along in terms of pumping water out of the Delta and putting it in storage,” said Roger Isom, President and CEO of the Western Agricultural Processors Association. “The good news is those restrictions are going to be relaxed. We’re going to be able to pump more water.”

SWRCB Executive Director, Eileen Sobock noted in the order that the decision “will not have an unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses.” However, there are differing opinions as to how the action to improve water storage will actually impact fish populations. Golden State Salmon Association President John McManus was among those who disagrees with the decision. “Since Newsom’s announcement, water flowing out of the Delta has dropped by almost half. That water is needed to safely deliver this year’s baby salmon from the Central Valley to the ocean,” said McManus.

In the order allowing the SWRCB action, Newsom notes that even with the storms that have come through the state, it “has not reduced stresses upon the State’s water resources, including low storage levels, depleted aquifers, and diminished local water supplies.” Now with the pumping requirements lifted by SWRCB, California can effectively build up water storage supplies. “This is a good move. Especially at a time when you have excess water like we have right now. It will be interesting to see how long things stay this way. Can we capture a lot during the spring runoff?” Isom questioned.



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### *How to manage attractive farm nuisances*

The following information is provided by Nationwide<sup>®</sup>, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.\*

Some farmland is more than just working land. Natural features like ponds may detract from the overall crop potential of a piece of farmland. More, these “attractive farm nuisances” can also add to the farmland owner’s liability. When that’s the case, it’s important for the landowner to work with a specialist who can best identify the risks and put a protection plan in place.

What is an attractive farm nuisance? An attractive nuisance is a potentially hazardous feature or condition on a piece of land that may attract children or adults who could incur injury. Attractive farm nuisances open up a new liability to the landowner. It’s normal practice to require an invitation for any visitors to a piece of farmland. But trespassing is common, especially with minors.

There is separate legal precedent for any injuries incurred by someone on your land depending on whether that person was invited or trespassed. But if your land features an attractive nuisance like a pond or sharp change in elevation — or a man-made feature like equipment storage — you as the landowner may bear the burden of protecting yourself from the liability it creates.

What you can do to protect yourself Federal, state and local laws often require landowners to “take reasonable precautions” to help ensure the safety of anyone stepping onto their land. For farmland, that includes posting highly visible signs laying out requirements for entry onto your land. But the laws are often far from crystal clear. Sometimes exploring any attractive nuisances on your land may create more questions than answers.

“An attractive nuisance can be present

anywhere and may not always be readily identified,” said Nationwide Risk Management Consultant Derek Hommer. “And those exposures of the attractive farm nuisances are rarely accounted for in a standard homeowner’s insurance policy.”

#### Connect the right team

This makes it critically important to connect with a farm insurance agent or risk management specialist who understands your land and any potential attractive nuisances on it. Also consider consulting an attorney who can address legal concerns about the specific attractive nuisances on your land.

“There are so many variables with attractive farm nuisances. An attorney can help

you determine your level of liability,” Hommer said. “And don’t rely on a standard homeowner’s insurance policy to protect you from that liability. Have a conversation with an informed, experienced insurance agent who can show you the most effective policy options. Having the right insurance in place can help you mitigate the risk you face from attractive farm nuisances.”

Visit [aginsightcenter.com/farmlandownership](https://aginsightcenter.com/farmlandownership) to download our free Farmland Ownership Protection Guide and to watch our on-demand webinar, Managing Farmland Leases.

\*A.M. Best Market Share Report 2021.

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## Let's Talk Irrigation

Steve Knell  
Ag Water Consultant

The art and science of irrigation begins by asking two questions: Is it dry enough to irrigate? Is it wet enough to stop? Whether you're a city resident on a landscaped city lot or you are growing 100 acres of almonds, if you can master the answer to those two questions, you can become an excellent resource steward of a very valuable commodity, water.

To answer the first question, you must understand soils.

Soils are made up of varying particles of sands, silts, and clays. The percent of each particle in the soil determines its classification as well as its water holding capacity. A soil that contains all three particles in relative equal percentages is called a loam soil, which is prevalent in the local area. Now, imagine a block of dry loam soil that is 12 inches by

12 inches by 12 inches. Imagine too that you can put sideboards around the top of this block, so that when you add water to the top, it will be contained on the surface. Loam soils can hold about 1.5 inches of water per foot of soil depth. If we now fill the top of this 12X12X12 block of loam soil with 1.5 inches of water, it will infiltrate and permeate the whole soil block down to a depth of 12 inches.

With few exceptions, most vegetation thrives quite well until about 50% of the soil moisture has been evaporated and transpired (called evapotranspiration) from the plants root zone. Under that premise, if you are a typical lawn with a 12-inch root depth, it would be dry enough to irrigate when 0.75-inch (¾-inch) of water had been removed from the soil. If you are a typical almond tree with a 3-foot managed root depth, it would be dry enough to irrigate when 2-¼ inches has been removed from the soil profile. You may now be asking; how do I measure this water loss

from the soil?

For residential landscapes, I prefer the tuna can (5 ounce) approach to measuring water loss from the soil. For agricultural purposes, I recommend an oil pan. Take either of these simple pieces of hardware and fill them to a water depth as may be required for your soil type and rooting depth of your crop. Place your cans or pans near the area being irrigated. Lay a wired mesh or similar hardware cloth on top of the can to keep any cats, birds, or coyotes from drinking the water. Check every few days and when the can or pan is empty, it is time to irrigate. You have now answered the first question: Is it dry enough to irrigate?

The last question is similarly simple. Take two or three "empty" tuna cans or oil pans and place them in the area being irrigated. Turn your sprinklers on and when the depth of water in the empty tuna or oil pan reaches your water loss target, it is wet enough to stop irrigating. For orchards on micros,

you may wish to use a few more pans due to pipeline pressure variability producing flow variability within your system. While this method is simple, it is effective in helping make better water management decisions. Having evaluated hundreds of systems over the years, one thing is clear; If you are not measuring the water loss coming or going from your planted area, you are likely 40-50% efficiency in your water use. If you are actively measuring and managing soil moisture and crop water usage you are typically 75% or better in your water usage. That's a big difference.

In this coming age of competing water interests, more frequent and longer drought periods and pending groundwater restrictions, it behooves all of us to be at the top of our irrigation game. Doing so will go a long way in protecting our water supply.



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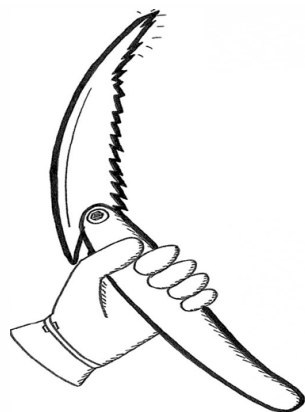
PRESENTS:  
CATEGORY: **PRUNING SAFETY**

# SAFETY TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

## PRUNING SAFETY

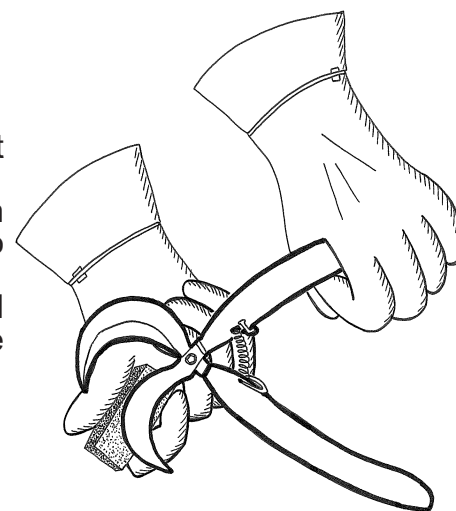
Pruning is done during the fall and winter months. This means that weather conditions such as fog and rain can make ladders and shears more slippery. If you are not extra careful, you can seriously injure yourself or another employee because of these conditions.

### PRUNING EQUIPMENT



#### HAND SHEARS AND LOPPERS

1. Be sure the shears are in good condition and in adjustment before you go to work.
2. Do not attempt to cut dead wood or make cuts bigger than the loppers were designed for. Extreme force can lead to falling off a ladder, broken handles, or injured elbows.
3. Hand shears, such as those used on grapes and ornamentals, pose a special hazard. Always know where your fingers and hands are before making a cut.



#### SAWS

1. Dull saws cause accidents!
2. Know where your other hand is.
3. Folding saws should be locked tight.

### MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT (PNEUMATIC, HYDRAULIC, GAS)

Various pruning aids are used to reduce fatigue and speed up the operation. Pneumatic loppers and saws on long poles mean less ladder work. However, they do pose their own safety problem. Manufacturer's instructions should always be followed. Never remove guards.

### ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT

1. Pruning platforms or towers are used to position pruners close to the work. Particular attention should be paid to the condition of the orchard floor—no holes, dips or extreme slopes—and turning spaces should be wide and safe.
2. When removing and chopping branches, no one should work behind or beside the equipment. Even when guards are in place, wood and stones may be hurled out with tremendous force.

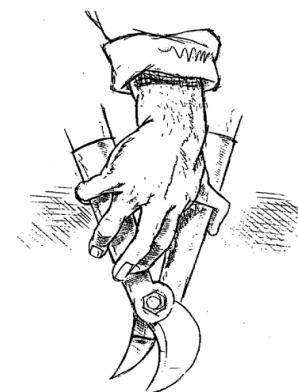


#### LADDERS

1. Use only three-legged ladders. Only a tripod is stable on rougher ground in orchards.
2. Ladders must be inspected before use. Do not use a ladder with missing or damaged parts. Wooden ladders must be very carefully checked for splits, cracks, or loose nuts. Aluminum ladders, although easier to inspect, must also be checked! It is particularly important to check the third leg.
3. Before climbing a ladder, firmly set all three legs. This will assure that one or more legs do not sink when you are at the top, causing you to fall off.
4. Always climb up and climb down the ladder facing the rungs.
5. Do not stand on the top two steps! If you can't reach it from the third rung down, get a taller ladder or prune only as far as you can reach.
6. Keep the weight of your body over the ladder. Do not reach too far; climb down and move.
7. Do not climb a ladder on a windy day, particularly during very gusty winds, while wearing slippery boots, or during electrical storms.

### PRUNING SAFE-WORK PRACTICES

1. Always carry pruning shears with the point down while walking or standing.
2. When pulling canes or branches, protect your eyes and those around you.
3. Do not hang the pruning shears on vine wires or tree branches.
4. Be alert, and be aware of other workers.
5. Keep your pruning shears sharp.
6. Return the sharpening file to its proper place in the truck.
7. Report any injury or accident to your supervisor at once.





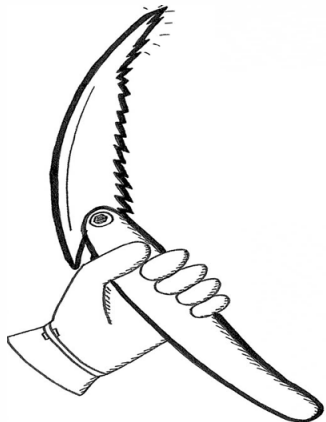
PRESENTA:  
CATEGORIA: **SEGURIDAD EN LA PODA**

## ENTRENAMIENTO DE SEGURIDAD PARA TRABAJADORES AGRÍCOLAS

### SEGURIDAD EN LA PODA

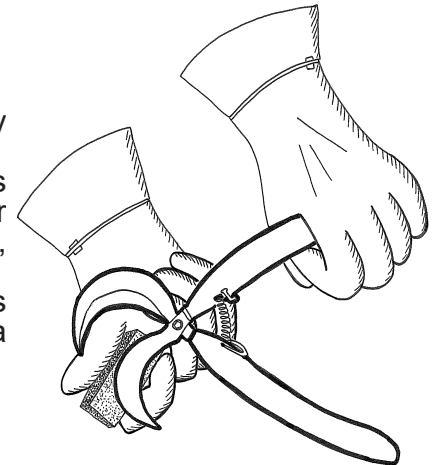
La poda se hace durante los meses de otoño e invierno. Esto significa que las condiciones climáticas como la niebla y la lluvia pueden hacer que las escaleras y las tijeras de podar sean más resbaladizas. Si no tiene extra cuidado, puede lesionarse gravemente usted mismo o a otro empleado debido a estas condiciones.

#### EQUIPO PARA PODAR



##### TIJERAS DE MANO Y PARA PODAR

1. Asegúrese de que las tijeras estén en buenas condiciones y ajustadas antes de irse a trabajar.
2. No trate de cortar madera muerta o hacer cortes más grandes de los que fueron diseñados para las tijeras de podar. Hacer extrema fuerza puede conducir a que se caiga de una escalera, mangos rotos, o codos lesionados.
3. Las tijeras de mano, como las usadas en uvas y plantas ornamentales, representan un peligro especial. Siempre sepa dónde están sus dedos y las manos antes de hacer un corte



##### SIERRAS

1. ¡Las sierras sin filo causan accidentes!
2. Sepa dónde tiene su otra mano.
3. Las sierras plegables deben de estar cerradas con un buen seguro.

#### EQUIPO MECÁNICO (NEUMÁTICO, HIDRÁULICO, GAS)

Se usan varios equipos de poda auxiliares para reducir la fatiga y acelerar la operación. Las podadoras y sierras neumáticas en postes largos significan menos trabajo en escalera. Sin embargo, plantean sus propios problemas de seguridad. Siempre se deben seguir las instrucciones del fabricante. Nunca retire los protectores.

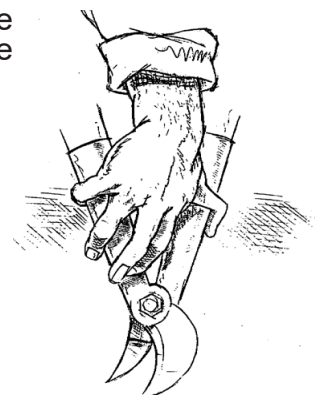
#### EQUIPO AUXILIAR

1. Las plataformas de poda o torres se utilizan para posicionar a los podadores cerca del trabajo. Particularmente, debe de ponerse mucha atención a las condiciones del suelo del huerto, sin hoyos, hundimientos o pendientes extremos, y los espacios para dar vuelta deben de ser anchos y seguros.
2. Al retirar y cortar ramas, nadie debe trabajar detrás o al lado del equipo. Incluso cuando los resguardos están en su lugar, la madera y las piedras pueden ser lanzadas con tremenda fuerza.

#### ESCALERAS



1. Solamente use escaleras de tres patas. Sólo un trípode es estable en el suelo más áspero en los huertos.
2. Las escaleras deben de inspeccionarse antes de usarlas. No utilice una escalera con piezas faltantes o dañada. Las escaleras de madera se deben de revisar muy cuidadosamente para ver si tienen rajaduras, grietas, o tuercas flojas. Las escaleras de aluminio, aunque más fáciles de inspeccionar, ¡también deben ser revisadas! Es particularmente importante revisar la tercera pata.
3. Antes de subir una escalera, firmemente, coloque las tres patas. Esto asegurará que una o más de las patas no se hundan cuando usted está en la parte superior, causando que usted caiga.
4. Siempre suba y baje por la escalera dándole frente a los peldaños.
5. ¡No se pare en los dos primeros peldaños de arriba! Si no puede alcanzar el objeto desde el tercer peldaño de arriba hacia abajo, consiga una escalera más alta o solo pade hasta donde pueda alcanzar.
6. Mantenga el peso de su cuerpo sobre la escalera. No trate de alcanzar demasiado lejos; Bájese y mueva la escalera.
7. No suba una escalera durante un día ventoso, particularmente durante vientos muy fuertes, mientras viste botas resbaladizas, o durante tormentas eléctricas.



#### PRÁCTICAS DE TRABAJO SEGURAS EN LA PODA

1. Siempre lleve las tijeras de podar con la punta hacia abajo mientras camina o este parado.
2. Cuando este jalando tallos o ramas, protéjase los ojos y aquellos en su alrededor.
3. No cuelgue las tijeras de podar en alambres de la viña o ramas de los árboles.
4. Esté alerta, y esté al pendiente de otros trabajadores.
5. Mantenga sus tijeras de podar afiladas.
6. Devuelva la lija de afilar a su lugar apropiado en la camioneta (troca).
7. Reporte inmediatamente cualquier lesión o accidente a su supervisor.

**Jamie Johansson, President of California Farm Bureau**

Since 1925 Farm Bureau has been reaching the public with stories of farming and ranching in California. Beginning as a radio broadcast, the Voice of Agriculture hit the airwaves to discuss the issues facing those in food and fiber production. While radio, TV, print and now social media have allowed us to reach the masses, sharing the story of the farming and ranching community has been our passion and core to our mission since Farm Bureau was formed in 1919. Today we continue to use a variety of methods to be the voice of those who work the land by sharing their stories.

Conversations with the non-ag public look very different than the coffee shop talk we all enjoy with one another. In order to help them understand our value and contributions, we must meet the non-ag public in the one spot where our connection exists - the kitchen table. When less than 2% of the general population has a direct tie to farming, ranching and the agriculture way of life it can be challenging to keep the importance of a strong agriculture industry at the forefront of their minds. That's why Farm Bureau created a channel for reaching the masses and paved the way for California Bountiful – our magazine and TV show almost 100 years ago. Through California Bountiful we bring to the consumer, the voter, and the non-agriculturalist stories of interest about the families behind the food they enjoy. This week we launch the new season of California Bountiful TV with new host Aubrey Aquino. Aubrey is a northern California native who will build upon her experience hosting lifestyle shows across the country to share the stories of the people in California who make mealtime possible. Through a "Fork to Farm" approach Bountiful breaks down the culinary experience and takes the viewer back to the farms and ranches where it all begins.


While our Communications team informs the non-ag public through the Bountiful brand, our leadership team and policy staff are diligently working to communicate your message to our

elected and agency officials both in California and Washington DC. Last week I addressed members of the House Ag Committee on the 2023 Farm Bill during the World Ag Expo in Tulare. I shared that since the passage of the last Farm Bill in 2018 American agriculture has faced significant challenges including a global pandemic, labor shortages, inflation and supply-chain disfunction. In this next Farm Bill, I asked the Committee to provide farmers and ranchers with the tools necessary to continue producing safe, nutritious and affordable food for US consumers and the nations abroad.

On the heels of that discussion, three Farm Bureau members and I traveled back to Washington DC to be the voice of California agriculture during issues-based policy discussions at the American Farm Bureau's Issues Advisory Committee meetings. Sharing our story, advocating for solutions and putting in the time needed to forge agreements that actually work are key to the office of President and the role of active agricultural members of the Farm Bureau.

As we look ahead, I hope you consider opportunities where you can be a voice for agriculture. As a Farm Bureau member there are many structured opportunities available for you to tell your story to the non-ag public and even elected officials. Registration is now open for California Farm Bureau's Capitol Ag Conference where ag members from throughout our state will travel to Sacramento for a day of issues-based speakers and briefings before breaking off into regionally focused small groups and heading to the Capitol for meetings with legislators. Attendees will round out the evening at a legislative reception for Farm Bureau members, elected officials and staff, agency leaders and friends in the agriculture community. I sincerely hope you'll consider joining us in Sacramento on March 28th. This is a day for those new to advocacy and those who have walked the halls many times in the past. Your participation, your passion, your story and your voice are key to a future California that includes farms and ranches.

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## Farm Credit Contributed Nearly \$1 Million to State's Ag Organizations in 2022

*Largest provider of credit also committed to long-term viability of California's farms and ranches*

Farm Credit is the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture, but its support goes much deeper than that. Farm Credit is also committed to the sustainability and long-term viability of agriculture and rural communities and strongly supports non-profits working to preserve and protect California agriculture.

In 2022, the Farm Credit Alliance – AgWest Farm Credit, American Ag Credit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit – contributed nearly \$1 million to nearly 100 agricultural organizations around the state.

The funding supports farming and ranching in four main areas – raising awareness of agriculture, preservation of agriculture, education and research, and support for young, begin-

ning and small farmers.

“By providing funding to a wide range of non-profits working to promote farming and ranching in California, Farm Credit is making an investment in helping the industry thrive today and to ensure it can continue providing food for the nation and the world in the years to come,” said Mark Littlefield, President and CEO of AgWest Farm Credit.

The lion's share – more than \$480,000 – was directed to organizations that raise awareness through a variety of methods.

One beneficiary is Western United Dairies' educational and advocacy program. The organization's Dairy Leaders program educates up-and-coming dairy industry leaders about the state and federal legislative and regulatory process, how milk products are marketed and ways they can communicate effective messages about the dairy industry.

Another is the Family Winemakers of California. The group is a strong advocate for small family-owned wineries at the state Capitol, where it focuses on reforming post-Prohibition restrictions on selling directly to consumers. Farm Credit support also helps the group hold two large wine tastings a year to promote small family-owned wineries that can't afford large advertising budgets.

Farm Credit is also a strong supporter of groups seeking to preserve agriculture in the Golden State, donating over \$150,000 to organizations involved in that cause. One recipient was Cultivate

California, which educates policymakers and residents about the crucial link between water and their food supply and counters misinformation about farming's use of water. The Cultivate California program helps bolster the natural support people have for agriculture and farms and provides them with facts and information about the connection between their food and the water supply.

Education and research is another Farm Credit priority, receiving over \$150,000 as well in 2022. The Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has been educating students around the state for 36 years that the food they eat doesn't just come from the supermarket. Its most recent program was highlighting the “99% club” – 16 commodities grown almost exclusively in California. A total of 16,000 students participated in the interactive program during the previous school year.

In addition, for more than a decade Farm Credit has supported the California Cattlemen's Association Livestock Memorial Research Fund, which played a major role in funding the development of a vaccine against a tick-borne disease – epizootic bovine abortion – that had wreaked havoc on the state's cattle industry for decades. The Research Fund is now helping fund research against another tick-borne disease – bovine anaplasmosis – that causes billions of dollars in losses worldwide.

Finally, Farm Credit continues to strongly support programs to nurture the next generation of farmers and ranchers to ensure the future of agriculture in California, donating over \$125,000 to organizations such as FFA. By supporting FFA for more than 20 years, Farm Credit helped make numerous programs possible, including the new Change Makers Summit, which provides college-bound high school seniors with information about the many careers they can pursue in agriculture.

Farm Credit also supports

aspiring farmers, such as by providing the Center for Land-Based Learning with funding to create a new six-week Explorer Course for people interested in farming but who don't have the time to participate in its seven-month Beginning Farmer Training program. A large percentage of participants aren't ready for a lengthy program but do want to know what steps they would need to take to become successful farmers. This is especially important because the average farmer is nearly 60 years old, so encouraging people with an interest in farming is vital.

“We know the importance of continuing to support, young, beginning, and small producers as they take the step to learn the complex and dynamic business of agriculture,” said Jeana Hultquist, who runs the local community impact program for American AgCredit. “Farm Credit is committed to the prosperity of not only today's rural families, farms, and businesses, but also the next generation of agriculture.”

###

About Farm Credit:

AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit are cooperatively owned lending institutions providing agriculture and rural communities with a dependable source of credit. For more than 100 years, the Farm Credit System has specialized in financing farmers, ranchers, farmer-owned cooperatives, rural utilities and agribusinesses. Farm Credit offers a broad range of loan products and financial services, including long-term real estate loans, operating lines of credit, equipment and facility loans, cash management and appraisal and leasing services...everything a “growing” business needs. For more information, visit [www.farmcreditalliance.com](http://www.farmcreditalliance.com)

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***Farmers in San Joaquin Valley rush to recharge groundwater after storms***

Taking advantage of January's storms and recent cheap seasonal water rates, growers in the San Joaquin Valley are racing to build temporary basins for sinking water into aquifers to boost groundwater to carry them through drier years ahead. "We weren't prepared for this much water, and we can't build them fast enough," said Zack Stuller, whose farm management firm has built 20 temporary basins in the past month. Some growers are even removing trees to build permanent structures to store more water underground.

***Low yields for winegrapes revealed in Preliminary Grape Crush Report***

California winegrape growers last year harvested their smallest crop of any year within the past decade. That's according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Preliminary Grape Crush Report, an annual benchmark for the winegrape and bulk wine sector. The third-consecutive low-harvest year isn't necessarily bad news. Demand for wine has stagnated in recent years, and the smaller-than-average yields have helped keep inventory low and prices high.

***House panels holds 2023 Farm Bill session at World Ag Expo***

The nation's 2023 Farm Bill took center stage at the World Ag Expo in Tulare last week, as farmers engaged with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and members of the House Agriculture Committee. At a special committee session, farmers and agricultural groups, including the California Farm Bureau, highlighted challenges facing America's largest agricultural economy. Challenges include water shortages, supply-chain disruptions and rising input costs. Last passed in 2018, the farm bill is an omnibus program focusing on agricultural and food programs.

***Tens of thousands gather at ag festival, check out new technology***

Despite chilly temperatures, tens of thousands of visitors turned out for the Feb. 13-15 World Ag Expo, California's largest and most famous farm show. The event is renowned for its annual announcement of its top 10 new products for agriculture. This year, those products included flying fruit-picking autonomous robots, as well as technology to reduce off-target farm spraying. Other innovations included a mobile app for seeding efficiency and smart-irrigation water delivery systems.

***Federal water deliveries expected to resume for farmers after winter storms***

California farmers are expected to see increased federal water allocations this year, as winter storms bolster the Sierra Nevada snowpack and water levels rise in reservoirs. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has announced an initial allocation of 35% of contracted water supplies for agricultural customers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Feb. 22 announcement was welcome news after officials provided zero allocations for agriculture from the federal Central Valley Project in both 2021 and 2022.

***Despite challenging times, almond farmers aren't skimping on bees***

California almond growers are keeping up with pollinating their trees this season. After a bruising year of lower earnings, crop losses and soaring production costs for growers, there still appears to be plenty of work for beekeepers, who rent their hives to pollinate crops and whose insects rely on blossoming almond trees as a source of pollen to build their colonies. State almond acreage is down for the first time in 25 years. But beekeepers say a surplus of bees at the season's start has evaporated and demand for bees is robust again.

***Farmers embracing technology to aid their growing future***

California growers are turning more consistently to technology to streamline tasks, address labor shortages and increase water management efficiency. More than 100 technology exhibits at the recent World Ag Expo in Tulare featured irrigation management software, autonomous sprayers, driverless tractors and even flying, fruit-picking robots. Tim Bucher, a Northern California grape grower and CEO of the Agtonomy tech firm, said he developed an autonomous tractor to cut his farming costs and bring "technology to the crop because we are all trying to do more with less."

***Researchers working to produce drought-resistant wheat with longer roots***

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, are partnering with an international team of scientists to develop wheat varieties that can withstand drought and low water conditions. According to a paper published in the journal Nature Communications, the effort is showing promise. Its new genetic research has led to wheat plants with longer root growth, which enables them to pull water from deeper supplies. The plants that resulted from genetic trials have more biomass and produce higher-grain yields, the study authors noted.



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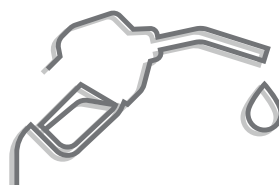
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- Thursday, July 20th  
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- Thursday, August 24th  
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- Thursday, September 21st  
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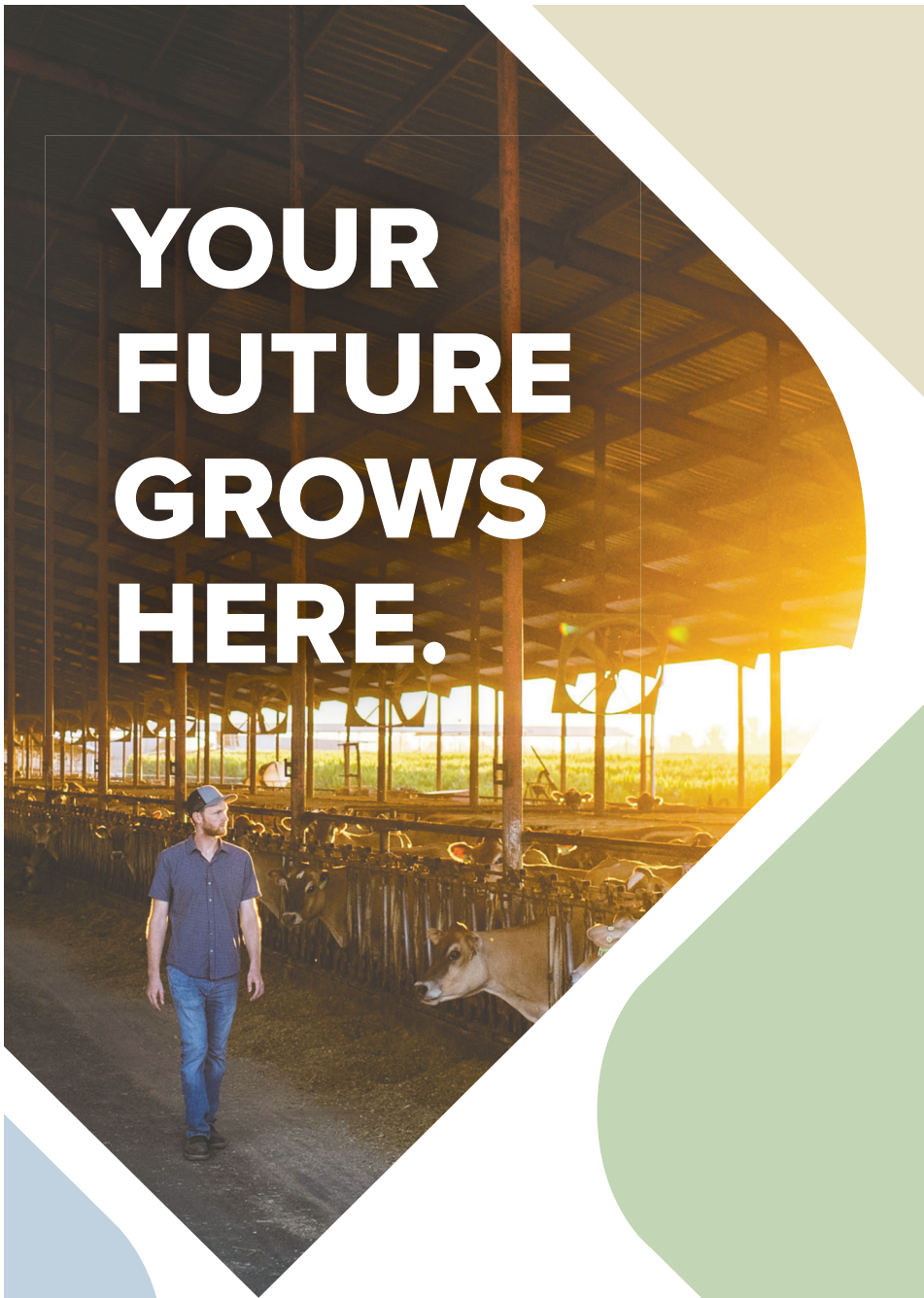
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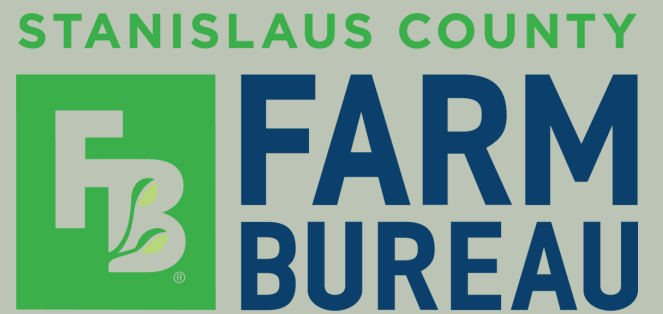
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This is accomplished through headquarter walk through inspection and consultation as needed. Cal Ag Safety is available to assist in creating custom Cal-OSHA required programs such as the Heat Illness Prevention Program and Injury Illness Prevention Program, etc.. Cal Ag Safety provides a unique opportunity for employers to meet regulation compliance by making its services available on-site in addition to several county-wide training sessions held annually for the general public. Cal Ag Safety is proud to work with small and large growers alike.

To learn more about Cal Ag Safety and its services contact Ann Curtoni-Lial at (209) 351-0321 or [acurtoni@calagsafety.com](mailto:acurtoni@calagsafety.com).



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