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*110th Annual Meeting of Members ~ Overcoming Adversity  
See Page 14*

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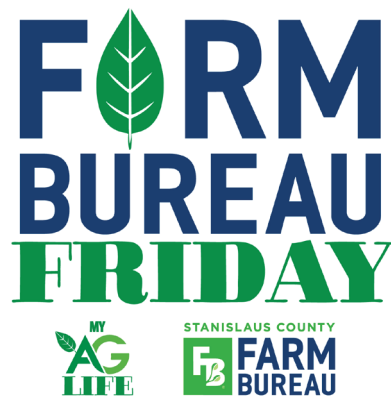
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To serve as the voice of Stanislaus County agriculture at all levels of government, while providing programs to assist its farms and family members and educate the general public of needs and importance to agriculture.



# FRIDAY REVIEW

## LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



### Ag Technology

California Dairy Quality Assurance Program is hosting field days to share the latest technology available for producers. Dairy Plus provides millions of additional dollars to fund climate-smart advanced manure management technologies. The events are held 10 AM - 12 PM with Lunch to Follow.

- May 16 – Subsurface Drip Irrigation, Merced County - REGISTER
- May 23 – Verm filtration, Fresno County - REGISTER
- May 30 – Weeping Wall, Tulare County - REGISTER

Registration is required. The cost is \$20 (reimbursed with attendance). Locations of field days will be provided upon registration and verification. HPAI Precautions: please wear freshly washed clothes. Plastic booties will be provided. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

### Air Quality

#### COMMUNITY AIR PROTECTION PROGRAM PROJECTS

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is announcing an expansion of projects that are eligible for funding for its Community Air Protection Program, making it possible for more communities to apply for and receive assistance for proven solutions that reduce emissions and exposure to harmful pollutants.

The expanded list was announced in the recently launched 2024 Community Air Protection (CAP) Incentive Guidelines. The program brings residents and organizations together with local air quality district and CARB staff to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the specific environmental challenges each area faces. Staff:

Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

### Dairy & Cattle

#### WORKER SAFETY ON DAIRIES

This CDC has issued guidance that attempts to prioritize disbursement of PPE to dairies with confirmed or suspect herds. California currently has no known cases of H5N1. Absent confirmed or suspected HPAI (animals showing initial signs of infection per the vet), scarce resources should be held back in the rare event of further confirmed infection. Should a dairy voluntarily wish to provide PPE, follow the voluntary guidelines in Appendix D of Title 8 5144 the Respirator standard.

PPE-Distribution-for-Dairy-Farm-Poultry-Farm-and-Slaughterhouse-Workers-5.6.2426.pdf (agrisafe.org)

Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com and Bryan Little, blittle@cfbf.com

### DAIRY SUMMIT

Dairy Cares has published its latest newsletter, Fourth California Dairy Sustainability Summit Marks Success: Dairy sector recognizes achievements and promotes progress in nourishing people and the planet. The newsletter covers the March summit that the organization held in Northern California. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

### Energy and Utilities

The Opposed Unless Amended position letter submitted by Farm Bureau on AB 3238 authored by Eduardo Garcia (D Coachella) successfully precipitated a change in the proposed legislation. Amendments now address our concern with the bill, which was regarding newly proposed processes and standards it would use for approval

of transmission lines. We are aware that agricultural lands bear a disproportionate impact from locations to build out transmission lines. Provisions in the bill would have shifted important environmental and other reviews from the California Public Utilities Commission to the California Independent System Operator. The amendments made to the bill taken in the Natural Resources Committee make clear that such reviews remain with the CPUC. Farm Bureau very much appreciates Assemblymember Garcia's willingness to work with us on our concerns. We submitted a letter to the Appropriations Committee removing our opposition and clarifying that we are now neutral on the bill. It was heard in the Appropriations Committee on May 8 and was placed on the suspense file. Staff contact: Karen Mills, kmills@cfbf.com

### Forestry and Wildfire

AB 2276, authored by Assemblymember Jim Wood (D Healdsburg) and sponsored by the California Forestry Association passed from the Assembly 65-0 and moves onto the Senate. This bill, among other things, revises, improves, and reauthorizes an exemption first created in 2004 which provides an alternative to the Timber Harvest Plan process. It allows relatively light-touch logging activities (compared to what could be done under a THP) subject to numerous protective constraints but provides a more economical and easier way to do generally beneficial activities.

To increase the utility of the new Forest Resilience Exemption for private landowners and others, this bill increases the maximum project size to 500 acres, revises the

*See "REVIEW" on page 4*

*From "REVIEW" on page 3*

maximum allowable diameter of trees that can be removed to allow field professionals to make more accurate determinations of tree size in the field, updates the stocking standards to better reflect geographic diversity, and allows the Board to determine necessary canopy closure metrics through rulemaking.

To balance the expanded exemption with environmental protections, the bill also requires, under the Forest Resilience Exemption, retention of the six largest trees on each acre treated under the exemption, provides for new protections for oak trees, prevents larger (older) trees from being removed for temporary road construction, and imposes new treatment standards for slash and woody debris within close proximity to public roads and critical infrastructure. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

**Insurance**

AB 2260 , authored by Assemblymember

Lisa Calderon (D Whittier) and supported by California Farm Bureau, passed from the Assembly 65-0, and moves onto the Senate. The bill adds important transparency to that depopulation program, by requiring regular reporting requirements to the Insurance Commissioner, the Legislature, and the public so that the effort to stabilize the competitive market can be gauged through determining success or failure in decreasing FAIR Plan residential and commercial policy numbers. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

**Transportation**

TRUCK RULES - CARB

The next Rule Provisions Truck Regulation Implementation Group (TRIG) meeting will be held virtually in June.

Date: June 5, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

This meeting will continue the Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) purchase exemption process discussion and would include the following:

- Lessons learned from received ZEV Purchase Exemption requests,
- Opportunity for fleet owners to provide examples of exemption requests being prepared,
- Discussion of manufacturer or dealer sample responses when ZEVs are not available in the configuration needed.

The meeting will also begin the discussion on the Daily Usage Exemption. Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

**ADVANCED CLEAN FLEETS**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is holding a public online Q&A session for High Priority Fleet Requirements. The High Priority Fleet requirements are a component of CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. This session will be held via Zoom. Interested parties must register to participate. The session will be limited to 1,000 participants. This session will be recorded and made available on the ACF website.

Date: June 20, 2024 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00



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a.m. P.D.T. Location: Zoom Webinar  
Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

### CARL MOYER PROGRAM

On May 7, CARB held a second workshop around the revisions to the Carl Moyer program. They are considering revisions to the entire program. Some highlights include:

- Increasing maximum limit for light duty from \$1,500 to \$3,000
- Aligning with ACF and Clean Truck and Bus vouchers
- Clarify 2025 on road heavy duty voucher incentive program
- Flexibility around timelines for dismantling
- Point to FARMER guidelines eligible for off-road projects in certain chapters
- Adds new eligible project types of infrastructure

Staff: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com

### Water

#### KAWEAH SUBBASIN PROBATIONARY HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER 5

This week the State Water Resources Control Board announced its schedule for public input and hearings in the process to

consider whether to designate the Kaweah Subbasin as a probationary basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The board also released a draft staff report identifying the deficiencies in the subbasin's groundwater sustainability plan and an executive summary in English and Spanish. If the board places the basin in probation, many groundwater pumpers will need to report their extractions to the board and pay fees. The board may also require extractors to install and use meters to measure their extractions.

June 24, 2024 - Virtual public workshop, 11 AM - 1:30 PM

June 27, 2024 - In-person public workshop in Visalia, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

July 8, 2024 - Deadline for written public comments, 12 PM

November 5, 2024 - Hearing to vote on probation, 9:30 AM

Staff: Alex Biering, abiering@cfbf.com

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON SHELL EGG ADVISORY BOARD

SACRAMENTO, May 6, 2024 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) announces one vacancy for one public member on the Egg Safety and Quality Management's (ESQM), Shell Egg Advisory Committee Board (SEAC). ESQM monitors egg quality at production, wholesale, and retail levels. The goal is to provide California consumers with eggs that are wholesome, properly labeled, refrigerated, and of established quality, while maintaining fair and equitable marketing standards in the California egg industry. This vacancy is due to an upcoming term expiration. The membership term for this vacancy will be for 36 months. Applicants should not be a

registered egg handler or a representative of a registered egg handler. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for transportation to and from meetings and for per diem expenses for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Applicants interested in being considered for this SEAC appointment, should submit resumes by August 21, 2024, to:

Mrs. Penny Arana Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch  
1220 N Street Sacramento, California 95814  
penny.arana@cdfa.ca.gov

#### CDFA AND CALEPA REGULATORY ALIGNMENT CONCEPT PAPER RELEASED FOR FEEDBACK

Sacramento, May 6, 2024 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released a Regulatory Alignment Concept Paper outlining initial proposals for streamlining agriculture-related food safety and water quality reporting requirements. The Concept Paper is part of a Regulatory Alignment Study led by CDFA in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Boards). The objective is to evaluate and identify opportunities to streamline administrative processes and reduce paperwork pressure on farmers and ranchers. Informed by a broad range of interviews and feedback, the proposals presented in the Concept Paper serve as a foundation for gathering feedback and are not final recommendations.

CDFA's consultant, Crowe LLP, is requesting feedback on the Concept Paper to inform its final regulatory alignment recommendations to CDFA, CalEPA, and the Water Boards, which are expected in 2025. Crowe will hold informational webinars later this month to provide an overview of the Concept Paper, to be followed by a series of workshops June and July of this year. Feedback on the Concept Paper can be provided at the workshops or sent via email to [RegulatoryAlignmentStudy@crowe.com](mailto:RegulatoryAlignmentStudy@crowe.com) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

## Water Safety: A Way of Life!



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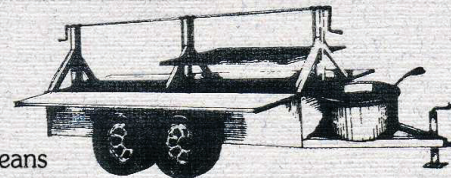
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## Farm Labor Visa Programs Can Help Alleviate Poverty and Slow Undocumented Migration

By Dr. Beau Brodbeck and Dr. Fernando Landini

Alfredo lives in a rural Guatemalan village and travels to the U.S. with an H-2A visa each May to work in a nursery, returning each December, in time for Christmas, to spend a few months with family. Over the years, the money he earns has allowed his home to evolve from a mud-slat structure with dirt floors to a modern cement block home with tiled floors, glass windows and running water. In seven seasons he has saved to purchase an acre of land, install a small greenhouse and buy his first vehicle to haul vegetables to the local market. Prior to the visa, he grew corn on a half-acre of rented land to feed his family and worked seasonally on neighboring coffee farms, earning just enough to clothe his family.

This is a common narrative for many Guatemalans participating in legal migration programs aimed at helping U.S. employers fill temporary or seasonal labor gaps. While policy discussions often focus on these programs either replacing American jobs or exploiting vulnerable migrant populations, few have considered the impacts these jobs have on workers and their families. This column shares findings from a recent study we conducted in Guatemala on the impacts of H-2A and H-2B temporary work visa programs on worker livelihoods and migratory intentions.


It is no secret that local farm labor is increasingly hard to hire. A

growing alternative for many employers is hiring workers through the Department of Labor's H-2A (agricultural) and H-2B (non-agricultural) temporary work visa programs. Participation in H-2A visa programs alone has grown from 75,000 workers in 2010 to 317,000 in 2022, accounting for 10% of employment on U.S. farms.

These programs recruit workers predominantly from Mexico, but increasingly from various Central American countries, including Guatemala. Study data collected in Guatemala found that H-2 workers send home approximately \$1,000 per month. This is a significant amount of money, considering rural local wages average less than \$200 per month — when jobs are available. In the short term, money workers send home is used to better feed, house and provide medical care for their families. "I was able to pay for my dad to have surgery....without me, he might have died," explained an H-2B forest worker.


The study found that, along most common poverty indices, H-2 workers consistently outperform nonimmigrants, and their families receive greater amounts of money than those of undocumented migrants in many communities. However, it's in the long term that we saw the greatest impacts of these programs on families and communities. As workers participate over multiple years, investments in land, homes, microenterprises and education begin to generate transformative changes and sources of independent income outside of H-2 employment.

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The average education level of H-2 workers is fifth grade. "If there is no money for food tomorrow...you work for food tomorrow. You don't worry about school," noted an H-2B worker who left school in third grade to help his father in the fields. There is strong investment in education among H-2 workers and many have seen children finish high school. They also share a strong sense of escaping the ruts of generational poverty by educating their children, expressing the sentiment "our children won't be like us."

Additionally, their money trickles into the broader community as they support builders, businesses and periodically hire workers to care for crops. Cumulatively, the economic resources generated by 9,000 Guatemalans participating in H-2 visa programs in 2023 generated an estimated \$63 million in funds sent home, dwarfing investments from development agencies like the World Bank. The power of legal migration programs for alleviating poverty and transforming economies has many international development organizations paying attention.

As policymakers look at expanding H-2 visas, it's important to recognize these programs might slow undocumented migration. Gua-

temala has some of the highest deportation rates in Latin America, with approximately 222,085 detained at the U.S. border in 2023. However, interviews with workers, community leaders and undocumented migrants suggested a clear preference for migrating with work visas. As one Guatemalan community leader noted, "There was a marked drop in undocumented migration when H-2 recruiters came into the community offering travel with visas."

Visas allow workers to travel safely to a known job and return home each year to see families. Undocumented migrants, by contrast, have difficult, uncertain journeys lasting an average of 13.6 years, frequently causing disintegration of families. Study results found that visa programs channel migration into legal pathways and can reduce undocumented migration by an estimated 63%. While there will likely never be enough visas to match demand, these programs have the potential to contribute towards mutually beneficial relationships on both sides of the U.S. border while curbing undocumented migration.

*Dr. Beau Brodbeck is assistant director for field operations, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University. Dr. Fernando Landini is a researcher at Universidad de la Cuenca del Plata.*

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**Agricultural Commissioner's Office**

**&**

**Stanislaus County Farm Bureau**

**2024 Continuing Education (CE) Schedule**

STANISLAUS COUNTY



**Classes will be offered both In-Person and Hybrid (Both In-Person & Online)**

Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is happy to announce our continued partnership with the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau for the 2024 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
May 28, 2024	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Rodenticides, Reporting, and Carbon Monoxide	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Carbon Monoxide Equipment Demonstration	1 Hr.- Other
June 4, 2024	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Common Violations and Enforcement/ Compliance Solutions	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Calibration Demonstration Presentation	1 Hr.- Other

**Hybrid Schedule (Both In-Person & Online)**

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

Date	Time	Topics	CE Credits
May 14, 2024	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Telone and Notification Updates	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Telone Label Requirements	1 Hr.- Other
June 11, 2024	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Contracted Employees: Determining the Responsible Employer and Requirements	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Pesticide Technology Presentation	1 Hr.- Other
November 1, 2024	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Permit Conditions Review	1 Hr. - Laws & Regs
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Mating Disruption Presentation	1 Hr.- Other
November 15, 2024	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Worker Health and Safety Regulations	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Personal Protective Equipment Management and Training	1 Hr.- Other
November 15, 2024	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Personal Protective Equipment Management and Training (SPANISH ONLY)	1 Hr.- Other
	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Worker Health and Safety Regulations (SPANISH ONLY)	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
December 3, 2024	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	School Notifications and Application Requirements	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	New Beetle Carpophilus Truncatus	1 Hr.- Other
December 17, 2024	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Bee Notifications, Registrations, and Use of Pesticides Toxic to Bees	1 Hr.- Laws & Regs
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Best Management Practices with Bees in the Field	1 Hr.- Other

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

## From Fields to Screens How Digital Marketing Fuels Modesto, California's Farmers Market Boom

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

Modesto, California, nestled in the heart of the Central Valley, boasts a thriving farmers market scene that owes much of its success to the innovative use of digital marketing strategies. In recent years, the agricultural community's collaboration and strategic approach to online promotion have played a crucial role in expanding and enriching Modesto's farmer's markets, transforming them into dynamic hubs of commerce and community.

The agricultural community's commitment to creating farmers' markets throughout Stanislaus County and the state of California has not only been instrumental in the growth of Modesto's farmer's markets but has also fostered a strong sense of community. With its rich agricultural heritage and abundance of locally grown produce, Stanislaus County serves as a fertile ground for the establishment of vibrant marketplaces that showcase the region's bounty. Through collaborative efforts, farmers, agricultural organi-

zations, and community leaders have come together to create and support farmers markets that not only provide a platform for local farmers to sell their products but also foster community engagement and economic development.

Digital marketing has emerged as a powerful tool for promoting Modesto's farmers markets and driving awareness and participation among residents and visitors alike. Through strategic use of social media, email marketing, and online advertising, organizers can reach a broader audience and attract more market attendees. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Google My Business, and Twitter allow farmers market organizers to share updates, promote special events, and showcase vendors and their products, creating buzz and excitement around each market day.

Moreover, digital marketing enables farmers markets to stay connected with customers year-round, beyond the traditional market season. Email newsletters, blog posts, and website updates inform customers about upcoming markets, new vendors, and seasonal produce offerings, fostering loyalty and repeat business. Additionally, online marketplaces like Shop Greater Modesto, a Free Online e-commerce platform established by the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, allow farmers' markets to expand their reach and serve customers who cannot attend in person.

The agricultural community's investment in digital marketing has not only helped to grow Modesto's farmers markets but has also significantly supported agricultural businesses and local farmers. By increasing market visibility and attracting more customers, digital marketing strategies have not only boosted sales and revenue for vendors but have also enhanced the economic viability and sustainability of local agriculture and the small local businesses. Furthermore, digital marketing initiatives have fostered a sense of community and connection among farmers' market patrons, strengthening the bond between consumers and the agricultural community.

Modesto's farmers markets have flourished thanks to the agricultural community's strategic use of digital marketing. By leveraging online platforms and tools, farmers market organizers have expanded their reach, attracted more customers, and supported local agriculture. As digital marketing continues to evolve, Modesto's farmers markets are poised to thrive, serving as vibrant showcases of the region's agricultural bounty and community spirit.

To enhance your company's online presence, whether it's creating a new website, updating an existing one, needing assistance with Online Reputation Management or seeking a virtual assistant for social media posting or phone support, visit [www.sisbroinnovation.com](http://www.sisbroinnovation.com). You can also contact Sisbro Innovation directly at (800) 291-9102 for further assistance or call Kathryn Ramos directly to schedule a FREE consultation at (719) 237-9155.



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The California Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year contest celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers across California. Farm Bureau members are invited to submit photos and a brief story about their beloved dog.

Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit [cfbf.com/join](http://cfbf.com/join) to learn about becoming a member.

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## 110th Annual Meeting of Members ~ Overcoming Adversity

By Vicky Boyd

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau's 110th Annual Meeting, held recently at the county fairgrounds, was filled with comradery, leadership and inspirational presentations. For some members, it also offered a few hours of respite away from their daily grind and allowed them to know they weren't alone.

Outgoing President Eric Heinrich turned over the gavel to incoming President Kelly Fogarty-Tilma and encouraged audience members to join together for a stronger voice.

"It helps to have an advocate fighting with you and for you," he said. "And that's what Farm Bureau is — they're advocating for farmers and farming."

SCFB also presented Alan Cover, a long-time walnut huller, livestock producer, and agricultural instructor at Modesto High School and Modesto Junior College, with its Distinguished Service Award.

Seventeen-year-old Oakdale auctioneer Grayson Haydn-Meyer, who is diminutive in stature but large in presence, led bidders through five items during a live auction that benefited ag education.

And speaking from her wheelchair on stage, champion barrel racer and professional rodeo cowgirl Amberley Snyder recalled her tale of triumph over tragedy. "We're going to have experiences in all of our lives where we're knocked down," she told audience members. "Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it."



*Distinguished Service Award Winner, Alan Cover, celebrating with Family and Friends.*

### *Farm Bureau in action*

Among the hot issues currently facing agriculture are "card check" and a Sonoma County ballot measure that would ban most livestock even on small-scale farms, Heinrich said.

Supported by the United Farm Workers, the controversial card check law took effect Jan. 1, 2023, and changed the way farm workers vote for proposed union representation. Instead of casting secret ballots in person as they previously had done, card check now allows farm workers to sign and mail union authorization cards.

CFBF contends that card check opens the process to worker coercion or intimidation as it allows unions access to employee lists so they may contact workers directly. Three successive governors vetoed the legislation, but Gov. Gavin Newsom signed it into law in September 2022.

A Sonoma County ballot measure being pushed by a few Bay Area animal rights groups would ban nearly all confined animal feeding operations. It defines a CAFO as an operation where animals are held for 45 days or more during a 12-month period in a lot or facility where forage or crops are not maintained during the normal growing season. This differs significantly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's CAFO definition.

If passed by voters, the Sonoma County measure would essentially shutter all of the county's poultry operations, 98% of county dairies, a number of horse facilities, and potentially some goat and sheep operations, according to Sonoma County Farm Bureau information.

Heinrich said one of Farm Bureau's concerns is the anti-CAFO movement could spread into the Central Valley, where dairying and poultry operations are huge contributors to the ag economy.

"That could mean the end of dairies and the end of beef cattle," he said.

The issues are but two of the nearly 100 that the California Farm Bureau Federation is currently involved with. Although Heinrich admitted Farm Bureau doesn't always win, he said it's important that agriculture retains its seat at the table.

"Farm Bureau is the largest ag organization in the state representing us all," Heinrich said. "There is strength in numbers, and as a volunteer organization, we're only as strong



*Incoming President, Kelly Fogarty-Tilma (left) and Oakdale auctioneer Grayson Haydn-Meyer.*

as our numbers.”

### *Distinguished Service Award*

Describing him as a second father, a mentor, a legacy and an inspiration, several county agricultural leaders recalled how Cover instilled in them confidence and a love of the industry.

Former CFBF President Paul Wenger, who grows walnuts and almonds west of Modesto, praised Cover as an expert speaker, a skill which has “been a cornerstone for him all of his life.”

While at Modesto High School, Cover also led the FFA program. The MJC ag program was stronger because of him, several ag leaders said. In addition, Cover served as dean of MJC Agriculture & Environmental Sciences from 1976-2000 and as president of the California Suffolk and Hampshire Sheep Association.

After putting in a full day teaching, he would return home to “get his hands dirty” running his walnut huller and dryer in the evening. In accepting the award, Cover said he was “just floored.”

“I’m just so grateful to be a member of this community and affect so many young people. If you surround yourself with successful people, it’s pretty darn easy to be successful.”

### *Walk Ride Rodeo*

In just a split second, Snyder saw her life change before her eyes as she was thrown from her pickup truck as it rolled in rural Wyoming. Up to the January 2010 accident, she had been on top of the world.

Snyder was a high school senior with a 4.0 grade point average, president of Utah state FFA and had won the 2009 All-Around Cowgirl World Championship in the National Little Britches Rodeo Association.

After five hours of surgery to stabilize her spine, Snyder said she was given a prognosis of “slim to none” of getting feeling back in her legs. During her 10 days recuperating in a Casper, Wyoming, hospital, she set three goals for herself: walk, ride and rodeo. After all, Snyder had a passion for horses, had been riding since she was 3 years old and had been competing in rodeos since she was 7.

Just four months after the accident, she was back on a horse, held in the saddle by a seatbelt and her legs kept still by Velcro. Snyder’s mother also told her that her wheelchair would double her power. At the time, she brushed it off as her mother just trying to be positive.

In retrospect, Snyder said her situation has opened doors she never could have imagined and she

wouldn’t trade things for the world. She earned a bachelor’s degree in ag education and a master’s in school counseling from Utah State University. She’s become a well-known inspirational speaker. Her story was captured by a Netflix movie, “Walk Ride Rodeo.” She’s also had a guest appearance in the TV show, Yellowstone, and she’s become a champion barrel racer. Snyder credited family, faith and horses for keeping her going.

“Every single one of us has our families or support systems, the people who believe in us even if we don’t believe in ourselves,” Snyder said. “Our faith is always there for you.”

And it doesn’t have to be a formal type of religion, either. Faith is “really knowing your purpose.”

Thirdly, she said, everybody needs something they’re passionate about. For her, it’s horses.

“When that challenge comes along, you already know you can handle it,” she said. “If you feel you’re in a spot you didn’t plan on or people are against you — I’ve been there — if you give up, you’ll never see what you’re truly capable of. You’ll never reach your full potential.”

Fourteen years after her accident, Snyder conceded that her mother saw something at the time that she hadn’t seen yet.

“It turns out the girl in a wheelchair is the person I dreamed of,” she said. “You buck up and do your best and by doing your best, you can double your power. I truly believe that everything happens for a reason.”

And Snyder has no doubt she’ll also walk again.



*Outgoing President Eric Heinrich and Congressman John Duarte chat before the program began.*



*SCFB Team Member Mary Clements & Past SCFB President Pete Verburg enjoy a laugh.*

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- **Cortez Growers Association**  
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- **Flory Industries**  
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- **Frantz Nursery**  
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- **Grower Direct Nut Company**  
883-4890
- **Haidlen Ford**  
Oakdale 847-0356
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- **Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.**  
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- **PG&E**  
Modesto 726-6303
- **Rain for Rent**  
Stockton 466-5602
- **Sierra Grain Terminal**  
Turlock 667-2002
- **Stanislaus County Sheriff's Dept.**  
Modesto 525-7117
- **Stanislaus Farm Supply**  
Modesto 765-1142
- **Stanislaus Food Products**  
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- **TriCal**  
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- **Yosemite Farm Credit**  
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- **Wenger Ranch Inc.**  
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- **Boyette Petroleum**  
Modesto 281-7134
- **Divert Inc.**  
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- **Exact**  
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- **Farm(x)**  
Mountain View 559-608-4410
- **FISHBIO**  
Oakdale 847-6300
- **Recology Inc**  
Westley 395-9506
- **Rumble Ag Service**  
Modesto 545-1848
- **West Valley Agricultural Service**  
Westley 894-3121

## Attorney

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Modesto 521-9190
- **Jensen & Jensen**  
Modesto 529-0791

## Banking/Financial

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Oakdale 607-0037
- **Central Valley Community Bank**  
Fresno 559-323-3472
- **Edwards, Lien & Toso**  
Hilmar 634-9484
- **Farmers & Merchants Bank**  
Riverbank 571-4023
- **Grimbley Coleman CPA's Inc**  
Modesto 527-4220
- **Moss Adams**  
Stockton 955-6100
- **Oak Valley Community Bank**  
Oakdale 844-7500
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Ripon 599-5051

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- **Intero Stanislaus**  
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- **Smith Chevrolet Co Inc.**  
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## Construction/Engineering

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- **Branelle Properties LLC**  
Oakdale 595-0256
- **Hawkins & Associates Engineering**  
Modesto 575-4295

## Feed/Farm Supplies

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

## Equipment & Repair

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

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

## RAYCO

- **RAYCO**  
Modesto 529-8984
- **Turlock Auto Parts**  
Turlock 634-4968
- **Turlock Dairy & Refrigeration**  
Turlock 667-6455

## Farms/Dairies

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

- **Catherine Phipps Walden**  
Ballico 667-2409
- **D & M Ag.,**  
Denair 667-7783
- **David Lemos**  
Modesto 541-3131
- **Donlon Farms Inc.**  
Patterson 892-8543
- **E Roen Ranches**  
Winnemucca 614-5944

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

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

- **Nick Blom**  
Modesto 522-6140
- **Redwood Ranches LLC**  
Hughson 883-2603
- **Robert Gioletti**  
Turlock 667-6024
- **Ron Martella Farms**  
Hughson 883-4819
- **Schut Ranches**  
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- **Starkey & Lucas Farming & Cattle**  
Ceres 484-0671
- **Stewart Johnson**  
Ceres 602-8899
- **Victor M Lopes**  
Turlock 587-5026
- **Walter Nicolau**  
Denair 538-7600
- **Weaver Bros**  
Crows Landing 854-6716
- **Wyeth Dairy Inc.,**  
Modesto 545-2101

## Farm Management

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

## Insurance

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- **Arrowhead Insurance Agency**  
Modesto 524-6157
- **Crivelli Ins & Fin Sv Inc**  
Turlock, 668-3319
- **DiBudo & DeFendis**  
Fresno 557-2759

- **GDI Insurance Agency**  
Turlock 991-2929
- **Giddings Corby Hynes Inc**  
Modesto 526-3110
- **Hoobler Insurance Services**  
Patterson 601-0418
- **LG Crop Ins.**  
Turlock 262-8140

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

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Oakdale, 847-8025
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Modesto 338-3585
- **Western Valley Insurance Associates**  
Turlock 634-9031
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- **Don Pedro Pumps**  
Turlock 632-3161
- **IJ Larsen Pumps**  
Modesto 529-2020
- **Modesto Irrigation District**  
Modesto 526-7373
- **Oakdale Irrigation District**  
Oakdale 847-0341

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

## Misc. Services

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- **Clark Pest Control**  
Modesto 556-5200
- **Cover Specialty Services**  
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- **Diane Powers**  
Modesto 494-8650
- **Drone for Hire**  
Modesto 818-4109

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

## Non-Profit

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

## Nurseries/Horticulture

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

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

## Petroleum

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

## Processors

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

## Restaurant

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

## Safety

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

## Veterinary

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## Sharing Our Farm Stories Well Beyond Our Fencerows

*Source: Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President*

This week the American Farm Bureau joined with 51 other agriculture organizations and companies to showcase the Future of Farming on the National Mall here in Washington, D.C. It's not every day that you see big farm equipment like tractors and combines just a few blocks from the Capitol. Talk about getting outside your fencerows! This was a great opportunity to showcase how important agriculture is to our nation and to shine a spotlight on the hardworking men and women who grow our food, fiber and renewable fuel.

At our Farm Bureau booth, we were joined by several of our grassroots members who gave their time to come and share their farm stories. I firmly believe that there is nothing more powerful than sharing your personal experiences—whether that's in a lawmaker's office, at your local market, on social media, or on the National Mall. When we as farmers and ranchers get outside our fencerows, it makes a difference. Why? Because people want to hear about agriculture straight from the men and women who have their hands in the soil every day. What's more, the public overwhelmingly trusts you: our research shows that roughly 9 in 10 adults say they trust farmers and ranchers.

That's why for the 2024 Ag on the Mall

event we invited several Farm Bureau members from across the country to meet with the thousands of visitors stopping by our nation's front lawn, so that more folks could learn about farming and how sustainability is "just what we do."

On the first day, we were joined by farmers from the West and East, Jon Dinsmore of Arizona and Jamie Tiralla of Maryland. Jon, a fourth-generation lettuce, grain and hay farmer from Yuma, Arizona, shared about how leafy greens are grown in the winter. Jon is no stranger to sharing his story since he's become known as the Green Screen Farmer on social media where he shares about life on the farm. And Jamie Tiralla is no stranger to D.C. as she hails from Prince

*See "AFBF" on page 18*

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From "AFBF" on page 17

Frederick, Maryland, where she and her family raise cattle, goats, sheep and hogs and sell their meat at local farmers' markets and by appointment on their farm. Jamie talked about animal care on the farm and how partnerships with local markets and chefs are critical to farms near urban areas.

On the second day, we welcomed farmers from the Midwest and Southern regions: Kamal Bell of North Carolina and Andrea Brossard of Wisconsin. Kamal is a first-generation farmer and founder of Sankofa Farms in Durham, North Carolina. His goal is to create a sustainable food source for minorities in both rural and urban areas in the counties near his farm. Kamal is also a

beekeeper, and while he left the beehives back at home, he brought great stories to share with visitors about the importance of pollinators in agriculture. Meanwhile, Andrea, a third-generation farmer from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, shared about her family's Holstein herd on their dairy farm. Andrea helped visitors understand animal nutrition and what sustainability looks like on a dairy.

I can't help but be excited thinking about the tens of thousands of folks who learned something about how their food is grown, thanks to these grassroots ambassadors. Of course, this isn't the first time Jon, Jamie, Kamal, and Andrea have gotten outside their fencerows. Like so many of you, they are also active in

their county and state Farm Bureaus. They have put our leadership development training to work in helping them share their story and grow an understanding of farming through traditional and digital media, mentorship programs, and leadership roles across agriculture—just to name a few.

Let's keep up the good work of planting seeds and building trust with our friends, neighbors and leaders—near and far. And if you're looking for resources to help you explore new ways to get outside your fencerows, I invite you to reach out to your local Farm Bureau and check out resources on Farm Bureau University. We want to help you share your story.



## 2024 TRAININGS

Register here:

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



**March 5, 2024**

### Pesticide Handler & Fit Testing

8:00-12:00pm - Spanish

1:00-5:00pm - English

This is an annual training required by the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Pricing: Member \$60/Nonmember \$75

**July 25, 2024**

### Tractor Safety

9:00-10:00am - Spanish

10:00-11:00am - English

CalOSHA requires that employees who operate equipment be trained annually.

Pricing: Member \$40/Nonmember \$50

**May 23, 2024**

### Heat Illness Prevention

9:00-10:00am - Spanish

10:00-11:00am - English

CalOSHA requires this training annually for outdoor employees.

Pricing: Member \$40/Nonmember \$50

**October 24, 2024**

### Hazardous Ag Materials (HAM)

8:00-9:30am - English

10:00-11:30am - Spanish

Everyone operating a class C vehicle carrying hazardous material must be trained.

Pricing: Member \$40/Nonmember \$50

**June 27, 2024**

### CPR & First Aid

8:00-12:00pm - Spanish

1:00-5:00pm - English

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

Pricing: Member \$100/Nonmember \$125

**November 22, 2024**

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## California Farm Bureau expresses concerns on state budget, mill tax

Source: *Ca Farm Bureau*

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday presented his revised state budget plan, including spending cuts to address California's historic budget deficit. In his presentation, the governor also said California should live within its means and avoid raising taxes.

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass commented on budget challenges affecting water priorities for agriculture. She noted that farmers and ranchers are also facing a significant tax increase from a spending proposal that remains in the governor's budget.

The governor is currently proposing an

increase in the mill tax levied on pesticides to address the budget deficit of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The plan to raise the mill tax from 21 mills to 28.6 mills over a three-year period, along with significant increases in registration and licensing fees, would amount to a \$33 million tax increase statewide.

"We agree with Gov. Newsom that there should be no new tax increases," Douglass said. "That is why we oppose any move by the Department of Pesticide Regulation to increase the mill tax. This tax increase directly impacts farmers and ranchers who purchase crop protection materials. Raising the mill tax would also increase costs of producing food for Californians and burden families with still higher food prices at the grocery store."

The governor's budget proposal includes discretionary spending cuts that stand to

delay some funding sources for water-storage projects, including the planned Sites Reservoir north of Sacramento. Funding awarded to the project under the Proposition 1 ballot initiative, approved by voters in 2014, is not affected by the current budget crisis. But \$500 million in discretionary funding to support the project would be cut under the governor's spending plan.

"We are grateful that state funding awarded to Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1 remains in place," Douglass said. "We urge the administration to restore the \$500 million as soon as possible to ensure minimal delays on this generational investment in water resilience."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members.

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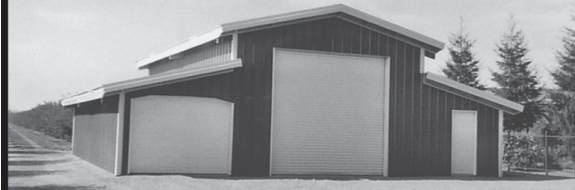


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## Industry Groups Call for Aggressive Action to Address Agricultural Trade Deficit

Source: Brian German, Ag News Director / AgNet West

A group of more than 30 agricultural organizations is calling for a more aggressive approach to trade. In a letter sent to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, the groups emphasize the importance of robust engagement in trade policies to enhance global competitiveness. They urge the Administration to pursue an aggressive trade agenda to expand export opportunities, stressing adherence to trade commitments and enforcement mechanisms.

The organizations advocate for science-based regulatory measures and adhering to the standards and guidelines of international organizations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has noted that U.S. agricultural imports exceeded exports by \$16.6 billion in fiscal year 2023. USDA expectations are for the agricultural

trade deficit to grow even larger in 2024. The farm groups are calling for active enforcement of trade rules to ensure fair market access and countering import restrictions.



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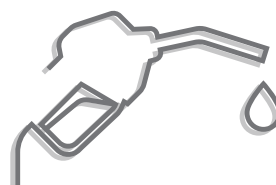


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**California rice farmers expected to plant full acreage this season**

After a storm dumped more than an inch of water on parts of Northern California earlier this month, effectively halting fieldwork, rice farmers have since been going full throttle. Throughout the Sacramento Valley, aerial applicators can be seen crisscrossing the skies raining rice seed onto flooded fields while tractors prepare neighboring plots for planting. With the region receiving full water allocations, most rice farmers say they intend to plant all their acreage, weather permitting. Before the storm, California growers were projected to sow 497,000 acres of rice this year.

**Technology lags behind as zero-emission trucking mandates begin**

California fleet owners are scrambling to comply with new rules to limit emissions from diesel-powered big rigs and other heavy-duty vehicles. But as new standards go into effect, operators report the technology and infrastructure they need for compliance is not yet available—and could still be years away. The Mahrt family, which owns the Petaluma Egg Farm, uses 10 diesel-powered trucks to haul organic eggs. They need to replace two with zero-emission vehicles or install battery-powered refrigerating units. “The problem is they do not exist,” said manager Jordan Mahrt.

**Ventura County cabbage growers, researchers target diamondback moth threat**

Despite having wings, a diamondback moth isn’t much of a flier. That hasn’t stopped it from spreading across Ventura County, where cabbage is in the ground much of the year. California is the nation’s top producer of cabbage, with Ventura and Santa Barbara counties leading the state. The region is also ground zero for the diamondback, which is attracted to leafy plants in the brassica family. With an uptick in crop damage, researchers are now studying new integrated pest management approaches to deal with the pest, which is becoming resistant to common insecticides.

**California delegation advocates in nation’s capital on behalf of 2024 Farm Bill**

The California Farm Bureau board of directors, members of this year’s Leadership Farm Bureau class and the organization’s federal policy team were in Washington, D.C., early this month, meeting with lawmakers and staff to advocate on issues including passing the 2024 Farm Bill. The House Committee on Agriculture is expected to release final language this week and consider amendments during a bill markup set for May 23. The omnibus legislation supports farmers and ranchers through a variety of safety-net, farm-loan, conservation and disaster-assistance programs.

**New farm organizing rules lead to union wins, controversy**

California’s new farm labor organizing law has delivered union wins and a string of competing allegations from employers, farmworkers and labor organizers. In March, Wonderful Nurseries, the nation’s largest grapevine nursery, claimed United Farm Workers organizers tricked more than a hundred of its workers into unwittingly signing union authorization cards.

UFW denied wrongdoing and responded with counter charges against the company. At issue is a new organizing system—called “card check”—that allows collection of signed cards instead of secret-ballot elections

**California cattle stockyards gauge impacts of bird flu testing**

Efforts to understand and curb the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in dairy cows have livestock auction yards in a scramble as new federal testing requirements took effect last week. All lactating dairy cows must test negative for the virus before they’re allowed to cross state borders. Businesses that market livestock say they’re trying to adapt to the mandate, which has impacted sellers and buyers of milking cows. Tyson Howze of Overland Stockyard in Hanford estimates that more than 25% of the dairy cows from a typical California dispersal sale goes to out-of-state buyers.


**Protections for Southern California steel-**



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**head trout could bring water restrictions**  
 A state determination that Southern California steelhead trout merit additional protections could mean tighter water restrictions. The California Fish and Game Commission on April 18 unanimously agreed with a staff recommendation that listing the Southern California steelhead

as endangered under the state Endangered Species Act is warranted. Increased protections for the species would affect water users and districts in several Southern California counties. Agricultural groups and water districts argue that there is not enough scientific evidence to warrant the endangered listing.

**Beetle, prevalent in Australia, targeted as new pest in California nut crops**  
 Researchers are seeking to unravel mysteries surrounding a new beetle pest for tree nuts, but they still have more questions than answers. California researchers are collaborating with counterparts in Australia, who have dealt with the carpophilus beetle for more than a decade in almonds. Damage caused by the beetle, new to California, came to light in 2023 when it was found infesting almond and pistachio orchards in Stanislaus, Merced, Madera and Kings counties. Broader surveys have since confirmed the presence of carpophilus beetles throughout Central Valley nut orchards.

**Testing mandate for dairy cows aims to curtail bird flu spread**

To limit the spread of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in livestock, all lactating dairy cows must test negative for the virus before they can cross state lines under new requirements by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The federal order, which took effect Monday, excludes heifers, dry cows and bull calves. Culled cows going to slaughter that do not show signs of illness also are not required to be tested. But they will still need a certificate of veterinary inspection or approval by animal health officials from the state sending the cattle and the state receiving them.

**Local agencies race to fix groundwater sustainability plans**

Seeking to prevent the California State Water Resources Control Board from stepping in to regulate groundwater in critically overdrafted subbasins, local agencies are working to correct deficiencies in their plans to protect groundwater. Last month, the Tulare Lake Subbasin became the first subbasin in the state to be placed under probation. Other critically overdrafted subbasins with inadequate plans include the Tule, Kaweah, Kern County, Delta-Mendota and Chowchilla subbasins. The state water board is set to consider probation for the Tule Subbasin on Sept. 17.

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TILMA  
FOGARTY**

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## Meet the new President of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Kelly Tilma Fogarty!

Kelly previously served as the 1st Vice President of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and moved up the ranks following the completion of Past President, Eric Heinrich's term.

Kelly is a 5th generation cattle rancher and was born and raised in Oakdale. She is the VP of Western Sky Strategies focusing on agriculture and rural issues. Kelly and her husband, Edward, have a young daughter and will be welcoming



another addition to the family very soon!

#### *Presidency Goals:*

"I hope to grow and maintain membership. Look at policy, there are so many issues facing agriculture, at the local, state and national level. We need to look at what can we take on and make a difference. Farm Bureau needs to ask the tough questions, we need to be first at the table."



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## Temporary Local Emergency Proclaimed in Stanislaus, County for Beet Curly Top Virus

Effective May 9, 2024, the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services has proclaimed a local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6990, allowing for neonicotinoid pesticides to be applied to tomato crops susceptible to the beet leafhopper (BLH), the vector of Beet Curly Top Virus, a disease known to cause serious crop damage.

This local emergency is currently in effect and will remain in effect until ratified by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, on May 14, 2024, after which the local emergency will continue for sixty (60) days. This local

emergency declaration is in response to detections of BLH populations in tomato crops within Stanislaus County.

Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6990.6 that went into effect January 1, 2024, restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides on various fruiting vegetables beyond the label requirements and would have restricted such use, but the local emergency declaration supersedes this regulation for tomato crops. Applications can be made to address the local emergency declaration by allowing for applications of neonicotinoid pesticides, which would normally be subjected to the restrictions or rate limits imposed by the regulation indicated above, so that growers can specifically treat for BLH in Stanislaus County.

A written recommendation from a licensed agricultural pest control adviser must be provided to the operator of the property prior to the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide to address this local emergency. The Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner suggests all Product Use Recommendations and Product Use Reports reflect BLH as the target pest. The Product Use Recommendations should contain the following statement, "This recommendation is made in accordance with 3CCR Section 6990(c) as an application made to address a local emergency issued by Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services on May 9, 2024."

Operators, including growers and applicators, must perform a bee check through <https://beewhere.calagpermits.org> or by contacting the Agriculture Department at 209-525-4730.

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This check allows operators to obtain beekeeper contact information and provide notice to beekeepers within a one-mile radius of the treatment site. This notice must be given at least 48 hours in advance of applying any pesticide labeled as "toxic to bees," as required by Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6654.

The local emergency declaration does not supplant pesticide product labeling requirements for use. Therefore, the use of any pesticide shall not conflict with its product labeling. Please contact the Agriculture Department at 209-525-4730 with any questions.

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