

The Stanislaus Farm News

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



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



**Official Publication of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
Vol.76 No.17 November 7, 2025**

Nearly 1,300 Turlock 3rd graders flocked to the Fairgrounds for our annual AgAdventure Day!
Plans to expand this program in 2026, see more photos on page 15.

Published Fridays by the
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

PHONE (209) 522-7278

FAX (209) 521-9938

email: farmnews@stanfarmbureau.org

advertising@stanfarmbureau.org

Stanislaus Farm News (ISSN: 8750-4960) Copyright © 2025 is published 20 times per year by the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau 1201 L St. Modesto, CA 95454. Call (209) 522-7278 to subscribe.

Application to mail at

Periodicals postage prices is pending at Modesto, CA.

The Stanislaus Farm News will publish on the following dates in 2025: Jan 17, Feb 7, Feb 21, March 7, March 21, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 20, July 11, July 25, Aug 8, Aug 22, Sept 19, Oct 3, Oct 17, Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 12

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354. Stanislaus County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in the Stanislaus Farm News. Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau.

Staff

CAITIE DIEMEL
Executive Manager
ANNA GENASCI
Communication & Education Director
ABIGAIL DIRKSE
Membership Director
LARRY MURRAY
Advertising Sales
TOM ORVIS
Governmental Affairs Director
MELISSA SOMMERVILLE
Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres: Kelly Fogarty202-870-3342
1st VP: Vance Ahlem535-4521
2nd VP: Vince Dykzeul480-5900
Sec: Corinne Santos265-6075..
Tres: Daniel Bays681-6510
Past President: Vacant

Northwest:
Joey Gonsalves765-1142
Stuart Layman652-7822
Dave Van Klaveren595-4606
Keri Layne402-7289
Tom Ulm402-9870
Jacob Wenger988-3661

Northeast:
Jacob DeBoer805-704-5304
Vacant
Ryan Valk840-0231
Pete Dykzeul872-7080
Kurt Hoekstra765-2932
Ray Lial Jr.327-3232

Eastside:
Jeff Daniels602-0628..
Bill Power527-2908
Kyle Van Vooren577-4893
David Absher531-4915
Tim Roos209-499-6722
Randy Weststeyn499-9775

Southern:
Adam Crowell610-6306
Tim Sanders606-3739
Ray Souza678-1871
Trevor Cordova402-3203
Arby Hoobyar505-0555
Darrell Cordova765-6298

Westside:
Matt Maring602-1390
Jessica Filippini648-8236
Bill Cox404-8897
Rob Brooks765-2628
Jerry Goubert531-3790
Tom Morris602-0070

YF&R:
Miranda Blagg202-4898

AT LARGE
Ron Peterson606-8021

CFBF District 13 Rep
Jake Wenger484-9343



English Language Learner at Work Program

Learn English focusing on Agricultural Vocabulary



- **Modules tailored for English learners to build language and digital literacy skills.**
- **Focus on job-specific vocabulary, health and safety, communication, problem-solving, and technology use.**
- **Designed for English learners with foundational skills in English.**

WHEN & WHERE

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
Boardroom, 1201 L Street, Modesto

In person class time **1pm to 4pm**, dates:

- **2025: Dec 9, 11**
- **2026: Jan 6, 8**
- **Dec 16, 18**
- **Jan 20, 22**
- **Holiday Break**
- **Jan 27, 29**

TO REGISTER

Use the QR Code,
Have Questions?

Call our office @
(209) 522-7278,
or email

Anna Genasci
annag@stanfarmbureau.org

Full Enrollment is required, see below for details.



The English at Work Class is **FREE** this year because Stanislaus County Workforce Development (SCWD) secured grant funding. The funding requires full enrollment, that requires the following:

- Register in CalJobs
- Watch Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Orientation Video on SCWD website
- Review/complete the SCWD Eligibility Packet
- Gather income verification and required data from last 6 months.

What Happens During a WIOA Eligibility Appointment?

1. Workforce Specialist and client meet in-person or by telephone.
2. Workforce Specialist completes the step-by-step WIOA Title I Application wizard with the client to establish Adult or Dislocated Worker eligibility.
3. Client signs Application and signs and completes forms included in the Eligibility Packet (if not done previously)

What Happens AFTER Eligibility has been completed?

4. Meet with a Career Services Specialist
5. Provide Identity & Employment Authorization
6. Verification, if you are a veteran
7. Selective Service Status (males ages 18 up to 26)
8. Family income for the last 6 months example: paycheck stubs

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.

Advocacy Updates from California Farm Bureau

USDA to Issue Emergency SNAP Allotments at Reduced Rate

In a memo to state governments late Wednesday night, the Trump administration announced it would issue Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, payments at 65% of their previous allotments. Previously, it was expected that only half of payments would be issued prior to this change. Expiring funds for SNAP benefits have come into a central focus as one of the major programs at risk of impacting millions of Americans more directly because of the shutdown. Lawmakers in Washington, D.C., were still deadlocked throughout the week despite attempts to pass immediate help for the nutrition program. Previously, it was estimated that emergency U.S. Department of Agriculture funds could cover about three weeks of SNAP benefits starting from the beginning of the month, but it is not known if this 35% reduction will help stretch that through the end of November, if necessary.

Staff contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com.

Proposition 50 Passes

Proposition 50 passed in the Nov. 4 special election. The measure will allow for politicians to redraw congressional districts. Farm Bureau opposed the ballot measure, as did 39 other county Farm Bureaus. The new districts will be voted on in 2026 and go into effect January 2027.

Staff contact: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@

cfbf.com.

SCOTUS Reviews Challenge on Legality of Tariffs

This week, a major case was held before the U.S. Supreme Court, reviewing the legality of the Trump administration's tariffs. At the crux of the argument is the idea that tariffs ultimately represent a tax and that taxing power within the Constitution is expressly granted to Congress. The administration's first set of tariffs originally leaned on the Emergency Economic Powers Act, which grants the president the ability to issue tariffs under special circumstances. The administration argued that tariffs against China, Mexico and Canada were necessary to stem the flow of illicit drugs and illegal immigrants into the country. However, questioning from the court's justices suggests skepticism on this line of defense. The closely watched case could prove pivotal in what has been a signature strategy of the president in his first year. A decision may not come for several months, though, and it's entirely possible the case will be referred back to lower courts for more consideration.

Staff contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com.

Avoid Unwanted Visitors On Your Property

Recent reports of potential incidents involving drone and human trespass on livestock facilities prompted industry requests for an update. Below are highlights addressing how producers can protect their facilities from such incursions.

While options for activists who remain in public right-of-way are limited, there are still several actions producers can take to protect themselves and their property. Producers should also be aware that activists have impersonated government employees, allied industry, job applicants and even teachers requesting educational farm tours.

Post Your Property - "No Trespassing" signs should be "displayed at intervals not less than three per mile along all exterior boundaries and at all roads and trails entering the land."

This allows county district attorneys to fully prosecute trespass as a misdemeanor rather than as an infraction. Under California Penal Code §602(h)(3), such a misdemeanor conviction is punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail.

To limit success of trespassers from using the "I didn't see the sign" defense, some in law enforcement recommend positioning sufficient signage so it can be seen from any point at the property border.

Immediately Call the Sheriff - When alerted to the presence of trespassers, employees should immediately contact the local sheriff or police department. If employees are uncomfortable contacting law enforcement themselves, they should be trained and empowered to contact the farm's owner and manager. Consider also letting your county Farm Bureau know of the incident.

Don't Engage - Activists cherish video footage of angry farmers to use for publicity and fundraising, so resist the urge to confront or debate trespassers. Photos of

See 'Updates' on page 4



trespassers, vehicles and license plates, however, can be useful later in court and alert the dairy community.

Advise Law Enforcement - A frequent ploy of activist trespassers is to attempt to confuse law enforcement by claiming authority to trespass in the context of an "open rescue" for abandoned or mistreated animals. No such authority exists as was clearly demonstrated by the recent conviction of a animal liberation activist of felony conspiracy and misdemeanor counts of trespassing on a Sonoma County poultry facility.

Check Credentials - For safety and biosecurity reasons, virtually all legitimate government agencies will arrange farm visits in advance. The identification credentials of any unfamiliar or unexpected government employee should be scrutinized, photographed and confirmed by phone call to the agency's main office.

Employ Vigilance in Hiring - Activists making false inquiries about employment is a persistent problem. A California Dairy Quality Assurance Program newsletter article, *Vigilance in Your Hiring Process*, highlights important precautions to identify an activist intent on collecting undercover video recordings.

In collaboration with our law enforcement partners, CDQAP has developed an infographic that highlights the most important farm security practices. CDQAP's webpage, *Dealing with Trespass and Drones on California Dairies*, provides more comprehensive information on how to most effectively assist law enforcement.

Staff contact: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com.

Labor Department Resumes Visa Processing

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Labor announced it would resume processing several different worker visa programs, including the H-2A program. The government shutdown had slowed and halted

many of the functions related to new applications in particular, but the H-2A and several other visas are now designated as "essential" functions, bringing back previously furloughed workers to assist in processing. There is likely to be a backlog to some degree, with additional delays expected as the department works to get back to its regular capacity. Please reach out to California Farm Bureau staff if you continue to have challenges with ongoing applications.

Staff contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com.

DPR Anticoagulant Rodenticides: Farm Bureau Comments Submitted

California Farm Bureau submitted formal comments to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation on its proposed mitigation for first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. The letter supports a science-based approach that preserves effective tools for managing destructive rodent pressures on farms. Farm Bureau urged DPR to clarify allowable use sites so essential agricultural areas such as irrigation canals, levees and farm access roads remain eligible; partner with the University of California Cooperative Extension to certify and deliver the required sustainable rodent management training; align "site" definitions and recordkeeping with existing pesticide use reporting; and provide flexibility on baiting duration limits and a practical implementation timeline. Farm Bureau also emphasized the public-health importance of controlling rodents that spread diseases and contaminate feed, water systems and food-handling areas.

Staff contact: Isabella Quiñonez, iquiñonez@cfbf.com.

Trade Deal Announced Between US and China

Last week, President Trump met with China's President Xi Jinping in South Korea, in part to further negotiate on the trade challenges facing both countries. The two sides came to a tentative trade deal that

would renew purchases of American soybeans, which had stopped since June. In addition, China is supposed to suspend several of its agricultural tariffs, including chicken, corn, wheat, pork, fruits, vegetables and other commodities. A fact sheet can be found here, with more expected to be released. The back and forth between the two countries since late spring has resulted in several impacts across the agricultural industry and others, as China has been one of the few nations willing to match American tariffs with its own. The deal hopefully represents a cooling period between the two nations, as increased costs and supply chain disruptions have had ripple effects across the broader global economy. Staff contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com.

Fact vs. Fiction: Correcting Myths About California's Dairy Methane Reduction Efforts

During the past eight years, California's dairy farms have collectively achieved an annual reduction of 5 million metric tons of methane (CO₂e) and counting. This is important, as scientists agree that reductions in methane emissions are critical to slowing global warming. The world-leading effort has drawn some well-deserved attention. Unfortunately, there are several common myths and misconceptions about California dairy's methane reduction programs. Let's explore the misnomers and the facts.

Click to read the facts surrounding these four myths.:

- Myth #1: California's methane reduction efforts are focused on digesters.
- Myth #2: Methane reduction policies are encouraging dairy farms to grow larger.
- Myth #3: Policies encourage the creation of more methane for digester capture.
- Myth #4: California dairy farms operate without regulation.

Staff contact: Steven Fenaroli, sfenaroli@cfbf.com.

Farm State of Mind Alliance: A New Chapter in Taking Care of Our Own

Source: Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

Farming has always taken resilience. But it takes honesty, too. Honesty about the stress, worry and exhaustion, which so many farmers and ranchers carry quietly.

When I talk with farmers and ranchers across the country, I hear stories that are both familiar and deeply personal. Markets swing overnight. Weather doesn't cooper-

ate. The cost to raise a crop keeps rising. And even on the good days, there's the constant weight of responsibility—to our families, to our land, and to the legacy we're building for the next generation. That's a lot for anyone to shoulder.

We don't always talk about the impact these pressures have on our mental wellness, but we should. Because, sadly, the truth is farmer suicide rates are two to five times higher than the national average. Behind those numbers are people we know—neighbors, friends and family members—who have struggled in silence for too long.

At Farm Bureau, we believe that strength is not measured in bushels or bales. It's measured in our willingness to look out for one another. To admit, "I'm not okay," and to say, "You're not alone." That belief has fueled our work to make mental health resources accessible and practical for farmers and our rural communities. And this year, we're taking another big step forward.

I'm so proud that American Farm Bureau is joining forces with Farm Foundation's Farm Family Wellness Alliance to create the new Farm State of Mind Alliance. This is the next phase of our ongoing commitment to rural mental wellness. This expanded coalition brings together agricultural organizations across the country

with a shared goal: to make sure every farm family has the resources they need to take care of their mental health.

The Alliance builds on the progress we have made through Farm State of Mind, advancing access to tools, training and support that meet people where they are. Our resources include programs like Together-all, a 24/7 online peer-to-peer community moderated by licensed mental health professionals, and Personal Assistance Services, which provides confidential counseling, financial consultations, and stress management resources to anyone who needs them. These services are completely free to farm families nationwide.

What makes this effort powerful isn't just the programs themselves. It's the fact that agriculture is coming together to lead the charge. We are combining the trusted voices of organizations farmers already know, starting with our founding members—Farm Bureau, National Farmers Union, National 4-H Council and Farm Foundation—to reach further and respond faster. The Alliance will amplify the impact of Farm State of Mind, allowing for greater reach into rural communities.

Whether you're looking for help, or just want to support the cause, there's a place for you in the Farm State of Mind Alliance. Partners, advocates and neighbors can all play a part by sharing these resources, starting conversations, and helping to break down the stigma around mental health.

We've seen the difference it makes when one person reaches out. All it takes is asking a friend how they're really doing, or sharing a resource that might just save a life. Those small steps are how we show each other: "It's okay not to be okay, and it's okay to ask for help."

The health of our farms depends on the health of our farmers. Together, we can make sure that when the next generation takes over the fields and herds we have built, they inherit a culture that values mental wellness just as much as hard work.



MIKE HEINRICH

209.312.4011 | MHeinrich@boyett.net

Inventory Management Competitive Pricing
On Time Delivery
Gas, Diesel, Renewable Diesel, and Red Diesel Available

Agricultural Commercial Fuel
Truck & Trailer Delivery
Bobtail Loads Available



Boyett Petroleum
209.577.6000 | Boyett.net
601 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 95350

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.

COPY DEADLINE: MONDAY 12 NOON

RATES: Display rates on request. Terms are cash. Ads should be paid for at time of first insertion or immediately after receipt of bill if order is placed by telephone or mail. ERRORS: The Stanislaus Farm News will not be liable for more than one incorrect insertion. Errors must be called to the attention of the Classified Advertising Department not later than 4 p.m. on the Tuesday following publication of the ad. Claims for adjustment must be made within 15 days. We reserve the right to reject or revise any advertisement.

120 SPECIAL NOTICES

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS CUT YOUR ENERGY BILLS ELIMINATE DUST & NOISE

Lowest Prices Guaranteed! Largest Selection in the Valley! Windows, Doors, Skylights, Soundproofing, Licensed, Bonded & Insured.

Visit Our Showroom:
1050 Kansas Ave., Modesto
Cal Comfort Insulating Windows, Inc.
Contractors Lic. #51317 Class C17B
209-527-1310 (TFN)

500 FARM EQUIPMENT

Spring tooth with attached following harrow. 8 ft wide, 3 point hook-up asking \$1000
Brush rake. Rear push. 9ft wide adjustable spacing for 4 or 5 forks asking \$1000
Text or leave VM for
209-505-1731

For Sale:

John Deere 5100ML low profile with Exact cab
Visimo flail mower - 12' & 8'
PBM 500 gallon sprayer with electric valves (never used)

Durand Wayland 500 gallon sprayer
Domries float leveler - 12'

Call Joe: 209-404-3326

Tractor trailer, crank up ramps. 20" truck tires \$2500
Call 209-537-9491

Verisimo Might Max fail mower. Model # SC-100 asking \$5000
Orchard float roller 9ft wide asking \$1000
Text or leave a VM 209-505-1731

3/4 inch METAL PIPE, 10 FOOT SECTIONS, 700 PCS.
Tom (209) 402-9870 or
Bob (209) 402-9873

Ford 3400 runs well
12 attachments, Diesel
Needs a new home
\$9000/obo Call 209-479-6214

Weiss McNair 9800 Calif Special PTO almond pickup machine. homas discharge cart
4 super carts, Thomas elevator
Duran Wyland 500 gal PTO air blast sprayer
Kubota M9960 tractor, Schmeiser 10 foot float
10 foot orchard float
PBM HAV 300 weed sprayer
10 foot offset disk, Cotton trailer
Call Lane, 209-484-0882

2022 M7060HD12 Kubota Tractor Front Blade/
Groomer*Front Assist*Rear Rubber
Scraper*For Freestalls & Feed Pushup* Low Hours
1620 *\$40,000 2024 Honda 4 TraxRancher*Excellent
Condition *\$7,500 100 Gallon Sprayer w/ PTO
Pump* 10 FT Wide Boom w/ hand sprayer*\$2,500
Contact Dwayne 209-678-1151

10 ft rears mower \$6200 10.5 ft hydraulic disc \$1850 12 ft spring tooth \$1000 3 blade ridger \$2250 3 shank ripper \$2000
Cal John @ 209-988-8440
Leave a message or text

For sale Jackrabbit Pruning Tower
\$12,500.00, OBO

3 cylinder Kubota engine, very good condition older model. Included almost new hydraulic lopper shear and chain saw.
Call Tim 209-648-3724, Turlock or email timv@elite.net

510 LIVESTOCK

Kenyon Organic Services
Organic Consulting Services
Crop and Livestock
Carol Kenyon
(209) 484-1097
ck.cattle23@gmail.com

Sale Alfalfa. Best price, great quality. Bigger Bales especially suited to horses. Cook Valley Angus Ranches Modesto 209 996 7365 & Available May- Oct

800 For Rent

Dairy for Rent
Permitted for 614 Cows
With Flush and Freestalls
400 head open heifer facility
Turlock, Ca
Call 209-678-2632

LAND FOR RENT
8 ACRES, OAKDALE
NEAR PIONEER RD - on old
Owner live in house while leasing.
\$2K/MONTH- renew 3-5year
CONTACT: JOHN @ 209-857-9750
jcdirect420@gmail.com

1000 SERVICES

Electrical and Refrigeration Service
No job to small. Troubleshooting, upgrades on home, ranch, dairy, and commercial buildings.
209-648-7748

Martin Reyes

Land leveling, Discing Chiseling
Lic.#954989
(209) 605-4079

Noeller Farm

farm & ranch management
Almond, Peaches, Walnuts
custom Almond & Walnuts
(209) 883-2417 or
(209) 606-2084

Need help with your Farm Labor?

Call Lencioni Farm Services
209-537-2186

Rene's mobile notary
Notary Public
Certified loan signing agent

Call for a quote
Cal 209-252-4641

Insured Bonded Certified

Increase Soil Health Apply worm casting Bio Char Blend
Call Davis Ag
209-670-5278

PROAG Commercial

Ag. Spraying
Orchard, vineyard \$ herbicide applications
209-613-6355 Pat, 209-678-8072
Matt, 209-613-3227 Justin
Visit proag.webs.com

1000 SERVICES

RON MARTELLA
Custom Nut Harvesting
SHAKING, SWEEPING
AND HARVESTING
883-4819 or 883-0690

Woodbridge Spraying
Field Spraying
Orchard Spraying
Backhoe
380-0727 (TFN)

We haul Rock, Sand, Gravel,
Demolition Clean Up & Removal,
Tree Holes, Irrigation Lines & More.
Lic. # 884701
Home-(209) 848-0538
Cell (209) 525-7715 (TFN)

Wilson Portable Welding
Structural • Fabrication • General Repair

• Dairy Repair • Ag Repair
• Mobile - 765-3596
• Shop - 524-3016 (TFN)

Premier California Properties
Ag/Investment Properties
Marcus Haney
Realtor #01917446
Contact me at 209/605-6727
www.premiercaproperties.com

Orchard & wild land tree piles.
Smokeless
conversion to biochar on site.
Davis Agriculture
(209) 670-5278

1100 MISCELLANEOUS

METAL BUILDINGS

Provided & installed, interior upgrades available, fully engineered, references available. Active Industrial Contracting
Michael Frost - 613-3548.
Lic. #735904 (TFN)

LOW COST HOUSING Largest Inventory in Valley of Preowned Mobile Homes. Approx. 100 to choose from. Priced to fit your Budget. Transportation Available. DLR. 209-632-0854.

Wanted:

Cash paid for OLD Barn and Shop items; vintage tools, unwanted junk, old bottles & oil cans
209-774-6582

For Sale

'67 2T Chevy Truck w/16' Bed, 21' Trailer \$12,000
'60s Yale 5k Forklift \$6,000
Bin Trailers \$1,500/ea
Contact: 209-988-0700

1989 heavy duty 2 axle gooseneck trailer 20' plus 5' long beavertail plus ramps and wincher 26,000 lb capacity \$12,000 OBO, great condition call 209-988-3428

Hampton Ranch, CA
8' pretrested posts ~ 4" diameter \$15 each
Hickman, Ca
Call 209-648-3249

2025 Wheat Hay 3 string bales

\$7/bale call 209-484-3493
Leave message, no texts

Fordson Collectors!

1955 FMD
Roll Cage Exr Weights Runs Needs work Great tires \$4,000
209-768-6060 Send a MSG.

ROOFING • FENCING • PLYWOOD • SIDING



Let's Build Together
Since 1953

Denair Location: (209) 632-2494

Riverbank Location: (209) 869-4424

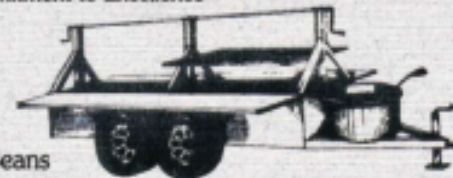
www.DenairLumberCo.com

HARDWARE • INSULATION • WINDOWS • O.S.B.

Neto's
Catering
Commitment to Excellence

Specializing in:

B.B.Q Steaks - Ribs
Pork - Chicken
Seasoned Meats
Fred's Portuguese Beans
Party Platters
Deli Spreads



ALL OCCASIONS / FREE ESTIMATES
1318 N. Golden State Boulevard, Turlock, CA

FRED NETO & SONS
(209) 669-FRED
Fax (209) 669-0545



VAN DE POL
FUELS & LUBRICANTS

Celebrating 75 years of serving the
San Joaquin Valley!

We're your strategic partner - delivering
great service with roots in the local community.

Performance delivered.

Fuels | Lubricants | Renewable Diesel
Industrial Fluids | Diesel Exhaust Fluid
209.667.0236 | vandepol.us

A Promise Worth Keeping: Restoring Certainty to America's Farmers

By John Newton, Ph.D

When we talk with farmers across the country, from cotton fields in Mississippi and cornfields in Iowa to apple orchards in Washington, the theme is the same: uncertainty. The past few years have tested even the most seasoned farmers. Facing rising input costs, unpredictable market access and many other challenges, farmers and ranchers are working harder while margins grow thinner.

The United States has long prided itself on being able to feed itself and much of the world. But today, that foundation is fracturing. Persistent cost pressures from labor, inputs, energy and overregulation have

steadily eroded farm margins, while weak commodity prices and uneven global competition have strained family finances. With razor-thin margins on the farm, more and more farm families rely on off-farm income. Across the countryside, farms that once anchored rural economies are evaluating how and if they can survive another growing year with immense uncertainty. Not because of Mother Nature, but because prices no longer cover the cost of production. As farmers shutter their barns, there are fewer kids in rural schools, fewer dollars spent on rural Main Street and fewer families carrying forward a multigenerational legacy of stewardship and hard work.

Yet U.S. agriculture remains vital to America's economic strength and national security. Farms and ranches directly support about 22 million jobs and add roughly \$1.5 trillion to the economy each year. When the

broader food and agriculture supply chain is included — input suppliers to processors, transporters and retailers — the sectors support nearly one in five U.S. jobs and generate more than \$6 trillion in economic activity. Ensuring farmers and ranchers can stay in business and keep investing in their communities is fundamental to America's food security and energy dominance, as well as the larger economy.

To rebuild stability, we need clear, consistent policies that put farmers back on solid ground. In addition to priorities on agricultural labor, or passing a farm bill, Farm Bureau farmer leaders and grassroots members identified additional actions that represent an investment in long-term certainty for all of U.S. agriculture. Read on to learn more.

Fair and Enforceable Trade Agreements
Reliable trade relationships are lifelines for farmers, who export roughly one-fifth of everything grown on U.S. soil. Yet recent years have provided only promise without follow-through. China, for instance, failed to fulfill its agricultural purchase commitments under the Phase One agreement, costing U.S. farmers and ranchers billions in potential sales.

When trade partners meet their obligations and when new agreements expand market opportunities for U.S. agriculture, farmers gain the predictability needed to plan ahead. Enforceable trade agreements such as the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement have driven decades of growth in agricultural exports, with shipments to Canada and Mexico more than quadrupling over the past 25 years. A single shipping container of U.S. almonds, pork or soybeans represents not just a sellable product, but payrolls, fuel purchases and community investment. Enforcing existing deals and securing reciprocal market access ensures that rural prosperity isn't held hostage to uneven global competition.

Policy Support for Biofuels

See 'American Farmer' on page 8



Serving the agricultural industry since 1938



**VR700
SHAKER**



**V62
SWEEPER**



**8772
HARVESTER**



**VS25
VELOCITY
SHUTTLE**

INNOVATION & SUPPORT YOU CAN TRUST... WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

goflory.com ▶ (800) 662-6677 ▶ sales@goflory.com



**Topping & Hedging
Brush Stacking
Orchard Management**



Phil Rumble: (209) 996-1517

rumbletopping.com

From 'American Farmer' on page 7

Biofuels remain one of America's most effective tools for merging energy security, energy dominance and the farm economy. Every gallon of ethanol or biodiesel sold supports the value of corn, soybeans and sorghum, crops grown by thousands of U.S. farmers. Each year millions of acres of crops are used to produce renewable fuels, helping stabilize prices and create reliable demand even when export markets shift.

Allowing year-round sales of E15 could boost corn demand by more than 2.4 billion bushels annually, helping maintain market prices and offsetting the volatility of export swings. Emerging biofuels markets trying to make a dent in the conventional fuel market, like synthetic (or sustainable) aviation fuel, benefit from tax incentives to boost use of domestically grown feedstocks and livestock products. However, these credits still need clear, adaptable guidance published in a timely manner to encourage biofuel demand for a wider variety of agricultural products. Supporting these markets provides not just energy choice but economic insurance for rural communities tied to feedstock and renewable fuel production.

Restoring Whole Milk in Schools

Milk has been on the menu of American schools for nearly a century, but today, many cafeterias offer only skim or 1% milk. Restoring the option of whole and 2% milk isn't just about taste, it's about nutrition and support for U.S. dairy farmers.

If even half of schools switched back to whole milk, national butterfat demand could rise by more than 35 million pounds annually, equivalent to roughly 45 million pounds of finished butter. That's enough to support numerous dairy farms and reconnect students with the wholesome foods produced on nearby farms. Reintroducing whole milk brings economic and health benefits together in a single carton.

Protecting Interstate Commerce

Recent state-level mandates and laws on farm practices, such as production standards that differ from neighboring states, threaten to fragment the national marketplace.

Today, those same patchwork pressures are emerging in multiple parts of the food system, from animal housing to ingredient labeling to food-safety standards, creating confusion for both consumers and the farmers who supply them. Whether it's how livestock are raised or how ingredients are listed, a growing number of one-off state rules make it harder to keep shelves stocked and prices low for all American families.

Protecting interstate commerce means protecting the ability of farmers to compete fairly in all markets, no matter their zip code, and ensuring that a pound of bacon or a gallon of milk meets consistent, science-based national standards across the country.

Investigating Input Market Imbalances

Farmers have little control over the cost of production, buying inputs at retail and often selling products at wholesale price. Fertilizer, seed and equipment prices have soared, often outpacing inflation. Total production expenses are forecasted to reach \$467 billion in 2025, up 30% from several years ago. Persistent high costs continue to erode profitability, making it harder for farmers to reinvest in their operations.

Transparent pricing and increased competition in these input markets could save farmers billions each year. Enforcement of antitrust and transparency laws doesn't just punish bad actors; it restores confidence that the marketplace is working as it should. When farmers can plan their budgets knowing their supply chain partners are pricing fairly and competing transparently, they can focus on producing food, not fighting volatility.

Prioritizing American-Grown Fruits and Vegetables

Research shows that among school districts reporting exemptions from the "Buy American" requirement for federally purchased foods, 94% reported exemptions for fruits and 55% for vegetables. Among those, 88% cite limited domestic supply, 43% say U.S. prices are too high, and about one in five points to quality concerns. Yet American fruit and vegetable growers produce hundreds of varieties that can meet these nutritional needs, if given the chance.

Prioritizing U.S.-grown produce in federal and institutional purchasing programs could redirect hundreds of millions of dollars back into domestic fruit and vegetable farms, operations already facing high labor and compliance costs. At the same time, addressing labor shortages through systemic reform and reducing unne-

RAYCO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1969

Air Compressors
Used Tool and Machinery Dealer
Steam and High Pressure Cleaners
Metal Working Tools and Machinery
Power Tools, Wood Working Tools and Machinery
Hand Tools, Abrasives, Saw Blades and Safety Supplies
Automotive Tools and Equipment, Shop Heaters and Coolers

Sales and Service

California Contractors License 708487

The Largest Selection of Heavy Duty Shop Tools and Machinery In Northern California

Modesto (209) 529-8984

512 RIVER ROAD

Turlock (209) 632-2315

712 LANDER AVENUE

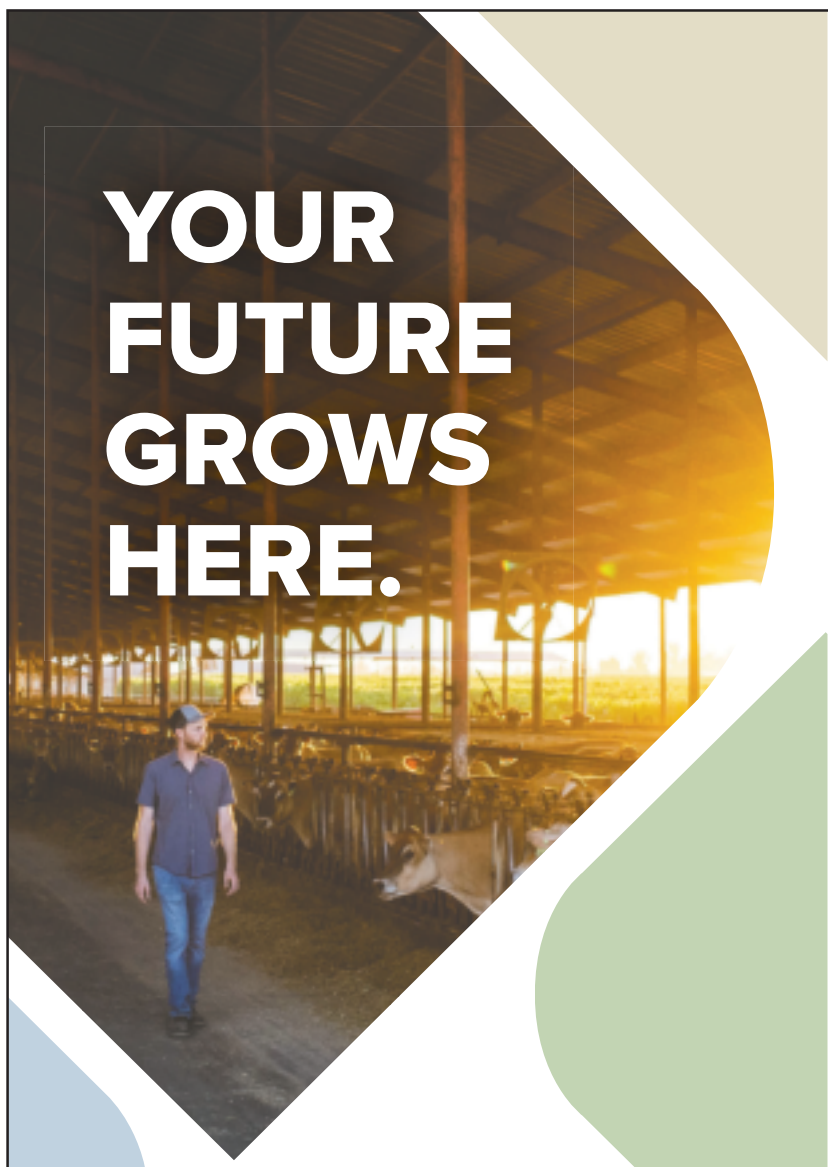
essary regulatory burdens would help ease price pressures that make it hard for American growers to compete with imports from countries with much lower costs. When federal agencies “buy American,” they strengthen the nation’s food security by filling our kids’ plates with healthy, domestically grown foods.

A Renewed Commitment
 The economic pressures facing agriculture today are the result of a policy drift. Targeted reforms can help turn the tide, providing the structural certainty farmers deserve in the long term. Agriculture has always been a partnership between those who grow, those who purchase and those who govern. Fulfilling the promise of American agriculture – to feed, clothe and fuel the world – depends on that partnership being strengthened.

Keeping farmers in business is not optional. It is essential to America’s strength.

Interested in learning more? AFBF’s policy and economics experts are launching a new Market Intel series that will explore policies, markets and strategies to help secure the future of agriculture for America’s farming and ranching families.

John Newton, Ph.D., is vice president of public policy and economic analysis at the American Farm Bureau Federation.



YOUR FUTURE GROWS HERE.

COMMITTED TO SERVING YOUR NEEDS.

The change in agriculture today is just a glimpse of what lies ahead. It’s why, more than ever, we are committed to being the partner you can trust, who understands your needs and delivers value to help you achieve your goals.

Wherever agriculture goes, we’ll be there, alongside you, as you lead the way.



American AgCredit

Your future grows here



SCAN ME

Visit agloan.com/growyourfuture

A Part of the Farm Credit System. Equal Opportunity Lender.

Zero Down! Zero Interest!

Get a Hotsy today with no money down and take 6 months to pay. A great way to take advantage of IRS Section 179 Tax Savings! Ends 12/31/25.* Don't delay!





Come meet Jon Erlandson, the popular SIOUX STEAM FREAK!

Visit us on 12/4 at WinExpo
Outdoor Exhibits Booth #C

Register for FREE trade show floor passes
or get \$30 off any conference/session ticket at WinExpo.com

Use promo code: NBEQUIP

SAVE up to 30%
on Hotsy & Sioux equipment!

We're clearing out 2025 inventory for 2026!

Discounts up to 35%, up to \$1500, on select in-store cold-water gas pressure washers.

Get a FREE 25-Point Maintenance Inspection

Intercept problems & keep your machine running right! Call for an appointment.

Premier Provider of Innovative Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Water Treatment Solutions with for over 35 years!

Contact us to learn more about all our offers!





PacificBayEquipment.com
209.578.3925

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BAY AREA
SANTA ROSA
MODESTO

*Valid for Hotsy Pressure Washers only. Restrictions apply. U.S. Only. All offers expire 12/31/25, and can not be combined with other offers.

2025 SPRAY SAFE & SAFETY SEMINAR

→ **FREE EVENT!**

Friday, November 21, 2025 | **MJC West Campus Pavilion**
Enter via Brink Ave. & Student Center Dr.

Tradeshow, Donuts & Lunch Provided!
Contact (209) 522-7278 with any questions.

Employee Track | 8am to 12:15pm:

English & Spanish: 2 hrs Laws/Regs

Topics include: Sexual Harassment Prevention, Indoor & Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention, Pesticide Handler Safety & Tractor Safety

Grower Track | 8am to 12:15pm:

English & Spanish: 1.5 hrs Laws/Regs & 2.5 hrs Other

Topics include: Law and Regulation Updates, Safe Pesticide Use Around Bees, Glyphosate 101 & Label Updates

PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY FOR CHECK-IN PARTICIPANT RAFFLE!!!

REGISTER HERE
[HTTPS://WWW.STANAG.ORG/](https://www.stanag.org/)



Eat Almonds to Support a Healthy Gut

Source: The Almond Board of California, October 2025

New research from leading scientists suggests that eating almonds supports beneficial gut bacteria – a key factor in better digestion and overall health.

Two new comprehensive research papers demonstrate that daily almond consumption may help support a healthy gut.

Key findings:

- Almonds act as potential prebiotics, a food source that promotes the growth

of beneficial gut bacteria and supports a healthy gut microbiome

- Almond consumption boosts the production of butyrate, a short-chain fatty acid (SCFA) that benefits both gut and heart health
- Almonds may play a role in the gut-heart axis, a pathway linking gut and heart

Findings from the first review: The potential prebiotic effect of almonds:

The first piece of research, funded by the Almond Board of California, reviewed the evidence for almonds acting as prebiotics and to explain how they might benefit gut health¹. Prebiotics are substances that nourish or feed beneficial gut bacteria in

the large intestine, helping them grow and thrive. This supports a diverse and balanced gut microbiota, which promotes healthy digestion, strengthens the immune system and, according to emerging research, may benefit brain function and protect against disease.

The comprehensive review showed that almonds have significant potential as a functional food with a prebiotic* effect. Almonds benefited gut health by:

- Enhancing the balance and diversity of bacteria in the gut
- Increasing levels of beneficial gut bacteria such as Bifidobacterium, Lactobacillus, and Roseburia

See 'Almond' on page 21

MAKE LONG-LASTING MEMORIES



Speed Queen



Sales - Rental - Pump Services

Stockton
(209) 460-0450

Crows Landing
(209) 837-4669

Ballico
(209) 634-5072

Holt
(209) 921-6011

Woodland
(707) 678-4277

pacsouthwestirr.com

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2025

California Farm Bureau responds to passage of Proposition 50

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass expressed disappointment today over the passage of Proposition 50, saying the measure will further dilute the voice of California communities. The California Farm Bureau represents more than 26,000 farm and ranch families statewide.

“While we respect the will of the voters, the passage of Prop. 50 represents another setback for Californians, particularly those in rural areas. Fair and independent redistricting is essential to ensuring that lawmakers understand issues central to agriculture and rural communities, such as land use, water access, food production and rural infrastructure.

“Prop. 50 will weaken representation across

the state by favoring gerrymandering and reshaping districts in ways that simply don’t make sense. For example, Modoc and Marin don’t belong in the same district, nor do San Jose and Coalinga. When communities hundreds of miles apart and with vastly different needs are grouped together, the voices of many Californians risk being left out.

“Farm Bureau remains committed to advocating for practical, long-term solutions that keep agriculture strong. Supporting independent redistricting has been a consistent priority for us. In 2010, we opposed Prop. 27, which aimed to disband the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

“We will continue working to ensure rural and agricultural communities are represented across all levels of government, no matter who is in office.”

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches as part of

a nationwide network representing more than 5 million Farm Bureau members. Learn more at www.cfbf.com or follow @cafarmbureau on Instagram, LinkedIn, X or Facebook.

###

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass is available for interviews. Please contact Mahek Pandya at mpandya@cfbf.com or 916-561-5521.

Contact: Mahek Pandya
Media Relations Specialist
Phone: 916-561-5521
mpandya@cfbf.com

Barbara Arciero
Director of Publications &
Media Relations
Phone: 916-561-5574
barciero@cfbf.com

YOUR PARTNER FOR HARVESTING EFFICIENCY



LOCK IN 2026 ORDERS FOR 2025 PRICING

- ✓ Order any piece of pistachio equipment for delivery in 2026 by December 19th to receive 2025 pricing.
- ✓ Flexible financing options available

FOR PRICING & AVAILABILITY: DAVID KAHN | 510.918.8259 | D.KAHN@OXBO.COM

18 FINK RD. :: CROWS LANDING

SCAN TO VIEW
HARVESTERS





On October 24th, our two Grace Davis FFA Cotton Judging teams competed at the MJC Field Day, spending the day evaluating cotton bolls, seeds, lint, and plants. The "A" team, comprising Andrea Dosier, Marek Collins, and Emily Pelayo, earned 10th High Team Overall. Emily P. placed 5th and Andrea 2nd in Lint, and the team placed 5th in Bolls. The "B" team, Maxine Burkhart, Abby Contreras, Emily Collins, and Joseph Moore, had an outstanding day, earning 3rd High Team overall. Maxine placed 1st and Emily 4th in Plants, and the team earned 1st in Plants, 2nd in Seeds, 3rd in Lint, 4th in Objective Test, and 5th in Bolls. Both teams are excited to head to Fresno for State Finals on November 1st!

On October 15th, Grace Davis FFA took 30 of their members to the Stanislaus Tuolumne Section Opening and Closing Ceremony at Enochs High School. We took two novice teams, which are freshman only, two intermediate teams with freshmen, sophomores, or juniors, and our advanced team, which is the officer team. Here is a summary of how our teams did. Novice team Gold took first place out of 19 teams, with our Novice team Green taking 5th Place. Four of our freshmen were honored with an outstanding officer position for the contest. Outstanding Novice President: Arely Alvarez of team Green, Outstanding Novice Treasurer: Nathalie Leon, Outstanding Novice Reporter: Sam Zaragoza Canchola, Outstanding Novice Sentinel: Bella Mendoza, all of whom are a part of team gold. Our officer team took second place in the advanced division of the contest. They competed against 11 other schools in our section. Our chapter President, Emily Collins, was named Outstanding Advanced President for the advanced contest.

Pictured below: Cali Stevens, Bella Mendoza, Aiden Hernandez, Blake Reyes, Ivy Bland, Tyr Shackelford, Arely Alvarez, Alexandra Hurtado Ramirez, Bryson Ceja, Lorraine Herrera, Sam Zaragoza, Nathalie Leon.



WESTERN VALLEY • Agriculture
INSURANCE • Commercial
LIC#0649647 • Home
• Auto
• Health

Offices in Turlock, Los Banos & Crescent City
209.634.9031
www.westernvalley.com



2025 Winner - Frank Hernandez



**WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND
THANK FARMWORKERS IN
STANISLAUS COUNTY!**

**This program will honor farmworker nominees
during a luncheon on
April 7, 2026. Nominees will be interviewed for the
Farm Bureau News and winners will receive**

CASH AWARDS! UP TO \$3,000!

Please have your nominations in by 1/31/2026

*This program is brought to you by Stanislaus County Farm
Bureau, the Farmworker Committee & Modesto Rotary.*

**Questions or additional information?
Call Farm Bureau
at 209-522-7278**



Scan to nominate!





A Thriving Tuolumne River Starts Now: More Water. More Habitat. More Fish.

An opinion letter from the general managers of the Tuolumne River Partners agencies regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's Scientific Basis Report.

California is at a crossroads in water management. The choices we make today will shape the future of our rivers, our communities, and our ability to thrive through drought, flood, and a changing climate. Fortunately, one of those choices is clear and ready to be implemented now: the Tuolumne River's Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Agreement.

The Tuolumne agreement delivers exactly what Californians expect from water policy in 2025 — real environmental benefits, grounded in site-specific best available science, funded by local partners, and ready to begin today.

As General Managers of the Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, we're proud to stand behind this plan — not just because it benefits the environment, but because it reflects years of science, stewardship, and collaboration in one of the state's most important watersheds.

Collectively, our agencies have spent nearly a decade working alongside state and federal agencies,

fisheries experts, academia, and conservation partners to develop a comprehensive Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program tailored specifically to the Tuolumne River. Backed by more than 100 scientific studies, the plan is built on decades of real data and the best available science — from salmon migration patterns to water temperatures to long-term habitat needs.

This isn't an academic exercise; this is science in action and it's already underway.

The heart of the Tuolumne River agreement can be summed up in six words: More Water. More Habitat. More Fish. Each one represents a measurable, meaningful improvement to the river.

WESTPORT 4-H PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, NOV. 23, 2025



Come hungry and support your local 4-H youth!

Enjoy fluffy pancakes, sizzling ham, scrambled eggs, & community spirit—all for a great cause.

\$15.00 Adult  **\$10.00 Child**

8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

WESTPORT FIRE HOUSE

5160 S. CARPENTER ROAD, MODESTO



PROCEEDS BENEFIT WESTPORT 4-H YOUTH PROJECTS, EVENTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS!
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCE (UCANR) IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.



Helping our Members Prosper



LOCAL AGRICULTURE FINANCING

MODESTO
TURLOCK
PATTERSON

MERCED
LOS BANOS
OAKDALE

yosemitfarmcredit.com   



DAIRY LOANS • ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT • LAND PURCHASES • CROP LOANS • EQUIPMENT LOANS

The Tuolumne agreement adds water to the river in every water year type — no exceptions. In fact, it's one of the only proposals in the state that commits to increased releases even in critically dry years: 63% more water in the river in dry years and 52% more water in the river in critically dry years. While the Agreement emphasizes flows from January through June, the Tuolumne River Partners have gone further—by including flow enhancements from July through December to support year-round ecological and fishery benefits. These aren't paper promises. These are daily, year-round releases ready for immediate implementation.

The plan delivers at least 77 acres of new floodplain and rearing habitat, adds 100,000 tons of spawning gravel, and restores key side channels that improve fish survival. These are not hypothetical projects — they're real. In 2024, we restored over 10 acres of critical spawning habitat in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and

Wildlife, returning 50,000 cubic yards of gravel to the riverbed. This new spawning habitat is already being used by the largest return of spring-run salmon from the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, ever — over 1,200 fish.

What do these actions result in? A projected increase of over 150% in out-migrating juvenile salmon over current conditions — and a 93% increase compared to the State Water Board's adopted unimpaired flow proposal. We can achieve this with a balanced approach that combines targeted flows with strategic habitat investments.

In an era of volatile state and federal budgets, the Tuolumne agreement is fully self-funded — over \$80 million committed by our agencies. We are not waiting on grant cycles or political approvals. We are ready to deliver results immediately.

Last month, the State Water Board staff released the Draft Scientific Basis Report — their technical analysis of the Tuolumne River agreement to inform the State Water Board's

consideration of incorporating the agreement into the Bay-Delta Plan. The release of the Draft Scientific Basis Report for the Tuolumne is an important step in moving the agreement forward. Our agencies look forward to the opportunity to present our comments and corrections on the report to the State Water Board on November 5. Regardless of the improvements needed in the state's report, we can't lose focus on the fact that the Tuolumne agreement can be implemented today, and it will bring about significant enhancements to our communities and the environment.

This is more than a policy, it's a commitment from the communities who rely on the Tuolumne River every day for clean drinking water, sustainable irrigation, flood control, recreation, and energy.

We're proud of what this plan represents — not just more water and more fish, but a better way to manage our rivers. A way rooted in collaboration, not confrontation. In science, not speculation. And in action, not delay.

We're ready. The Tuolumne River is ready. Let's move forward — together.

Brad Koehn,
General Manager,
Turlock Irrigation
District

Jimi Netniss,
General Manager,
Modesto Irrigation
District

Dennis Herrera,
General Manager,
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



ANIMAL HEALTH - FENCING - RANCH & HOME

576 Warnerville Road
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 847-8977

LIVESTOCK HANDING - HARDWARE - CLOTHING

WWW.CONLINSUPPLY.COM

**CALIFORNIA
APIARY REGISTRATION
UPDATES FOR 2026**
REGISTRATION & PAYMENT PORTAL
OPENS NOVEMBER 3, 2025

Register & Pay at:
SeeWhere.calagpermits.org

New Apiary Registration Fees*	
1-9 Colonies	\$10**
10-50 Colonies	\$100
51+ Colonies	\$250
Broker Fee	\$250

*Colony counts based on 2025 totals
**Some counties may waive this fee

Remember:

- **New Rules & Fees:** Regulatory changes are final. Updated registration fees apply beginning with the 2026 registration year.
- **Deadline:** Registration and fees are due by January 1, 2026, late fees applied January 30, 2026.
- **One Annual Payment:** Pay once per year, even if your hives are located in multiple counties.
- **Five Locations:** Report your five locations when registering and update locations whenever hives are moved (within 72 hours of relocation). Registration is required in each county you have bees.
- **See Brokers:** Brokers must pay a brokerage fee. Brokers can pay the registration fees for beekeepers they represent, unless those fees have already been paid by the owner.
- **All Hives Must Be Registered:** This includes colonies brought in seasonally for pollination services.
- **Confidentiality:** Hive location information is kept confidential.
- **Need Help?** Contact the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office where you register, for assistance or to ask questions.

Walnut growers optimistic about markets

After several challenging years, California walnut growers were optimistic this fall as harvest met with more favorable market conditions. The industry entered the 2025-26 marketing year essentially sold out of supply, which growers expect will make it easier to sell this year's crop—projected to be 710,000 tons—at higher prices. Strong export demand, a new domestic marketing push and mild summer growing conditions that produced high-quality nuts have buoyed the industry. "I think we're in a good position to be able to move a lot of the crop at a decent price," said Daniel Bays, who grows walnuts and other crops in Stanislaus County. "Last year's small crop with relatively good quality primed the market where the buyers are looking at California for high-quality nuts."

California farm advocates seek rule change on autonomous tractors

California farm advocates may be closer than ever to achieving regulatory changes that would clear the way for wider adoption of autonomous tractors in the state. Despite entrepreneurs from the Golden State developing cutting-edge technology used on farms around the world, the use of autonomous tractors is largely prohibited on California farms due to a 1977 workplace safety regulation. In November 2024, state regulators impaneled an advisory committee comprising various stakeholders to examine the issue, and the regulators are expected to release a report later this month summarizing the commit-

tee's work over the past year. "I believe the regulations will change in the near future," said Tim Bucher, co-founder and CEO of the Bay Area-based company Agtonomy. "In the meantime, we work together and continue to educate."

California euthanizes four wolves after nonlethal deterrence failed

After months of failed efforts to reduce "an unprecedented level" of livestock kills using nonlethal methods, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said it euthanized four gray wolves from the Beyem Seyo pack in Sierra Valley last month. "This decision was not made lightly nor was it easy," CDFW Director Charlton Bonham said. According to the department, the pack had become habituated to preying on cattle as a primary food source, and the feeding pattern was being taught to young wolves, which would leave to form their own packs and teach the same cattle-preying behavior to future

offspring, threatening the "ecological integrity" of the endangered species' recovery. Steven Fenaroli, a California Farm Bureau director of policy advocacy, said the organization supports CDFW and local law enforcement for "protecting public safety and taking decisive, science-based action to address escalating wolf predation on livestock in Northern California."

State targets Southern California to prevent parasitic fly entry

With detection of New World screwworm less than 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, California animal health officials are urging ranchers, dairy farmers, feedlot operators and other livestock handlers to stay vigilant for signs of the parasitic fly, which can inflict great harm to animals—and economic damage to the livestock sec-

Kevin McConnell Construction

General Building Contractor
Specializing in Agriculture Buildings

Over 40 Years Experience

Oakdale Lic #772692
(209) 848-0615 or (209) 613-7087
KevinMcConnellConstruction.com



Since 1986

- State of the Art Equipment
- 80' Truck Scale
- Maximized Returns
- Owner Operated
- Inshell line complete with Satake color sorter
- High Capacity dryer for bin or bulk loads

Peter Verdegaal
209-628-1008

Office
209-356-0210

8016 Winton Way, Winton
Serving Stanislaus & Merced Counties

Your Land. Your Legacy. Our Expertise.

At Terra West Group, we provide specialized real estate brokerage, and financial advisory services.

Whether you're:

- Considering selling your land
- Planning succession for your family
- Exploring investment opportunities

Our team delivers trusted guidance, market expertise, and proven results.

Donny Rocha
Call (209) 606-5767
donny@terrawest.group

tor. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has been doing screwworm outreach to inform producers and veterinarians in Southern California, with emphasis on San Diego and Imperial counties because they both touch the U.S.-Mexico border. An incursion of screwworm into the U.S. would have immediate and severe trade impacts. Due to detections in Mexico, U.S. ports remain closed to livestock imports from the North American trading partner. Similar disruptions are expected if the screwworm is found in the U.S.

Most California pumpkins are grown in one county

Californians searching supermarkets for the perfect pumpkin this week are likely to select a squash grown by Bryan Van Groningen, co-owner and vice president of crops and soils at Van Groningen & Sons in Manteca, or by another farmer in San Joaquin County, which produces most of the pumpkins sold in the state. "We get the warm temperatures in the daytime and cooler nights," Van Groningen said. "The plants thrive in those conditions." The fourth-generation farmer grows 55 different pumpkin varieties and sells as many as 10 million pumpkins a year. Varieties include the Knucklehead and Warty Minion, both covered with unsightly bumps; the Fairytale, flat and round with deep ribs; and the Big Mac, weighing in at up to 120 pounds. "I'd say we have every color except for maybe purple," Van Groningen said.

Sweeter Brussels sprouts are winning over new fans

While decades-old baggage may deter some diners from delighting in Brussels sprouts, newer varieties of the cruciferous

vegetable have won over consumers and found a home in California restaurants. About 30 years ago, a Dutch scientist first identified the chemicals, called glucosinolates, that made Brussels sprouts bitter, and breeders began working to produce sweeter varieties. Those are the varieties commonly grown today. Alex Rodoni, whose family grows Brussels sprouts on California's Central Coast, said demand peaked around 2021 and has remained strong, especially during the holiday season. That's also when freshly harvested Brussels sprouts tend to taste best. "They taste the sweetest when it's coldest when they're harvested," Rodoni said.

Healthy avocado trees prove resilient to wildfires

Lessons learned from destructive wildfires in Ventura County have given avocado growers a fighting chance to save their orchards when the next big blaze hits. Ben Faber, University of California Cooperative Extension citrus and avocado adviser for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, learned from the effects of the 2017 Thomas Fire and last year's Mountain Fire that well-irrigated avocado trees can recover from a fast-moving blaze within four months. Faber cautioned growers not to give up on their trees, as fire damage in avocado trees can initially look bad but turn out to be superficial. "You have to wait to let the tree tell you what's going to happen," he said. Nov. 6 marks the one-year anniversary of the Mountain Fire, which damaged 389 acres of avocados, according to the Ventura County agricultural commissioner's office.

Aggressive weed plagues California cilantro growers

The spread of yellow nutsedge, an aggressive weed that thrives in coastal conditions, has put a damper on an otherwise phenomenal period for California cilantro growers. The weed is found in the major cilantro-growing regions of the state, including Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties. "Nutsedge competes for water, nutrients and can block out sunlight if it's not removed before it spreads out in cilantro," said Oleg Daugovish, University of California Cooperative Extension vegetable farm adviser in Ventura County, adding that it is one of the worst weeds in the world. "The only way to get rid of nutsedge currently is to pull it out by hand, which is cost-prohibitive in cilantro." This month, Daugovish was wrapping up a two-year trial on an herbicide to combat nutsedge and plans to release his findings sometime this fall.



Ryan Jacobsen on Farming Through Storms, Labor, and the Future of California Agriculture

Source: AgNet West

The November 11 edition of the AgNet News Hour featured an in-depth conversation with Ryan Jacobsen, President and CEO of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, who joined hosts Nick Papagni and Josh McGill to reflect on the past year in agriculture and look ahead to 2026.

Jacobsen, a fourth-generation Central Valley farmer, described 2025 as “one of the most unique and challenging years in decades.” He noted that while the weather was remarkably mild for most of the year, the harvest season tested farmers’ patience and endurance. “We had about seven different storms roll through during harvest,” he said. “Farmers were working like madness between each one, trying to dry crops, pick what they could, and prepare for the next round of rain.”

Despite the setbacks, Jacobsen praised growers’ resilience and credited advancements in meteorology for helping minimize losses. “We get far more heads-up now than we did 20 years ago,” he said. “That preparation made all the difference this year.”

Jacobsen also addressed the growing complexity of farming in an urbanized state. “We’re still dealing with the same core issues—water, labor, and regulation—but the complexity of each has skyrocketed,” he said. “It’s more difficult to farm today than it’s ever been,

but we keep finding ways to adapt.”

Representing more than 1.8 million acres of farmland, Jacobsen said he feels an enormous responsibility to be a voice for California agriculture. “We grow nearly 350 different crops here,” he said. “California’s diversity in crops and people is unmatched anywhere else in the world, and it’s our job to protect it.”

He expressed concern over increasing imports that undermine local farmers. “When I was a kid, imported food made up less than 10 percent of our supply. Today, it’s over 40 percent,” he said. “Consumers want quality, but many still buy based on price. That’s the challenge — we produce the safest, most sustainable food in the world, but we need fair policies and informed consumers who understand that value.”

Jacobsen also discussed the need for education and outreach to reconnect Californians with farming. “So many people have no idea how food gets to their table,” he said. “Some think almonds grow underground or that chocolate milk comes from brown cows. We’ve got to bridge that gap.”

On labor and immigration reform, Jacobsen was cautiously optimistic. “I’m hopeful this

administration will finally bring common-sense reform,” he said. “If we can secure the border, recognize the people already working productively in agriculture, and support fair trade, California can thrive again.” He ended the conversation with gratitude for the people who make agriculture possible — from growers to packers, truck drivers, and farm employees. “We’re entering a season of thankfulness,” Jacobsen said. “Every meal we enjoy is thanks to thousands of people working behind the scenes. That’s what makes California agriculture so special.”



FARM BUREAU



Mahindra



MASSEY FERGUSON



ROXOR



WM Weiss McNair

JM EQUIPMENT
Co., Inc.

PARTS | SERVICE | SALES | LEASING | RENTALS | USED EQUIPMENT | NEW EQUIPMENT

ALSO HANDLES

- AGCO HESSTON HAY EQUIPMENT
- COMPACT TRACTOR RENTALS
- PEERLESS DRYING EQUIPMENT
- DONALDSON FILTER
- SCHMEISER TILLAGE/ORCHARD EQUIPMENT
- JAYLOR FEEDING EQUIPMENT
- PARTS & SERVICES ON MOST BRANDS OF EQUIPMENT

- Boosting the production of beneficial compounds such as short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), which help to protect the gut lining, aid in mitigating inflammation and support metabolic health.

“This research suggests almonds act as prebiotics, helping to support gut health,” said Professor Jack Gilbert, University of California San Diego, project lead for the National Institutes of Health’s Nutrition for Precision Health initiative and co-author of the paper. “Almonds contain dietary fiber, polyphenols and non-digestible carbohydrates like oligosaccharides, which provide their prebiotic effects. These nutrients are

metabolized by beneficial gut bacteria, supporting their growth and producing beneficial compounds like short-chain fatty acids.”

The research evaluated the body of evidence on almonds and gut health, including laboratory experiments (in vitro studies), clinical trials and systematic reviews (which collate the findings of many studies on a specific topic). Although the study authors concluded that there is sufficient evidence to show that almonds have a prebiotic effect, they emphasized that further studies, particularly those using standardized methods, are required.

“Additional research will help to determine the quantity of almonds needed, and the length of time they need to be consumed for, to achieve gut health benefits,” said Gilbert.

Findings from the second review: The role of almonds in the gut-heart axis: The second research paper, also funded by the Almond Board of California, looked at how eating almonds positively benefits cardiovascular and gut health, and explored links between the two areas².

The researchers reviewed many studies and presented their conclusions in a discussion paper focused on how almond consumption affects cardiovascular health, related risk factors, and the gut microbiome. This review – like the first – concluded that almonds promote the growth of beneficial gut bacteria and boost the production of SCFAs, particularly butyrate. The review also confirmed that eating almonds can support heart health, for example, by lowering “bad” LDL-cholesterol and blood pressure.

The researchers also speculated on whether the impact of almonds on gut health influences heart health. “The gut-heart axis is an emerging and exciting area of interest in cardiovascular research and our literature review suggests almonds may positively affect this,” said Dr. Ravinder Nagpal, co-

author of the paper and Director for The Gut Biome Lab at Florida State University. “Eating almonds appears to regulate the gut microbiome, promotes the growth of beneficial bacteria, and increases the production of butyrate. Collectively, this helps to alleviate inflammation and support metabolic function. This could help to explain the many cardioprotective effects of almonds.”

The researchers acknowledge more research is needed to understand how the gut and heart interact, and the direct impact of almond consumption. The researchers noted a lack of studies looking at how substances produced by gut microbes after eating almonds specifically affect cardiometabolic health³.

Both papers echo the findings in a recently published consensus paper, which confirmed that eating almonds stimulates the growth of beneficial bacteria and the production of SCFAs and other substances that may influence metabolic health³.

How do almonds show prebiotic potential?

Almonds contain several substances that function as prebiotics. These include:

- **Fiber:** Almonds are a good source of dietary fiber with 4g per one ounce serving.
- **Polyphenols:** Almonds contain polyphenols that according to the research team “exhibit prebiotic-like effects by selectively promoting the growth of beneficial gut bacteria and modulating the microbiome through their antioxidant (vitamin E) and antimicrobial activity.”
- **Oligosaccharides (Non-Digestible Carbohydrates):** These carbohydrates help feed beneficial bacteria in the gut.

One ounce (28 g) of almonds provides 6g of protein, 4g of fiber, 13g of unsaturated fat, only 1g of saturated fat, and 15 essential nutrients, including 77mg magnesium (18.3% DV), 210mg potassium (4%DV), and 7.27mg vitamin E (50% DV). They make a great snack, are perfect for topping cereal or yogurt, and are a delicious addition to stir fries, curries and salads.



ROSS W. LEE, INC
A Professional Law Corporation

*Serving the business law
needs of agricultural
clients since 1992*



MS GW ATWOOD DESIRE

Ross W. Lee
Attorney at Law

611 Thirteenth Street Modesto, CA 95354
p. (209) 521-9190 | f. (209) 521-9192

Rlee@LeemodeLaw.com
<https://leemodelaw.com>



NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2025

5:30pm - Thanksgiving Style Dinner

Bring a side or dessert to share!

Hart-Ransom Elementary School
3930 Shoemake Ave, Modesto



Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
1201 L Street
Modesto, Ca 95354
(209) 522-7278

Event Details:

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

Hart Ransom Elementary School
3930 Shoemake Ave, Modesto

5:30 Thanksgiving Dinner & Kid's Raffle!

Election to follow

Directors up for Re-Election:

- Keri Layne
- Tom Ulm
- Jake Wenger

RSVP:

Call (209) 522-7278 to RSVP or scan the QR code.



Bring a side or dessert to share!

Donations for Raffle encouraged.

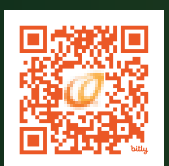


CULTIVATING A HEALTHIER FUTURE

THE ALMOND CONFERENCE

Bringing together growers and other industry stakeholders to serve as the premier gathering for networking, education and research in the almond industry.

DECEMBER 10-12, 2025
SAFE Credit Union Convention Center
Downtown Sacramento, CA



DON'T MISS OUT—LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT
ALMONDS.ORG/CONFERENCE



Fast Facts About Agriculture & Food

- 1.9 million farms dot America's rural landscape, and 95% are operated by families – individuals, family partnerships or family corporations (USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022).
- Family farms and ranches account for 90% of total agricultural production value.
- Farmers and ranchers receive only 15 cents (on average) out of every retail dollar spent on food at home and away from home. The rest goes for costs beyond the

farm gate: wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution.

- 30% of all farmers are beginning farmers (in business less than 10 years); their average age is 47.
- 9% of U.S. farmers are serving or have served in the military.
- Americans enjoy a food supply that is abundant, affordable and among the world's safest, thanks in large part to the efficiency and productivity of America's farm and ranch families.

• One acre of land can grow a variety of crops, including 50,000 pounds of strawberries or 2,784 pounds (46.4 bushels) of wheat.

- One day's production for a high-producing dairy cow yields 4.8 pounds of butter, 8.7 gallons of ice cream or 10.5 pounds of cheese.
- Farm and ranch families comprise less than 2% of the U.S. population.
- Of the 11% of disposable income Americans spend on food each year, the dollars are split fairly evenly between food eaten at home and dining out, takeout or delivery.

• Many Americans celebrate holidays with food, spending a total of nearly \$14 billion each year.



- **Aemetis Biogas LLC**, Keyes 497-4034
- **American AgCredit**, Turlock 667-5101
- **Basi Insurance**, Oakdale (209) 847-3065
- **Bays Ranch**, Westley 894-3472
- **BBSI**, Modesto 576-0322
- **Beard Land Improvement Co**, Modesto 524-4631
- **Burchell Nursery**, Oakdale 845-8733
- **Cortez Growers Association**, Turlock 632-3118
- **Flory Industries**, Salida 545-1167
- **Frantz Nursery**, Hickman 874-1459
- **Grower Direct Nut Company**, Hughson 883-4890
- **Gonzalves Ranch**, Modesto 765-1142
- **Halden Ford**, Oakdale 847-0356
- **Heinrich Farms Inc**, Modesto 595-2207
- **Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.**, Hilmar 667-6076
- **InsureCAL Insurance Agency**, Turlock 250-0269
- **Mapes Ranch**, Modesto 522-1762
- **MidValley Agricultural Services Inc**, Oakdale 851-3200
- **Modesto Battery**, Modesto 538-9041
- **Modesto & Empire Tractor Co.**, Modesto 524-4631
- **Nationwide Insurance**, Sacramento (530) 701-4486
- **PG&E**, Modesto 726-6303
- **Sharon Naraghi Farms**, 577-5777
- **Sierra Grain Terminal**, Turlock 667-2002
- **Stanislaus County Sheriff's Dept.**, Modesto 525-7117
- **Stanislaus Food Products**, Modesto 548-3400
- **TriCal Inc**, Oakdale 831-245-7611
- **TSM Insurance**, Modesto 524-6366
- **Yosemite Farm Credit**, Turlock 667-2366
- **Wenger Ranch Inc.**, Modesto 576-7111
- **Winton Ireland Strom & Green**, Turlock 667-0995

Insurance

- **DiBudo & DeFendis**, Fresno 557-2759
- **GD Insurance Agency**, Turlock 991-2929
- **Hoobler Insurance Services**, Patterson 601-0418
- **InterWest Insurance Services**, Walnut Creek 530-520-2582
- **LG Crop Ins.**, Turlock 262-8140

Construction/Engineering

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

Farms/Balises

- **Ahlem Foothill Farm**, Turlock 874-2477
- **Bobby Yamamoto Farms**, Westley 835-1750
- **Braden Farms**, Hughson 883-4061
- **Brian Stewart**, Oakdale 847-8025

Non-Profit

- **Almond Alliance**, Modesto 559-5800
- **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

Irrigation/Utilities

- **Customized Water System**, Turlock 988-4833
- **Don Pedro Pumps**, Turlock 632-3161
- **LI Larges 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

Nurseries/Horticulture

- **Blumen Flower Farm**, Modesto 648-8995
- **Duarte Nursery**, Hughson 531-0351
- **Park Greenhouse**, Ripon 599-7545
- **Roots Tree Nursery**, Empire 847-2520
- **Morris Nursery**, Riverbank 527-5553
- **Zaiger's Genetics**, Modesto 522-1075

Safety

- **AgSafe**, Modesto 526-4400
- **Cal Ag Safety**, Oakdale 351-7092
- **Adian Equine**, Oakdale 847-8258
- **Dairy Veterinary Services**, Escalon 551-3949
- **Zotts**, 1-888-963-8471

- **Linda Squires Insurance Agency**, Hughson 652-
- **Rico Pflizer Pires Insurance Agency**, Gustine 854-2000
- **Western Valley Insurance Associates**, Turlock 634-9031
- **Winton Ireland Strom & Green**, Turlock, Modesto, Livingston and Hilmar 667-0995

Feed/Farm Supplies

- **A.L. Gilbert**, Keyes 632-2333
- **Conlin Supply**, Oakdale 847-9977
- **NuWest Milling LLC**, Hughson 883-1163

- **Catherine Phipps Walden**, Ballico 667-2409
- **D & M Ag.**, Denair 667-7783
- **Donlon Farms Inc.**, Patterson 892-8543
- **E Roen Ranches**, Winnemucca 614-5944
- **Fowler Brother Farming**, Waterford 409-4951

- **Oakdale Chamber of Commerce**, Oakdale 847-2244

- **Clark Pest Control**, Modesto 556-5200
- **Cover Specialty Services**, Modesto 988-3864
- **Ex OpCo LLC**, Modesto 544-8600
- **Farm Legacy Advisors**, San Ramon (925) 659-0372
- **Randal Edwards**, Hilmar 634-9484

- **Bevette Petroleum**, Modesto 281-7134
- **George W. Lowry**, Salida 545-0791
- **Valley Pacific Petroleum**, Stockton (209) 948-9412
- **Van de Pol Enterprises**, Keyes 667-0236

Veterinary

Attorney

- **Berliner Cohen**, Modesto 576-0111
- **Ross W. Lee**, Modesto 521-9190
- **Jensen & Jensen**, Modesto 529-0791

Equipment & Repair

- **Acosta & Daughters LLC**, Waterford 872-4815
- **Clear Innovation**, Ceres 595-0338
- **Coll & Hayes LLC**, Modesto 985-0559
- **Garton Tractor Inc.**, Turlock 632-3931

McManis Farms Inc

- **Robert Gioietti**, Turlock 667-6024
- **Ron Martella Farms**, Hughson 883-4819
- **Piazza Ranch**, Denair 678-0787
- **Schut Ranches**, Patterson 892-6226
- **S & S Dairy Inc**, Modesto
- **Starkey & Lucas Farming & Cattle**, Ceres 484-0671
- **Stewart Johnson**, Ceres 602-8899
- **Walter Nicolau**, Denair 538-7600
- **Weaver Bros**, Crows Landing 854-6716
- **Wyeth Dairy Inc.**, Modesto 545-2101

Ag Services

- **Anteris**, Turlock (559) 472-6415
- **Capacity Chemical**, Westley 231-3297
- **East Valley Ag Corporation**, Modesto 606-0549
- **Exact**, Modesto 544-8600
- **FISHBIO**, Oakdale 847-6300
- **Hughes Ag Service**, Modesto 765-6075
- **Recology Inc**, Westley 395-9506
- **Rumble Ag Service**, Modesto 545-1848

Misc. Services

- **R & J Avila**, Hilmar 678-1723
- **Rocha's Valley Enterprises**, Oakdale 581-1473
- **Smith Chevrolet Co Inc.**, Turlock 632-3946
- **Terra West Group**, Turlock 668-0955
- **Becerra Farm Services**, Oakdale 380-0448
- **Benchmark Farm Management**, Riverbank 869-4290
- **Grover Farm Management**, Modesto 602-3031
- **Mike Gorrazi Consulting**, Modesto 499-4898
- **TriNut Farm Management**, Ceres 431-3425

Petroleum

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

Processors

- **The Fruit Yard**, Modesto 577-3093
- **Rodin Ranch**, Modesto 577-3224

For the good of your food.



Linda Squires
INSURANCE AGENCY LLC

Crop Insurance Specialists Since 1981

REMINDERS

- ALMONDS/PISTACHIOS
 - SALES CLOSING DATE: 12/31
- WALNUTS/GRAPES
 - SALES CLOSING DATE: 01/31
- DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS
 - REQ'S FOR MAINTAINING COVERAGE



CONTACT US TODAY

Linda Squires

209-652-6856

Linda@LSquiresCropInsurance.com

James Piersma

209-252-1209

James@LSquiresCropInsurance.com

LSQUIRESCROPINSURANCE.COM
LIC#6016853

VERMEULEN
ALMOND HULLING

Modesto, CA

HARVEST • TRUCKING • HULLING • SHELLING
ONE CALL CAN DO IT ALL

Fast, Efficient Processing
No Long-Term Stockpiling

Color-Sorted Meat & In-Shell Lines

Committed to Quality & Precision

(209) 988-3661

Call Paul Vermeulen today to plan your
harvest, hulling, & shelling needs!

BEST CHOICES & SERVICE

ORDER NOW
2026
ORDER NOW

SELF-FERTILE ALMOND VARIETIES



SHASTA®



PYRÉNÉES®



YORIZANE



EARLYBIRD®



NONPAREIL



WOOD COLONY



FRITZ



CARMEL



BUTTE



MONTEREY



PADRE



ALDRICH



Healthy Start Trees™

Replanting **NOW** or planning for
TOMORROW Burchell has the most
sought after bare root and potted
Healthy Start™ virus FREE almond
varieties on the rootstocks you need!



BURCHELL NURSERY

800-828-TREE  BURCHELLNURSERY.COM