

VOTE **NO** on PROP 50

Protect Rural Representation



Official Publication of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
Vol.76 No.15 October 10, 2025

Vote NO on Prop 50, see page 19
Celebrating Stanislaus County 4-H Youth in this Issue

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.

My BIG 4-H Year

By: Aldon A. A.

This year has been a BIG and busy year. This year I have been President of Patterson 4-H club, participated in many club activities such as ice skating, the lingua fundraiser, the end of the year party, and fair. There are also many opportunities at the county and state level in 4-H that I took advantage of including helping to organize a county wide photography competition, participating in multiple Presentation days and competing at State Field Day in various activities offered there. I also completed my level 4 proficiency for Beef cattle this

year, which is the highest level offered at the county 4-H proficiency day. At the fair I earned multiple awards, such as 4th place intermediate showman, Supreme Champion Beef Bull, and Outstanding Beef Exhibitor. During the Beef Supporters Carcass Contest, I won Super Steer, and Rate of Gain. All of my many activities have helped me grow in many ways.

First, I was elected President at age 12. This was a BIG surprise for me. Sometimes I wished I didn't accept the nomination due to challenges I faced, but now, I am glad I accepted as I learned a lot. I learned about being a leader, trying to work with different people with different opinions

and different ideas. Being the president taught me how to run a meeting and try to keep it going. I also learned what it means to micromanage, which could be a BIG problem as it interrupts the flow and process of learning. It is much harder to work and accomplish what needs to be done in these situations. My role as president was a large contribution to making this year a BIG year.

Besides being president of my 4-H

group, my BIG year included many different activities. As a leader I found the best way to lead is to lead by example. I participated in many activities from my club to state wide, from a day of ice skating to state field day with the Avian Bowl and presentations at UC Davis. I learned that you can't have fun if you are not doing anything and you can't learn anything without doing something. This is a BIG piece of advice: Do something and then DO MORE THINGS. We can only achieve when we try and if we are not working on making things better then change will never happen. Truly, I have found that doing lots of different activities have helped me have a good year. These activities have improved my public speaking confidence, leadership skills and helped me grow as a person. The opportunities I took advantage of through 4-H have been a BIG contribution to making this year a BIG year.

To wrap up my BIG year, I showed at the fair. Showing at the fair is a BIG commitment and you can't just show up. It takes time, practice, and preparation. This year we had no poultry, which was disappointing for me. I enjoy showing poultry, but I still had beef cattle to show so I kept going. You can't give up. Giving up is a BIG mistake. Fair isn't just about the ribbons, the belt buckles, the rewards, or the money. It's about the sweat, the tears, the life lessons, the BIG mistakes, and coming out as a better person than the person who went in. Maybe I did win 4th place intermediate showmanship in a huge class, maybe I did win Supreme Champion Beef Bull, maybe I did win Outstanding Exhibitor, maybe I did win Rate of Gain, and maybe I did win the Super Steer but, even though those are exciting accomplishments, all that is beside the point. The point is that I learned life lessons and I came out a better person than I was before. At the end of the day, the self-assurance, perseverance and work ethic learned, make the experience worth every moment and this was a huge contribution to making this year a BIG year.

Thank you very much for reading about my BIG year of growth in my leadership, tenacity and confidence.



**By: Cailin Casey
Stanislaus County Resource
Leader**

Our County 4-H program offers a wide variety of animal projects for its members, but not all members can raise a large animal; some because of housing, others because of the cost of the project or just the confidence needed to raise an animal. I am part of a group of leaders and youth who currently sit on the Stanislaus County 4-H Small Animal Committee. This committee offers skills events for members, assistance with project meetings, proficiency testing and showmanship workshops. All small animal information and study materials are updated and made current every year, following the first committee meeting and posted on the Stanislaus County 4-H website for members and leaders to use.

Small animals such as poultry, rabbits, dogs and caviés make great projects for members who are interested in raising animals. These projects teach members how to properly house, feed and care for an animal. Members learn how to do health examinations on their animals early on in their project, this is re-enforced through their showmanship routines. When a small animal participant enters the showmanship ring, they are one on one with their judge. During showmanship, the member will examine their animal explaining to the judge what they are doing during their examination. Not only does this



show the judge what the members have learned about their project, but it helps the members improve and build on their presentation and public speaking skills.

Members enrolled in these projects also learn breeding and management. They raise animals for shows, pets and meat production. Most participate not only at our County Fair show, but also at shows hosted by various clubs throughout the State to promote their species. Many of them participate in outreach events hosted by schools and other organizations to promote their small animal projects and the 4-H program. If a member is interested in raising an animal, a small animal is a good project to start with. Working with a small animal will give a member the confidence to move on to a large animal if that is what they

choose to do.

The Stanislaus County 4-H Small Animal Committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the County Ag. Center on Cornucopia Way. Our committee is made up of an overall chairperson and 4 adult and 6 youth species chairmen, and is open to all leaders and members in the County. If anyone is interested in a small animal project, they can contact the County 4-H Office and asked to be put in contact with our Small Animal Chairperson.



SMART BUSINESS STRATEGIES: SUCCESSION, CASH FLOW & TAXES

~ Join the Webinar ~

Register Here!





**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12TH
9:30AM ~ 10:30AM**

**ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL (OB3)
~ LET'S TALK UPDATES ~**

-  **Succession Planning**
~ What it means for your legacy
-  **Farming by the Numbers**
~ Cash flow, compliance & more
-  **Tax Updates**
~ What you need to know





Fall into 4-H By Heartlyn Gerhardt

The 4-H 2025-2026 year has begun and it's too late to join a local club and finds your spark in one of the many projects offered. My personal spark is art, where I can be creative throughout the year, then enter the items I made in the Stanislaus County Fair.

I am excited to share Westport 4-H has already built a Humpty Dumpty scare crow that is on display and Fantozzi Pumpkin Patch through the month of October, we are

entry #25. Stop by and vote for us. We also hosted a petting zoo at the VFW chili cook off in Modesto where we enjoyed showing off our animals and interacting with the community.

We are preparing to celebrate National 4-H Week, October 5th-11th where each day we have an event scheduled.

Save the date for our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, it's on November 23rd. If you're interested in being a sponsor, donating to the

silent auction or purchasing tickets, contact Heartlyn or Cheryl at (209) 652-2118.

To learn more about 4-H and all the local 4-H clubs available go to CA4-H.org or call (209) 525-6800.

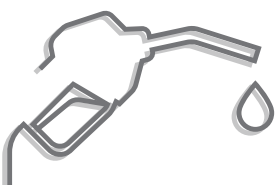


MIKE HEINRICH

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

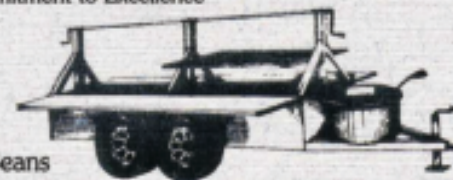
www.DenairLumberCo.com

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



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

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



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

Understanding Evapotranspiration and Growing Degree Days for Managing Irrigation and Crop Development

Zheng Wang, UCCE Stanislaus Farm Advisor – Vegetable Crops and Irrigation

We keep saying that every season is different in terms of precipitation, temperature,

heat waves, and pathogenic pressure. These various conditions impact crop growth and development and how growers apply water for irrigation. For example, reductions of irrigation at early to mid-stages of crop growth make total sense with tremendous amount of pre- and early-season precipitation. Also, lower daily temperatures during crops' critical growth stages may delay crop maturity and harvest. Overall, irrigation needs to be applied based on

crop growth stage and demand, while crop growth and irrigation demand are impacted by weather-related metrics, such as heat accumulation and plant evapotranspiration. Heat accumulation can be tracked by Growing Degree Days (GDD) while evapotranspiration (ET) measures water loss from soil as evaporation and plant as transpiration. Understanding both weather-related metrics can help optimize irrigation and follow crop development.

$$\text{Equation 1. } ET_{\text{crop}} = ET_{\text{ref}} \times K_{\text{crop}}$$

ET_{crop} is the actual evapotranspiration of the crop (water loss).

ET_{ref} or ET_0 is the reference evapotranspiration near the field, which is a measure of the water that is lost from a specific type of vegetated surface, such as well-maintained grass. In California, ET_{ref} can be accessed through California Irrigation Management Information System (<https://cimis.water.ca.gov/WSNReportCriteria.aspx>).

K_{crop} is called Crop Coefficient which relates to the canopy development and coverage over the crop cycle. The Crop Coefficient is used to adjust the ET_{ref} to reflect the actual water use of the particular crop.

ET-based irrigation

We always hear the term "ET-based irrigation". It is not difficult to understand that ET is used to determine crop water requirements at different growth stages and apply irrigation accordingly to meet the demand and prevent over or short supply. However, calculations of crop ET are complex, requiring the utilization of special equipment for field measurement or online models and databases. Overall, crop ET can be calculated by Equation 1 (see left).

However, in most cases, crop ET is not necessarily equal to the actual amount of irrigation that needs to apply to the crop, which is also influenced by precipitation between two irrigation events, irrigation distribution uniformity, and leaching factor. Therefore, the actual recommended irrigation amount is calculated by Equation 2 (see page 9).

Now, let's look at Growing Degree Days (GDD) that is used to estimate crop growth and development during the growing season and help growers make strategic decisions such as planting and harvest date, variety selection, irrigation, and nutrient applications. Crops require a certain amount of cumulative heat to progress from one growth stage to the next and then to maturity. May to July are the key months for warm-season vegetable growth and development in the valley. Frequent days with low maximum and minimum daily temperatures during these months delay the overall crop development and maturity due to low accumulated GDD. The chart

See 'UCCE' on page 9



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



RUMBLE
ORCHARD SERVICES

Topping & Hedging
(Fall 2021: Hedging Down to 2')

Skirting

**Dual Mechanical
Brush Stacking**

**Almond/Walnut
Conditioning**

**Orchard
Management**



Phil Rumble:
(209) 996-1517

Matt Rumble:
(209) 996-8161



Cultivating the Future ~ The Legacy of 4-H in Stanislaus County

Written by Kathryn Kim Ramos, Sisbro Innovation Website and Digital Marketing Consultant

Empowering Youth Across Modesto and the Central Valley

When you think of the heart of the Central Valley, visions of fertile farmland, tight-knit rural communities, and a strong agricultural legacy come to mind. And nestled within that legacy is one of the most impactful youth organizations in America, 4-H. In Stanislaus County, 4-H has been helping shape young leaders for over a century, instilling values of responsibility, resilience, and community service.

A Rich History in Stanislaus County

The 4-H movement began in the early 1900s, born from a desire to connect public school education with real-world agricultural knowledge. In Stanislaus County, one of California's most agriculturally rich regions, the program found fertile ground, both literally and figuratively.

Stanislaus quickly became a hub for 4-H clubs as farming families sought ways for their children to learn science, leadership, and practical skills beyond the classroom. Over the decades, 4-H has grown into a vibrant network across Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, and smaller towns and rural communities throughout the county.

From livestock raising to home economics, robotics, gardening, and public speaking, 4-H in Stanislaus County offers youth a broad and inclusive platform to explore their passions while developing confidence and character.

More Than Animals and Agriculture

While many people associate 4-H with raising pigs or showing sheep at the Stanislaus County Fair, the program is far more diverse. Today's 4-H members also explore STEM projects, environmental science, entrepreneurship, and healthy living. Clubs have evolved to meet the changing interests and needs of youth in the Central Valley, giving kids a chance to prepare for careers in both agriculture and high-tech fields.

The University of California Cooperative Extension plays a key role in supporting 4-H programs in Stanislaus, providing resources and trained volunteers to mentor and guide young members.

A Community That Shows Up
The success of 4-H wouldn't be possible without

the continued support of the local community. Families, alumni, schools, and agricultural businesses across Stanislaus County actively invest time, money, and resources into helping 4-H thrive.

At county fairs and community events, 4-H members showcase their projects, not only competing but also educating the public and raising funds for future initiatives. Local service organizations, feed stores, and business leaders often sponsor 4-H events or donate supplies. This collaboration highlights the strong bond between the youth of 4-H and the broader Modesto and Central Valley community.

4-H families also give back, volunteering at food drives, beautifying local parks, and taking part in civic projects. It's this cycle of giving and growing that makes 4-H such a vital part of Stanislaus County's identity.

Investing in the Next Generation

As the world becomes more digital, 4-H continues to adapt, offering online resources, virtual events, and embracing new technologies to stay relevant. But at its core, 4-H remains grounded in the values that built this region: hard work, leadership, and community.

Whether you're a lifelong resident of Stanislaus County or new to the Modesto area, attending a local 4-H showcase or supporting a young member is a wonderful way to stay connected to the heart of the Central Valley.

Elevate your company's online presence with the professional solutions offered by Sisbro Innovation. Our comprehensive services include new website development, existing website enhancements, Online Reputation Management, AI Virtual Assistant support to streamline customer interactions and improve responsiveness. Visit us at www.sisbroinnovation.com, or contact us directly at (800) 291-9102. For a tailored approach, call Kathryn Ramos at (719) 237-9155 to schedule your FREE consultation today.

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

Equation 2.
$$\text{Irrigation amount} = \text{Total Crop ET} + \{[(\text{Distribution uniformity}) \times (1 - \text{Leaching factor})] - \text{Total precipitation}\}$$

The total Crop ET is the product of average ET_{crop} , average crop coefficient, and days since last irrigation.

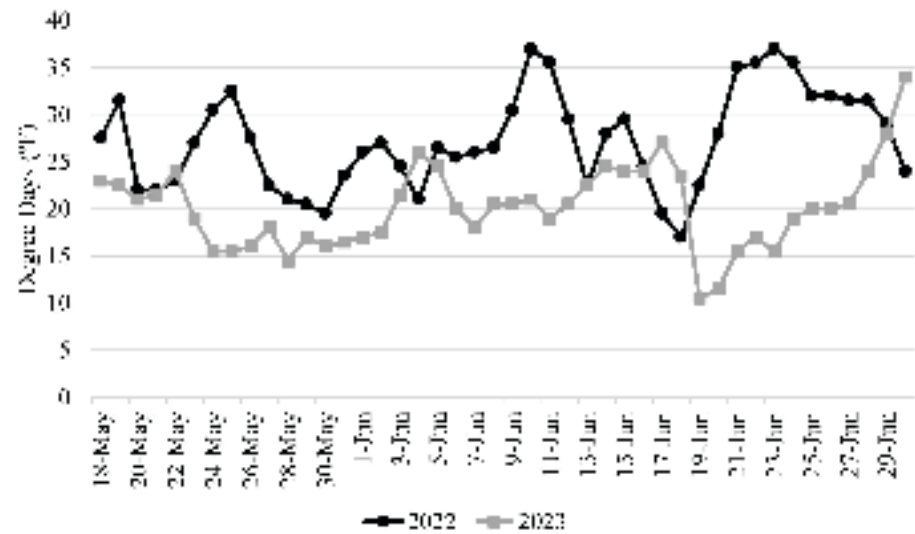
Distribution uniformity (DU) refers to how water is applied across a field and varies by irrigation method. Practically, DU is below 1 (100%) but with well-managed drip irrigation systems usually delivering a high DU around 90%.

Leaching factor, also known as leaching fraction, refers to the proportion of applied irrigation water that drains over the root zone. Maintaining a decent leaching fraction is necessary to remove salt from the root zone, preventing from over accumulation in the rhizosphere. A leaching fraction of 10-20% is usually targeted.

Example: A processing tomato grower tries to schedule the next irrigation for his processing tomato field, which will be 2 days from the previous one. On the day of irrigation, he knows that the average daily reference ET and Crop Coefficient during the past 2 days are 0.29 inch/day and 1. The field uses sub-surface drip irrigation with the tested DU 90%. The field has a leaching fraction of 10%. There was no precipitation over these days. How much water should the grower apply?

below obviously demonstrates a trend of much lower daily GDD from mid-May to June 30 in 2023 (a wet year) vs. the same time-frame in 2022 (a dry year) (Figure 1). Cumulatively, there were 310 degree-days lower in 2023

Sum of total 4442.5 3859.5 +583



vs. 2022 for this 1.5-month period. Actually, if we zoom in over the entire season (April 1 to September 30), July 2023 is the only month with cumulative GDD slightly higher than 2022 (Table 1). According to our research records, in the season of 2023, watermelon consumed 30-40% less irrigation water on average than in 2022, while processing tomato used 20% less irrigation than in 2022 on average. For watermelons, 2023 harvests in some fields delayed up to 10 days than the same varieties in 2022. Using these comparisons back to 2022 and 2023 demonstrates the impact of GDD on crop production and input applications. The calculation of GDD is closely varied by the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, which are explained in Equations 3-5 (see below).

In summary, understanding these two important weather-associated metrics can not only help with scheduling and optimizing irrigation but also with predicting crop maturity and deploying labor for harvest as well as managing crop health and controlling pest issues.

Figure 1. Comparison of daily growing degree days from May 18 to June 30 in 2022 and 2023 based in Modesto, CA.

Table 1. Monthly GDD (°F) between April and September in 2022 and 2023 based in Modesto, CA.

Month	2022	2023	Difference
April	388	250	+138
May	629	467.5	+161.5
June	850	627	+223
July	872.5	948	-75.5
August	903.5	918.5	-15
September	799.5	648.5	+151

Equation 3.
$$GDD = \frac{T_{max} + T_{min}}{2} - T_{base}; \text{ if } T_{base} < \frac{T_{max} + T_{min}}{2} < T_{upper}$$

Equation 4.
$$GDD = T_{upper} - T_{base}; \text{ if } \frac{T_{max} + T_{min}}{2} \geq T_{upper}$$

Equation 5.
$$GDD = 0; \text{ if } \frac{T_{max} + T_{min}}{2} \leq T_{base}$$

T_{max} and T_{min} are the maximum and minimum daily temperature. T_{base} and T_{upper} are the base temperature and the maximum limit temperature that a crop can grow under. It is a cut-off value, which assumes that degree days above this limit are not counted. Here, we define T_{base} as 50 °F (10 °C) for most warm season vegetables and T_{upper} as 90 °F (32.2 °C) for processing tomatoes



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

Hi, my name is Isabell Hayes and I have been a member of the Newman 4-H Club for 10 years; I joined 4-H in the 3rd grade. I was a primary member for one year, then transitioned into the regular 4-H program.

As a 4-H member, I have taken many different projects through the years. I am most known for my rabbit and public speaking projects. I raise Himalayan rabbits, and continue to promote the rabbit project through my speeches, presentations and workshops. I have held several officers' positions in my club throughout the years, most recently Reporter/Historian which I took on last year and now again this year. I have served on countless club committees and several county committees through the years, receiving my Emerald Star for promoting proper care of domestic rabbits. I hold a platinum star rank.

I have given presentations locally, at county, regional and state events, winning medals along the way at every event. I attended many conferences, my favorite being Youth Summit, which sadly, we no longer have.

I am telling you a brief history of my 4-H years, because this is my last 4-H year. I am currently attending Stan-State, studying nursing.

Using the public speaking skills I learned in the program, I have been able to promote the things I believe in and teach others the skills I have learned. There are many opportunities for youth, young and old in

the 4-H program. Our County has great Hi 4-H and Ambassador programs for older members to participate in. Primary members learn about all of the things that 4-H has to offer, then they transition into active and productive 4-H members, representing their clubs and communities. The 4-H program is changing in California, but if we keep the values that we have been taught and remember to promote "Learn by Doing" we can continue the legacy of the 4-H program and "Make the Best, Better."

I am planning for a great 2025-2026 program year, and am sad to say it is my last year.



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

My Experience in the River Oaks 4-H Dog Project and Stanislaus County Fair Dog Show

Hi! I'm Hannah Fletcher and I'm with River Oaks 4H in Oakdale. This past year I participated in our club's Dog Project. Participating in the Dog Project has been one of the most rewarding and educational experiences of my life. Through this project, I not only built a stronger bond with my dog but also gained confidence, responsibility, and new skills that I'll carry with me for years to come.

When I first joined the dog project, I didn't realize how much time and dedication it would take. Training began months before

the fair, and it required consistency, patience, and a lot of positive reinforcement. I worked on basic obedience with my dog — commands like sit, stay, heel, and come — and gradually moved on to more advanced skills. We also practiced showmanship, where I learned how to present my dog to a judge, keep my dog focused in the ring, and answer questions about dog care, breeds, and training.

Leading up to the fair, my 4-H club held weekly practices. These meetings were incredibly helpful because I got feedback from leaders and could see how other members were progressing. I also learned about grooming, health care, and proper nutrition, which helped me keep my dog in

top shape.

The day of the Stanislaus County Fair dog show was both exciting and nerve-wracking. I dressed in proper show attire and made sure my dog was clean, brushed, and ready to shine. When we stepped into the ring for the first time, I felt a rush of adrenaline. My dog performed well in obedience, and we managed to stay focused even with all the distractions around us. In the showmanship portion, I did my best to keep calm, make eye contact with the judge, and present my dog with confidence.

The best part of the day wasn't even about ribbons or awards — although earning one

See 'Oaks' on page 12

MAKE LONG-LASTING MEMORIES



Speed Queen



**PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST IRRIGATION**



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

From 'Oaks' on page 11

was definitely a proud moment. We were able to bring home the Advanced Showmanship Award and Novice Obedience Award. What meant the most to me was seeing how far my dog and I had come as a team. We started the project as a pair who barely understood each other, and by the time of the show, we were working in sync.

Beyond the competition, I also loved being part of the 4-H community. I met new friends who shared my interests, and we supported each other throughout the event. We celebrated each other's wins and learned from our mistakes.

Looking back, the River Oaks 4-H Dog Project taught me more than just how to train a dog — it taught me about perseverance, sportsmanship, and the importance of hard work. I'm already looking forward to next year's project and everything it will bring.



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/)



WESTERN VALLEY INSURANCE • Agriculture
 • Commercial
 • Home
 • Auto
 • Health

WESTERN VALLEY INSURANCE
 Lic#0649647

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



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

Visit agloan.com/growyourfuture



SCAN ME

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



October 23, 2025 Hazardous Ag Materials (HAM)

9:00-10:30am - Spanish

10:30-12:00pm - English

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

Pricing: Member \$40/Nonmember \$50

STANISLAUS COUNTY



AG WORKFORCE SECTOR SESSION

2026 UPDATES

REGISTRATION
CODE:
PARTNER100

NOVEMBER
6TH
MODESTO
CENTER
PLAZA



SECTOR SESSION AROUND LUNCHTIME AT
THE CENTRAL VALLEY BUSINESS EXPO
GUEST SPEAKER, BRYAN LITTLE - 2026 UPDATES

Register here!



SCAN HERE

G3 HAS BEEN HAULING CALIFORNIA'S HARVEST FOR OVER 40 YEARS.

We're large enough to serve and small enough to care.



G3 Enterprises knows how to move your product with efficiency and care. We are ag hauling experts with equipment and capacity to haul year-round from field to processor, to packer and on as finished goods. Let's put G3 InG3nuity to work for you — Visit G3Enterprises.com/AG-Hauling



Hello, my name is Mikaela Azevedo and I am the Reporter for Shiloh 4-H. Our first meeting was on Monday, September 7, 2025. I have attached a few pictures of our first meeting. As you will see we have some tables with all the leaders so that parents and members alike could ask questions directly to the leaders to gather more information. There is a picture of a 4-H members speaking along with a picture of our officers. All the officers have a green balloon so that all 4-H members know that they are officers and can ask them questions if they have any. There is also a picture of the officers leading the meeting. We have great things happening and I will continue sending out what are club is doing.




AI Virtual Assistance! Integration Services

Our AI services are a smart, affordable way to give your business round-the-clock support without the hefty price tag. They handle calls, messages, appointment scheduling, and customer follow-ups to keep operations running smoothly 24/7 all for a fraction of traditional staffing.

See our AI Assistant in action and discover how it can save you time & money!
Check our Demo line today!

- ✓ Call: (209) 353-8181
- ✓ Follow the Voice Prompts and give details about your company.
- ✓ Chat naturally with Liora, just like a customer.
- ✓ 24/7 Customer Support Automation

Want your own AI Agent?  Call today to schedule an appointment.
(800) 291-9102 or (719) 237-9155

www.SisbroInnovation.com



Harvest Party

Nov. 8th, 2025
MJC West Campus
2201 Blue Gum Ave.
Modesto, CA 95330

Get your tickets now!

Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities available:

- Individual \$75
- Reserved Tables of Eight \$750*
- Reserved seating.

For tickets & sponsorship information, scan QR Code.
*A portion of your ticket sponsorship is tax deductible.

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE | School of Agriculture
209-573-4266 | mjc.edu/events/harvestparty
napoleon@csosmjc.edu

- 5:00 p.m. Hosted Beer & Wine Social
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Live Dessert Auction
- 8:00 p.m. After-Dinner Social & Dance

Hi my name is Olivia Casey, and I am the current Social Media Manager for the Stanislaus County Hi 4-H Program. For those of you who do not know what Hi 4-H is, Hi 4-H is a leadership program for members who are 13-19 years old. Hi 4-H members meet once a month in addition to their regular club meetings. As a group, Hi 4-H members come together to plan fun age-related activities, volunteer for community service, host speakers with current relative topics and plan and participate in educational and fun trips and events. These activities serve as bonding experiences for all who participate. Members from all over the county participate, they learn about each other's projects, goals and share differences and similarities in their beliefs.

Our Hi 4-H group plans regular trips to Snow Camp at Camp Sylvester, trips to Monterey and visits to Columbia and Sonora to name a few. We attend conferences like State Leadership Conference at UC Davis and even IGNITE conference held in Washington DC. One of our biggest adventures, is our Exchange Program. Every other year, members from our Hi 4-H group host a 4-Her from out of State and the following year, our members go to their State. This year I was able to travel to Montana with our group. It was a great experi-

ence and one that I would recommend to anyone. This is one of those opportunities where you make new friends that you will have forever.

Our group has only one fundraiser a year to support our travel and adventures, that is the Milk Bar at the Stanislaus County Fair. Members from the group all help in various ways to keep the milk bar running from the day before Fair begins, until the day after it ends. The hard work brings us all together with one common goal, to keep our Hi 4-H program up and running and to keep our members participating in conferences and trips that spark their interest and keep them involved.

This year we will add more community service to our schedules, there are already speakers and programs on the agenda and we are preparing for our next exchange trip, this year we will host families from Michigan. Our "Kick Off" event will be held during National 4-H Week and Hi 4-H Officers and members are looking forward to all of the new members who will be joining us.



I am, Troy Lionudakis, and I like being in 4-H because of my favorite projects including Poultry and Archery. In Poultry, I have started a breeding project and plan to sell Bantam Old English Game Birds. Another reason I like 4-H is because of the friends I've made by going to 4-H Camp and attending both Countywide and State 4-H events, like State Field Day. At State Field Day this year I participated in 4 events: Avian Bowl, Demonstration, Job Interview, and Make Your Own Softie Contest. This past year, I raised a 2nd place Super Steer! He was a handful at times but I also placed 5th in intermediate showmanship at the MJC Beef Showmanship Playday. I've learned something from all my projects, even the ones that weren't my favorite.

I encourage you to join 4-H because it is lots of fun, you'll make lots of new friends, and if you choose to participate in an animal project you might even make some money too or at least learn some responsibility! Participating in 4-H teaches your life skills like taking care of animals, how to make new friends, how to participate in meetings using parliamentary procedures, and to make decisions.



A Bright Future for Agriculture and Youth in Sierra 4-H

The future of agriculture is in good hands, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of young farmers in Sierra 4-H. With over 100 active members, the club continues to thrive across a wide variety of projects throughout the year. Members are regularly involved in community service efforts and countywide events, making a meaningful impact beyond the barnyard. At the 2025 Stanislaus County Fair, Sierra 4-H proudly showcased 91 exhibitors in categories ranging from large and small livestock, welding, Gardening/Ornamental Horticulture, woodworking, arts, and crafts. Their hard work and commitment were recognized with the prestigious John Thurman Award—an honor well deserved. We look forward to a new 4-H year.



Hi, my name is Julian and I am 6 years old. I am in the Newman 4-H Club and I raise cavies. I started raising American cavies in January. My favorite cavy is Tiramisu. She is a broken black American senior sow. I also have red and red roan American cavies.

My favorite thing about 4-H is raising cavies, going to fairs and telling people all about cavies. I like to compete in 4-H showmanship with Tiramisu and dress her up. It's also fun to show my posters at 4-H presentation day to teach people how to take care of cavies and keep them healthy and happy.





Hi, my name is Jody Lionudakis. I'm 13 years old. I show purebred Angus cattle and breed by own Polish rabbits for showing. Westport 4-H is the Community Club that I attend. 4-H has helped me to get where I'm at today, a confident, well spoken, young leader. I love Westport 4-H and how much it has helped me grow, improve, and learn. I look forward to our meetings with monthly activities and competitions. Not only that, there's also County Fair and 4-H Camp. I have many friends (and some family) in 4-H and I make more at each event I attend. Leadership is a life skill I'm working on as Teen Leader for my Cattle and Scrapbooking projects.

Yes, I've now mentioned three projects that keep me busy, but I usually participate in 4 to 5 more as well as participate in County and State events. If you or someone you know are not in 4-H, then you or that someone is missing out on a whole lot of fun and learning. Remember you're never too old to be in 4-H, if you're an adult, that's fine too, because we are always looking for adult volunteers to help at meetings or teach youth what they know or love. Westport 4-H is amazing, we're even nicknamed Club Awesome and you would like it too. If I've sparked your interest, don't take my word for it, come to a meeting, and find out for yourself. Hope to meet you soon!



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



YOUR LEGACY IS OUR LEGACY

inquire now!

№ 1-844-DWN-TREE

DWNTREES.COM

📷 📱 @davewilson

Vote NO on PROP 50!

- Defend Rural Representation. Ensure California's farming and ranching communities are fairly represented in Congress.
- Protect Independence. Keep redistricting in the hands of a nonpartisan commission.
- Prevent Political Games. Stop politicians from drawing districts to benefit themselves.
- Save taxpayer money. Avoid wasting \$250 million on a special election.

Key Dates

- November 4, 2025 – Special Election Day

Why This Matters for Farmers

California's independent redistricting process protects agriculture and rural communities:

- Keeps farming regions whole instead of lumping them into distant urban districts.
- If Prop 50 passes, towns such as Alturas in Modoc County could be represented by a politician hundreds of miles away in

Sausalito who may share little in common. Voting no ensures rural constituents can elect leaders who understand issues such as water resources, land use and food production.

"Rural representation is critical in government. Prop 50 will hurt farmers and ranchers by silencing the rural vote and removing the independent commission from the longstanding, voter-approved process. Politicians should never draw their own districts to favor political parties and themselves."

— Shannon Douglass, President of the California Farm Bureau

Bottom Line

Prop 50 is a direct attack on fair maps and rural California. Independent redistricting works. Voters trust the process. Farmers need representatives who understand agriculture. Join us and vote NO on Prop 50. Together, we can protect rural voices and keep California's elections fair.

LEADERS IN NUT HARVESTING EQUIPMENT



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



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

Serving the agricultural industry since 1936



CONLIN SUPPLY

Sign of Quality, Value & Service

ANIMAL HEALTH - FENCING - RANCH & HOME

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

LIVESTOCK HANDING - HARDWARE - CLOTHING

WWW.CONLINSUPPLY.COM

Organic rice sector suffers growing pains
 Despite strong demand for organic food products, some California organic rice farmers have struggled to compete with imports that have depressed prices. As a result, some organic growers in the Sacramento Valley said they don't expect domestic production of organic rice to expand, at least in the near future. "Organic is definitely crashing and burning in California," said Christopher Lopes, who farms regenerative organic rice with his father, Bruce, near Princeton in Colusa County. They pointed to imports from Argentina and Southeast Asia, which have flooded the market with inexpensive organic rice. The father-son team had been growing for a Sacramento Valley rice mill, which told them just before planting there would be no contracts for organic rice this year. In California, organic rice represents about 3.5%, or 21,000 acres, of the state's total rice acreage of more than 500,000 this season.

Backlash mounts against Proposition 50 in rural California

With Californians beginning this week to cast their votes on Proposition 50, groups representing rural constituents are pushing back against the ballot measure, which would allow the state Legislature to draw new congressional maps. The proposition was crafted by California Democrats—and championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom—in response to President Donald Trump urging Texas

and other Republican-controlled states to redraw their congressional maps to benefit Republicans. California's proposed map aims to benefit Democrats largely by breaking up several rural districts and attaching the splintered voting blocks to urban-dominated districts. "Urban populations already have the loudest voice and the most representation in California politics, while rural communities struggle to be heard on important issues," California Farm Bureau President Shannon

Douglass said. "This measure worsens that

imbalance."

California farm leadership class travels out of state to widen perspective

Leadership Farm Bureau, a cohort of eight agricultural professionals developing leadership skills through a program run by the California Farm Bureau, traveled last month to Arkansas and Tennessee to learn from farmers and ranchers in a different part of the country. The tour included visits to fish, cotton and peanut farms, a cattle ranch and a cotton gin, and the Port of Memphis, which is one of the largest inland

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

STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU insureCAL INSURANCE AGENCY
 FARM/RANCH • BUSINESS • PERSONAL

MEMBER MIXER
 Free to Farm Bureau members and perspective members!

INSURANCE 101 WITH INSURECAL!
 October 22, 2025 - 5:30 P.M.

Come ask all your insurance questions and get the best options for your farm/ranch. **Address:** 3508 Dale Rd, Modesto 95356 (209) 522-7278

MID's BeAware BEAR
 STOP, THINK, LOOK!
 www.mid.org
 MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

STOP! "BeAware!"

THINK! Electric appliances don't belong near water.
 But we need our music.

LOOK! Just move the radio away from the water and dry Rover over there.

BE SAFE! KEEP APPLIANCES AWAY FROM WATER.

REMEMBER to STOP, THINK, LOOK!
 BeAware - The Power is there! MID

ports in the U.S. "The three-day trip also allowed us to see how Farm Bureau plays a critical role in making a positive impact in our industry, whether through outreach, financing or advocacy," Leadership Farm Bureau class members Tharvin Gill of Sutter County and John Tamayo of Imperial County wrote in an Ag Alert® article. "These experiences inspired us to return to the Golden State and be even stronger advocates for California farmers and ranchers."

Government shutdown impacts agriculture

With Congress unable to broker an agreement to keep the government funded last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has furloughed 42,000 of its employees, or about 50%. USDA will continue operations relating to some farm loan and conservation programs, core nutrition safety net programs, essential food safety operations, preparing and responding to wildland fires, and animal and plant health emergency

programs such as New World screwworm. Operations most likely to cease include payment processing, disaster assistance, technical assistance, regulatory-related travel and training, trade negotiations, timber sales and long-term research studies. Many state and local offices across multiple agencies have closed, including most Farm Service Agency offices and several congressional district offices.

PG&E executive talks energy challenges and solutions

California farmers and ranchers have suffered some of the worst impacts of the increasing prevalence of wildfires in California, losing crops to fire and smoke, and having their operations affected by planned power outages. Dave Canny, vice president of the North Coast region at Pacific Gas and Electric Co., spoke with Ag Alert® last month about PG&E's efforts to mitigate wildfire risks, improve electric reliability and reduce costs. Canny said the utility provider has made recent improvements in its ability to be more targeted with planned shutoffs, which occur when

weather conditions cause powerlines to become a fire hazard, and has worked to bury more of its powerlines underground so that its grid can remain energized during any type of weather. "That's the most effective way to permanently reduce wildfire risk," he said.

Aggressive fungal disease tests almond growers


A vexing fungal disease has spread rapidly from a few San Joaquin Valley almond orchards in 2024 to throughout the state this year, according to growers and researchers. "Red leaf blotch is such an aggressive pathogen that it's a game changer," University of California Cooperative Extension plant pathologist Florent Trouillas said. "But we're hopeful that we can control it at satisfactory levels." In severe infections, red leaf blotch can defoliate trees and reduce yield potential if left unchecked. Several registered fungicides are effective against the fungus, which infects only almond leaves. "The pathogen is so aggressive that the priority is to find tools that can keep the disease as low as possible," Trouillas said.

WATERFORD IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION SUPPLY & DESIGN LIC# 1004196

12500 Bentley St • Waterford, CA 95386 • 209-874-1386

Quality Irrigation Design,
Sales & Installation - with
the brands you Trust.

 **NETAFIM™**

irritec

BOWSMITH®


FRESNO
Irrigation & Control, Inc.

Also now in Atwater:
7006 Atwater Jordan Road
Atwater, CA 95301
209-258-1685



INVESTING IN
Safety



To learn how TID is investing in safety efforts, go to TID.org/safety.

SERVING OUR AG COMMUNITY



MID keeps water working for you

- Dependable water supply
- Irrigation system improvements
- Promoting efficient water usage
- Sustainable use of the Tuolumne River

 Modesto
Irrigation
District *The Power to Grow*

www.mid.org

Stanislaus County Releases Annual 2024 Agricultural Report Production Values Top \$3.15 Billion

The Agricultural Commissioner is required by law, Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, to produce an annual report on the condition of the agricultural industry within their county, including production, value, and the presence of pests or quarantines.

Many producers may recall receiving annual production surveys from our office near the beginning of the year. We would certainly have a much vaguer idea of production and agricultural value in Stanislaus County without grower participation. Survey information estimated by our growers is essential in compiling representative production and farm gate values. Additionally, we utilize input from processors, industry groups, and public agencies to get a general picture of trends in the county.

Of course, these values do not account for production costs; and should not be interpreted as profit or loss for individual operations or segments of the industry. Unlike our special edition Agricultural Economic Impact Report from 2017, local re-spending and support multipliers are also not included in these figures.

In 2024, Stanislaus County's total gross value of agricultural production was \$3,150,321,000, a 6% decrease from 2023. Almonds experienced a modest increase in value to \$824 million, maintaining their position as the county's highest-valued commodity. Milk and poultry remained in second and third place, with slightly lower values of \$755 million and \$292 million, re-

spectively. Together, these three commodities form the backbone of local agriculture, representing nearly 60% of the county's total agricultural value.

Both the poultry and dairy sectors faced significant challenges in 2024 due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This disease has wreaked havoc in commercial poultry across the United States since 2022, particularly turkey and egg-laying operations locally. In 2024, the virus jumped species, infecting dairy cattle for the first time. In Stanislaus County, the outbreak caused milk production losses in the final quarter and led to the quarantine of more than 80% of the county's dairies.

In addition, 2024 marked the first detection of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter in Stanislaus County, prompting the implementation of a quarantine and the use of integrated pest management strategies. The insect can vector *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium that can cause serious declines in agricultural and ornamental crops. The insect's presence can also potentially impact the shipment of agricultural goods. Our department continues to take a multi-faceted approach to eliminate this invasive pest from our county and protect local agriculture.

Dairy holds prominence as this year's report theme for historical and economic significance to our county. After local irrigation districts were formed and water became available near the turn of the last century, area farmers gravitated towards high value crops like alfalfa. Immigrants familiar to European dairying began small family operations with a few dozen milking cows to supply nearby communities. Many local dairies still bear Portuguese, Swiss,

and Dutch names.

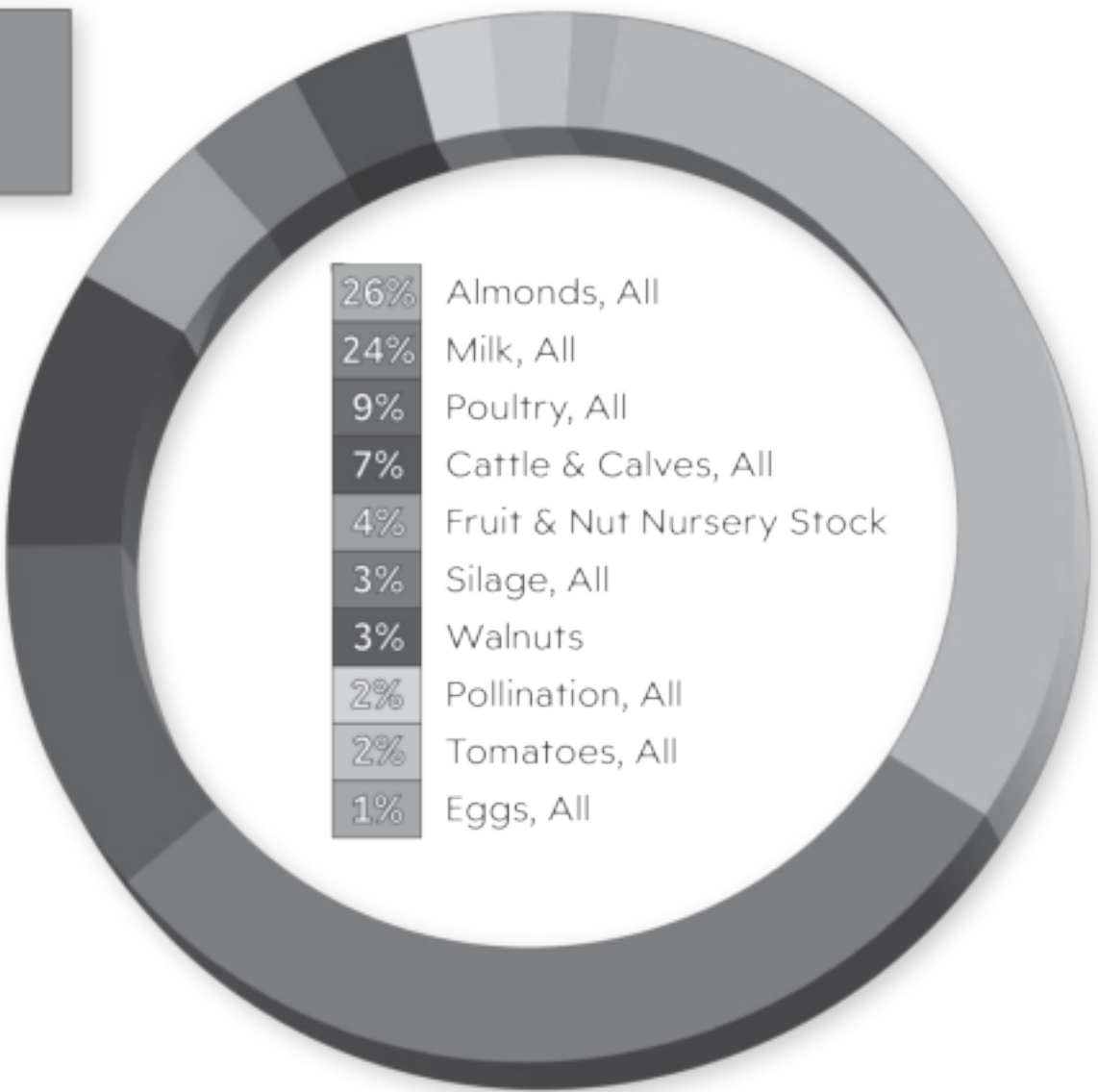
By the mid-20th century, Stanislaus County became one of the top producing dairy counties in the nation. Far from the hand milked 30 cow dairies and home-marketed dairy products of the past, the average California dairy today is around 1,000 head, some of the nation's largest. Yet nearly all are still exclusively family owned. Stanislaus County's 132 dairies produce nearly 12% of the milk in the state, putting the county third highest in production. Local modern dairies continue to set the pace in advances in milk production and serves a major role of importance to our county's economy.

For nearly 100 years, the Commissioner and University of California Cooperative Extension have compiled these reports. Not only for the State Secretary of Agriculture, but to provide vital information for farmers and ranchers, academics, government and banking agencies, among others. The production and value information contained in this report is not only a historical snapshot in time but also essential data at the "boots on the ground" level for planting, harvesting, marketing, policy planning and disaster relief. Current and past agricultural reports can be found on the Ag Commissioner's website, www.stanag.org.


The Agricultural Commissioner's office extends sincere appreciation to the team, as well as to the producers, industry representatives, and public agencies that contribute data for this report. Their dedication and resilience exemplify the grit that has kept agriculture an economic driving force in our community, yesterday, today, and well into the future.



TOP TEN



#1



ALMONDS, ALL
26%

2024 = \$824,208,000
2023 = \$813,444,000


#2



MILK, ALL
24%

2024 = \$754,567,000
2023 = \$761,529,000

#3



POULTRY, ALL
9%

2024 = \$291,768,000
2023 = \$399,855,000

#7 WALNUTS
3%

2024 = \$87,837,000
2023 = \$55,509,000

#8 POLLINATION, ALL
2%

2024 = \$78,552,000
2023 = \$85,341,000

#9 TOMATOES, ALL
2%

2024 = \$60,230,000
2023 = \$107,111,000

Preventative Fungicide Treatments Key to Managing Red Leaf Blotch in Almond Orchards

Source: Almond Board of California

A newly identified disease called red leaf blotch has been confirmed in California almond orchards. First detected in Merced County in May 2024, the disease has now been found in orchards from all almond-producing areas of the state.

Caused by the fungus *Polystigma amygdalinum*, red leaf blotch was previously known to affect almonds in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions, and researchers are urging California growers to be proactive in managing the disease.

Recognizing the Symptoms

As the name suggests, red leaf blotch primarily affects the leaves of the tree. According to UCCE Plant Pathology Specialist Florent Trouillas, the disease first shows up in late April through mid-May, usually on young leaves. Early symptoms can be subtle — small, pale-yellow spots may appear on either side of the leaf. As the disease progresses, these spots grow larger, turning orange or reddish-brown and reaching up to one to two centimeters in size. In more advanced cases, the blotches can merge, causing the leaves to curl, scorch, and fall off the tree prematurely. This defoliation weakens the tree and reduces photosynthesis, which can impact both current-year yields and the development of flower buds for the following season.

Trouillas has confirmed the disease in several varieties including Aldrich, Butte, Carmel, Fritz, Independence, Monterey, Nonpareil, Padre, Shasta, and Wood Colony. Red leaf blotch is not lethal to trees, but its effect on canopy health and productivity can be significant if not addressed early.

Understanding How It Spreads

Red leaf blotch is considered a monocyclic disease, meaning it only has one infection cycle per season. The fungus survives the

winter in fallen infected leaves. In spring, spores are released from this leaf litter and spread by rain or wind, typically infecting young leaves just after petal fall. Trouillas notes that the disease has a long latent period of 35 to 40 days, so by the time symptoms are visible, the infection window has long passed. This makes early, preventive management the key to controlling the disease.

Preventive Fungicide Program

Because symptoms appear weeks after infection, preventive fungicide applications are critical. Based on findings from UC research and international experience, a three-spray program is recommended for orchards at risk. The first spray should be applied at petal fall, followed by a second application two to three weeks later, and a third spray five to six weeks after petal fall if wet weather continues. These timings coincide with disease pressure and can also serve to manage other spring diseases like shot hole, rust and anthracnose.

The most effective products come from FRAC groups 3+7; 3+11; 7+11 and FRAC 3-triazoles, including mixtures like fluopyram and trifloxystrobin, or pyraclostrobin and boscalid. Growers are advised to rotate modes of action and follow all resistance management and product label guidelines to prevent product failure over time.

Orchard Sanitation

Sanitation plays a moderate role in controlling red leaf blotch by reducing the amount of fungal spores available to infect next year's crop. UC Cooperative Extension recommends removing or breaking down infected leaf litter before the next season. This can be done by mowing or shredding leaves in the fall or winter. Applying urea or other nitrogen-rich materials to leaf litter can speed decomposition, helping to suppress the fungal population. If conditions allow, incorporating the leaves into the soil through light tillage can also be beneficial.

It's important that growers avoid transport-

ing infected debris or equipment from one orchard to another. Tools, trailers or bins that have come in contact with infected plant material should be cleaned before moving to new sites. The more growers in a region who follow these sanitation practices, the more effective they will be — spores can easily move on wind or rain between neighboring blocks.

Monitoring and Research

Growers should begin scouting for symptoms in early May and report any suspected cases to their local UCCE farm advisor. Early reporting helps researchers better understand the disease's spread and behavior in California growing conditions.

Research led by Trouillas and his team at UC Davis is ongoing. They are currently studying fungicide efficacy, timing of spore release and host susceptibility, environmental triggers, and how different almond varieties respond to infection. They are also developing improved diagnostic tools to help detect the disease earlier in the season.

Red leaf blotch is a new disease for California almond growers, but with early action and coordinated management, it can be kept under control. Preventive fungicide sprays, diligent orchard sanitation and regional cooperation are the best tools currently available. Stay in touch with your local UCCE advisor and watch for further updates as more research results become available.

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

My name is Michelle Ebert and I am a Stanislaus County 4-H Ambassador. I had previously been interested in 4-H since my Freshman year, but I was a bit skeptical- what was I to expect? I then came in contact with Olivia Casey, president of the Newman 4-H Club, and she presented me with my first opportunity to volunteer at a County 4-H event.

I was surrounded by a well-communicated and sophisticated community that both uplifted me and guided me without judgement when I was lost or confused. I became interested, and sought to become integrated in this new community, wanting to inspire people to take charge and lead just as I was taught. After volunteering a bit more, I was exhilarated; I was excited to become part of

this new thing that I'd never done before, and meet new people with vast knowledge on things I didn't know about. It didn't take long for me to get to Vice President, where I was able to speak during meetings, and my voice was valued.

I had many great times working with other people in my club to build on each other's ideas, fostering connections and building friendships. One great example of this was during the Fall Festival Parade, where we all

coordinated to build a float and presented ourselves to the Newman community. Despite my previous apprehension, I took the chance to become a County Ambassador, and learned true responsibility and team building. I see it as one of the best things I have done for myself, especially after experiencing the COVID-19 Era. Although it seemed to be so long ago. It had a great impact on my psyche. I didn't know how to interact with other human beings, so I built a wall around myself, shutting people out and hoping for it all to go away. Only recently do I feel I may have truly recovered, blooming into the young adult I am, able to present myself as a confident person who isn't scared of reality.

I look forward to interaction with others, younger and older. I had shed away my self-conscious mindset and saw the bright star that is my future twinkling in the sky, waiting for me to reach out and grab it. I'm becoming as involved as my schedule allows, signing up for various projects such as Foods, Shotgun, and Folkart. I'm eager to add these skills to my belt, using it for my future in the Agricultural field. Not only do I want to learn and experience these skills,

but I of course want to have fun with others- but there's nothing wrong with indulging in fun activities! I've never done a project before, but the prospect of doing one and being able to tell others "Yeah, I've shot a shotgun," sounds wonderful. 4-H has been more than I ever expected, and I've cherished every moment spent with these amazing people I'm surrounded by.

Now, I aim to be a light in everyone's life, no matter how short the interaction, and to drive others to have ambition. To have the same influence that some of my peers and adult figures have had on me would be my greatest accomplishment, despite the short amount of time I have left with the 4-H family. I carry sincere gratitude for everyone who has supported me and encouraged me to be the best person I can be not only for myself, but for everyone around me and the future that awaits.



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>

James C. Enochs FFA

PUMPKIN SALE

50 Unique Varieties!

Support Ag Students!

Don't wait! pumpkins sell fast!

Starting at **\$1**

DATES:
October 4th - 5th, 11th - 12th,
and 18th - 19th

10:00am-2:00pm
Enochs High School
Front Parking Lot
3201 Sylvan Ave, Modesto



4-H Ambassadors Shine Bright, Inspiring the Next Generation of Ag Leaders

By Vicky Boyd

A member of the Shilo 4-H Club in Modesto, Jaden Wenger works to promote the benefits of the organization to his peers.

“I try to get the word out about 4-H,” he said. “I visit schools, and not many kids know where their food comes from. One of the first things I thought, if I do this, I can make a difference in my community.”

Michelle Ebert, a Newman 4-H Club member, decided to become more involved in county 4-H activities this year at the invitation of her friend and fellow Newman 4-H member, Olivia Casey.

“I decided it would be really fun, and I just like getting out and having fun,” Ebert said. “I met everybody and they sounded so serious about it. But I’m getting more into it and wanting to experience it and learn more about 4-H. It’s about stepping up to do what I can to help 4-H.”

Joining Wenger, Ebert and Casey as Stanislaus 4-H County Ambassadors for the 2025-26 year is Mary Murphy from River

Oaks 4-H in Oakdale.

Together, the four serve as role models for fellow 4-H members and represent the organization within the county and their communities. They also pick three of six 4-H leadership skills to focus on and complete one service project they want to lead during the year.

In addition, they help with other 4-H activities, emcee events and give out awards at the county fair, Creed Competition and Presentation Day.

And at no time has the 4-H Ambassador program been more important than now, as many community organizations are still recovering from the pandemic shutdown five years ago, said Rebecca Milligan, who’s been an Ambassador adviser for more than 20 years.

“The real idea is to give kids the opportunity to reach out and invite their friends, so the more people who know about 4-H, maybe they’ll join,” she said. “It’s a chance to build the program and make it stronger. COVID took a lot out of every program, and it’s tough to rebuild it.”

In addition to Milligan, this year’s advis-

ers are veteran 4-H leader Debbie Eggers as well as two past Ambassadors — Cailin Casey and Emory Harned.

Recently, the four current Ambassadors met with Milligan and Eggers to plan the year’s activities.

THE ROAD TO AMBASSADORS

The four were chosen for the two-year position by a panel of Ambassador advisers, current second-year Ambassadors and previous Ambassadors. As part of the application, candidates had to include two letters of recommendation from adults and one from a youth member.

In addition, applicants had to write essays about their 4-H work, why they wanted to be an Ambassador and what they could offer the program. Part of a national 4-H effort, the Ambassador program is open to youth members age 14-18.

One of the criteria the review team considered was whether the applicants had the time to follow through on their commitments, Milligan said. The actual time each Ambassador contributes depends on upcoming activities, with September-November being the busiest months.



The Stanislaus County 4-H Ambassadors resurrected the Primary Camp, a day-long event designed for younger members.



4-H Ambassador Jaden Wenger presents an award at the Stanislaus County Fair.

“They really have been involved in every county event, and we have county events every single month,” she said.

SUPPORTING YOUNGER 4-H'ERS

One of the programs of which the Ambassadors are most proud and that they plan to continue is the 4-H Primary Day Camp.

Designed for youths age 5-19, 4-H is divided into levels based on age. Primary 4-H is for youngsters age 5-8 and is intended to introduce them to various skills without competing.

High 4-H, as the program for those age 9-19 is often called, focuses more on developing citizenship, leadership, responsibility and life skills. This age group also is eligible to enter projects in the county fair and participate in other competitions.

At one time, the primary 4-H camp was held at the Kiwanis Camp in LaGrange Regional Park. But fire destroyed some of the facilities and the pandemic shut down all activities in 2020.

Thanks to the support of the 4-H Ambassadors, Milligan said the event for younger 4-H'ers was reborn after the pandemic

eased at a different location.

“These guys and the team before them decided they wanted to resurrect the day camp, collected money and organized it,” she said. “We try to bring in new kids to grow our program, and it really has taken off and everybody’s come to enjoy it.”

Held at the county Ag Center on Cornucopia Way, the primary camp’s full day of events includes traditional arts and crafts as well as outdoor activities. Older 4-H members, such as Murphy, an Oakdale High School junior, serve as camp counselors.

This year, Cruzin Critters, a mobile educational wildlife nonprofit, taught participants about how to keep animals safe as well as how to keep the people who handle them safe.

One upcoming event that has Ebert particularly excited is Trunk or Treat, which the Ambassadors will host in the county Ag Center parking lot. Rather than going door to door within a neighborhood to trick or treat, young participants will receive candy from car trunks. Not only will the activity provide a safe alternative to the Halloween tradition, but it will also show a lighter side of 4-H.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

In addition to helping with the Ag EdVenture Day held every October for third-graders at the county fairgrounds, the 4-H Ambassadors have assisted with other efforts to educate students about agriculture.

Last year, they brought small livestock — rabbits, cavies (guinea pigs) and poultry — and presented to all the student body at Hart-Ransom, Eisenhut and Bonita Elementary schools.

The Stanislaus County Ambassadors also helped with 4-H officer leadership training day in late September, which included San Joaquin, Merced and Stanislaus counties this year. As its name implies, the day-long event provides new club officers with an overview of their duties and “what leadership really is,” Wenger said.

For Eggers, who has been a volunteer 4-H leader for more than 40 years, the energy brought by the Ambassadors keeps her going.

“They have so many good ideas, and I want to see them have the opportunities to fulfill them,” she said.



4-H Ambassador Olivia Casey presents a certificate to a 4-H member Angelina Borelli.



This year’s Stanislaus County 4-H Ambassadors are (from left, back row) Jaden Wenger, Michelle Ebert, Olivia Casey and Mary Murphy. Debbie Eggers and Rebecca Milligan (front row) serve as advisers. Not pictured are advisers Cailin Casey and Emory Harned, both previous Ambassadors.





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