

# VOTE **NO** on PROP 50

*Protect Rural Representation*



**Official Publication of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau  
Vol.76 No.16 October 24, 2025**

Jason Flory, president and board chairman of Flory Industries, stands next to the company's WS920 self-propelled brush shredder. See full story on page 10

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 Fogarty .....202-870-3342  
1st VP: Vance Ahlem .....535-4521  
2nd VP: Vince Dykzeul .....480-5900  
Sec: Corinne Santos .....265-6075..  
Tres: Daniel Bays .....681-6510  
Past President: Vacant

Northwest:  
Joey Gonsalves .....765-1142  
Stuart Layman .....652-7822  
Dave Van Klaveren .....595-4606  
Keri Layne .....402-7289  
Tom Ulm .....402-9870  
Jacob Wenger .....988-3661

Northeast:  
Jacob DeBoer .....805-704-5304  
Vacant .....  
Ryan Valk .....840-0231  
Pete Dykzeul .....872-7080  
Kurt Hoekstra .....765-2932  
Ray Lial Jr. ....327-3232

Eastside:  
Jeff Daniels .....602-0628..  
Bill Power .....527-2908  
Kyle Van Vooren .....577-4893  
David Absher .....531-4915  
Tim Roos .....209-499-6722  
Randy Weststeyn .....499-9775

Southern:  
Adam Crowell .....610-6306  
Tim Sanders .....606-3739  
Ray Souza .....678-1871  
Trevor Cordova .....402-3203  
Arby Hoobyar .....505-0555  
Darrell Cordova .....765-6298

Westside:  
Matt Maring .....602-1390  
Jessica Filippini .....648-8236  
Bill Cox .....404-8897  
Rob Brooks .....765-2628  
Jerry Goubert .....531-3790  
Tom Morris .....602-0070

YF&R:  
Miranda Blagg .....202-4898

AT LARGE  
Ron Peterson .....606-8021

CFBF District 13 Rep  
Jake Wenger .....484-9343



## 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**
- **Dec 16, 18**
- **Holiday Break**
- **2026: Jan 6, 8**
- **Jan 20, 22**
- **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.

# Federal Government Shutdown Impacts to California Agriculture

Source: California Farm Bureau

Congressional leaders were unable to broker an agreement to keep the government funded yesterday, leading to a "federal government shutdown." While some critical agencies and functions will continue to operate, most departments have enacted shutdown procedures that vary in scope. The following outlines some of the most relevant details for those in the agricultural industry. Please note this list is not exhaustive and is subject to change:

**USDA Operations** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected to furlough approximately 42,000 employees (roughly 50%) during this unfunded period. According to their shutdown plan, they 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, animal and plant health emergency programs (such as new world screwworm), and others.

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.

In addition, most operations under the following subagencies will be halted: the Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Food and Nutrition Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), and Rural Development.

Roughly one-third of US Forest Service staff will be furloughed during this period. A

full readout of specific programs and agencies can be found at the shutdown plan link above.

**Office Closures** - Many state and local offices across multiple agencies have closed. This includes the majority of Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, several Congressional district offices, and others.

According to the shutdown plan, "If [it] continues past 10 days, additionally, one farm loan employee and/or one county office farm program employee per service center will be excepted on call to complete certain loan processing items to protect the security interest of the government and to prevent the loss of security or loss of value to security for the borrower." This will not apply to new loans.

**FSA Assistance** - With the closure of FSA offices, many financial assistance programs

See 'Impact' on page 5



## Steady Growth Starts With Sound Accounting Advice

- CLIENT ACCOUNTING
- CONTROLLER & CFO SERVICES
- AUDIT & ASSURANCE
- TAX SERVICES
- BUSINESS ADVISORY
- ESTATES & TRUSTS
- WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Partner with us.  
Let's Get Growing!



## Reflections & Appreciation from Hal Carlton

It is my honor to attend the 40th Anniversary of the MJC Dairy Sale. I am here with a grateful heart and wishes for its success. I would like to mention our community and its continued support, which allowed the first sale to become an established tradition and part of the MJC Dairy program.

The first dairy advisory committee was originated in 1980 with Bill Genasci, Leo Durrer, Mike Lucas, Carl Vieira (a former dairy student) and Tony Ott (a former dairy student). Joaquin Amaral (a former dairy student) joined the committee in 1985 and currently remains on the Dairy Advisory Committee.

There were many who volunteered their time and talents to make this program a success. I would be remised if I did not recognize those who helped me along the way. Gilbert Teixeira, Don & Steve Hagnlund, Russ Dutra, Gil Machado, Larry Grempe, Max Olvera, Ryan Matheron, Jean Obad, George Cardoza and Yosemite Farm Credit. And I am sure there are

See 'MJC Dairy' on page 7

# 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



# WHOLESALE TIRES & WHEELS

Commercial/Passenger/4x4/SUV  
Semi Truck / Farm & Dairy

Open 6 Days a Week—Monday-Saturday



1030 W. Main St.  
Turlock, CA 95380  
Corner of W. Main St. & Davis

DHILLON  
Tel (209) 668-1074  
Cell (209) 277-3546

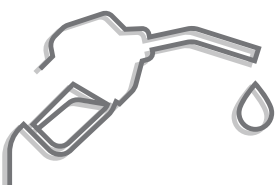


**MIKE HEINRICH**

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

From 'Impact' on page 3

will either be halted or delayed. This will also be true for much of the technical assistance provided by regional offices, pending potential changes due to emergency weather (and other) events.

Food and Drug Administration - Roughly 86% of FDA staff are expected to continue working during the shutdown under their contingency plan, with distinctions made between what are considered "exempted" and "excepted" staff.

Environmental Protection Agency - EPA is expected to retain only around 11% of their workforce during the shutdown. According to their shutdown plan, significant agency activities that will continue include:

Emergency and disaster assistance, Superfund response work where a failure to maintain operations would pose a threat to human life, exempted infrastructure-related projects, activities funded by Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) Fees, and others.

Data Availability - Despite the importance of many commodity and market reports, roughly 92% of staff within NASS and ERS are being furloughed. Most data collection via the National Agricultural Statistics Service has been halted.

Public Lands Activities - New timber sales are not being awarded, and grazing permits are not being administered. Many operations will be limited across the various Department of the Interior (DOI). In addition, while there is a desire to keep National Parks open, parks will operate with skeleton crews, and the public should expect some closures. Fire suppression including fire fighters and all necessary equipment costs to protect life and property have been deemed essential and will continue.

Nutrition Programs - The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) will likely face disruptions depending on states' abilities to bridge the gap via emergency funds.

Visa Processing - A prolonged lapse of funding will exacerbate processing delays for the Office of Foreign Labor Certification, which certifies H-2A visas.

Farm Bill - The current one-year extension of the Farm Bill has now expired. While some programs are funded through the end of the calendar year, there are several provisions that will likely lead to disruptions. More information to come.

## 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' prestressed 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](http://www.DenairLumberCo.com)

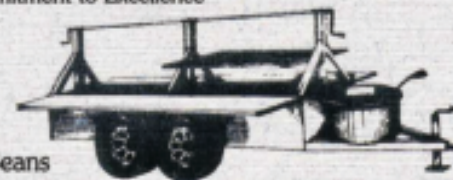
## HARDWARE • INSULATION • WINDOWS • O.S.B.

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

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



**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](http://vandepol.us)

more who I have missed. Please forgive me as I approach 90 years old and my memory isn't as sharp as it use to be.

In addition, the success of this sale includes all the hard working students who learned so much along the way. They always contributed their enthusiastic attitude and dedication to the sale and the dairy program. And the students are the reason this program has survived 4 decades. In 1997 I retired as the dairy science professor, and I am so proud of my successors; Mark Anglin, Bill Hobby and Nicole Morris who carried on this tradition. Thank you again for 40 years of support and memories for this unique program.

Sincerely,  
Hal Carlton  
1971 — 1997

## Reflections & Appreciation from Mark Anglin

Dear MJC Dairy Program Students, Dairy-men, & the Dairy/Agriculture Industry:

It is with sincere gratitude and enthusiasm that I draft this letter to you. It is difficult to express the multitude of feelings that I have relative to my short tenure leading the MJC Dairy Science Program. I am humbled by the success of the students that I was blessed to guide in some small way. I am moved by the impressive dairy producers that consistently supported the program unconditionally. I am touched by the phenomenal dairy industry and overall agriculture industry partners that were always there to help make our program thrive.

The entire focus of the program was to provide learning opportunities for the students. Of which we had so many tre-

mendously talented, energetic, and motivated individuals. The students strived to be successful in the classroom, in conducting extracurricular activities, in competing at the highest level in judging. There are countless MJC Dairy Science alums that have been extremely successful. Many have completed higher education at some of the top agricultural colleges and universities in California and nationally. Our students have established themselves in the dairy industry as producers, processors, agricultural business entrepreneurs, ag finance, and more. It is also rewarding to witness these students starting their families, and to see them establishing themselves in their communities as leaders. I am so proud of them all.

The success of the program would not have been possible without the unyielding support of our dairy producers. During good times and bad times, they were always there for us. The success of our biennial heifer sale is squarely on the 30-40 dairy-men that provide heifers for the program. The heifers provided by these dairymen raised money for the overall program, the judging team expenses, and provided scholarships. Additionally, many producers opened their dairies for us to conduct general labs, to teach artificial insemination, and to conduct judging practices. In my tenure I cannot remember a time when the support wavered. The dairymen were always there.

Without a doubt the dairy/ag industry as a whole was there in support of our program as well. The doors were always open to us to provide firsthand learning experiences for our students. The program conducted over 100 labs per year which would not have been possible without the total support of our industry partners. When funding was needed for whatever purpose, they were there to help. Thank you does not seem adequate for the encouragement, support, and sense of security provided to me by you all. But THANK YOU!

Sincerely, Mark Anglin  
1997 — 2004



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  
Brush Stacking  
Orchard Management**



**Phil Rumble: (209) 996-1517**  
rumbletopping.com

### *Organic seal helps boost 'phenomenal' date market*

Fresh California dates hit grocery store shelves last month after harvest for Medjool dates, the state's top variety, began in the Coachella Valley in early September. Growers and marketers say demand is high for the fruit, especially among health-conscious consumers. "Dates are on fire," said Amanda Sains, vice president of marketing at Joolies, a date company based in the Coachella Valley. "They are doing phenomenal right now." An added selling point for many California dates is that they're grown using organic farming methods. About 78% of dates grown in Riverside County, which dominates U.S. date production, are certified organic. Growers say multiple factors, including market forces and the nature of date production, encouraged them to grow the fruit organically. "It's not a fad," Riverside County farmer Albert Keck said. "It's a major part of the industry now."

### *Almond prices rise as crop yields lag behind forecast*

California almond growers were largely skeptical when the U.S. Department of Agriculture in July forecast a 3-billion-pound crop in its "objective measurement" report. The high crop forecast caused almond prices to drop nearly 20% overnight, erasing roughly a billion dollars from the total crop value and eliminating the profit margin for many farmers. Now, well into harvest, prices have recovered as growers and handlers report smaller crop yields. "Now that we're processing, prices have already returned to pre-estimate levels because the crop is nowhere near 3 billion pounds," Stanislaus County almond grower and huller Paul Vermeulen told Ag Alert® in a field report. Ryan Indart, who grows almonds in Fresno County, gave a similar assessment in a recent field report. "Now that harvest started, everybody has realized, including the buyer market, that the objective estimate was woefully inaccurate," Indart said. "Prices are coming back up, which is good."

### *California researchers work to breed better beans*

At the annual Dry Bean Field Day in August, University of California, Davis, researchers described advancements in breeding and upcoming consumer testing to determine preferences for lima, black-eyed and garbanzo beans. "This event is a chance to get the growers' thoughts on some of the next varietal candidates likely to come out of the breeding programs," said Christine Diepenbrock, a UC Davis assistant professor of plant sciences and an organizer of the field day. Colusa County farmer Jim Wallace said the university's bean breeding program has created "every important variety that we're producing in California today." Wallace added that newer varieties have not only improved flavor but have also increased yields.

"But when you go all the way back to my father's farm, he'd get 15 to 18 bags of limas, and that was acceptable," he said. "Today, we're producing high 20s and low 30s."

### *Students lead the way in developing new organic crop varieties*

A student-led breeding program at the University of California will soon be releasing new crop varieties for organic farmers. Among the upcoming releases are new organic wheat varieties bred to have good bread-making traits, improved yields and even different colors, including blue, purple and charcoal. Students are also producing new organic tomato varieties called Orange Creamsicle and Rockin' Roma, the former a fresh-market tomato with a tart taste and smooth finish, the latter a firm processing tomato with balanced acidity. In addition, field trials are ongoing for 45 types of sweet potatoes, with the goal of combining less common but flavorful varieties with commercial varieties that grow well on organic farms in California. The Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education program, developed in 2015, came in response to grower reports of a need for more organic seeds.

### *Farmworkers set fear aside to pick California bounty*

**COIT AND HEWES, LLC**  
PREMIUM QUALITY HARVEST SUPPLIES

719 E Grayson Rd  
Modesto, CA  
95358

209 531 9891  
M-F 8-4PM

**CH**

Replacement Parts for  
**WEISS, FLORY, OMC,  
ORCHARD RITE, COE**

RAKE SWEEPER TINES  
HARVESTER PICKUP BELTS  
SWEEPER PADDLES  
SWEEPER BEARINGS  
SHAKER PAD OVAL AND ROUND  
SHAKER SLIDE PADS

## **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**

Going into the year, farmers warned that the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda could leave crops rotting in the field. Nowhere was there more at risk than in California, which relies on more than half a million farmworkers — many of them undocumented — to harvest much of the nation's fruits, nuts and vegetables. High-profile raids in Kern and Ventura counties earlier this year briefly disrupted farm operations, but farmers, workers and researchers said farmworkers largely showed up and harvested this year's crops. Daniel Hartwig, president of the California Fresh Fruit Association, said that while immigration enforcement remained a concern and a real threat to food production, he was not aware of any crops perishing this year due to a lack of labor. In terms of production, Hartwig said, "we haven't seen a significant impact."

### *Pumpkin patches fill agritourism niche*

With Halloween season in full swing, Californians are once again headed to pumpkin patches — not just to pick pumpkins but to also experience a variety of seasonal activities that local farms provide. California farms continue to embrace agritourism to diversify their income and engage with consumers. "Overall, I've seen increasing interest from farmers in offering agritourism, not specifically pumpkin patches but all types of opportunities for the public to come onto the farm," said Rachael Callahan, University of California statewide agritourism coordinator. San Joaquin County farmer James Chinchiolo has run a U-pick cherry orchard since 2019. This year, he expanded his agritourism offerings with a pumpkin patch, corn maze and farm tours. "I'm very happy with the experiences that we've created for people," he said. "In my judgment, those people are going to go back and communicate how much joy they had, and this will only grow."

### *Food trends boost pistachio market as production rises*

Pistachio harvest is wrapping up this month, and California growers expect a potential record crop that surpasses their 1.5-billion-pound production in 2023. From 2018 to 2022, the Central Valley saw a boom in new pistachio orchards. As the wave of recent plantings begins coming into production, growers say they hope the global market can absorb more of the state's pistachios. The sector has seen strong demand, helped in part by the use of pistachios as a confectionary ingredient. This year, global supplies of pistachio kernels reportedly ran short after Dubai chocolate, which contains a pistachio-tahini paste filling, became a viral trend on TikTok. "That high demand is there, and it seems like it's there to stay," said Ali Amin, owner of the Los Angeles-based export company Primex International Trading. "It's not a fad."

### *AgTEC program equips farmworkers for the future*

Launched in 2024, Merced College's AgTEC program was designed to teach farmworkers foundational skills they need to perform high-tech jobs in the agriculture sector. "Agriculture and the ag tech industry is evolving," Cody Jacobsen, dean of agriculture and industrial technology at Merced College, told Ag Alert® in an interview. "We wanted to train the boots-on-the-ground laborers, the folks who are harvesting our fruits and vegetables, so that they can be competitive for these careers and not get displaced out of jobs." The program, which is part of the F3 Initiative, is offered at seven community colleges in California. It is the state's first competency-based agriculture program, which means that instead of enrolling for a 15-week semester and earning a letter grade, students complete the course on their own time and earn a certificate by demonstrating mastery of the skills taught in the program.



## **PBM Supply & MFG., INC.**

Quality Agricultural Spray Equipment, Parts and Supplies  
[www.pbmsprayers.com](http://www.pbmsprayers.com)    [www.pbmtanksupply.com](http://www.pbmtanksupply.com)

**-Sprayers- -Tanks- -Liquid Delivery Trailers- -Parts & Accessories-**

**PBM Supply & Manufacturing is a local agricultural manufacturing company that specializes in the design and construction of sprayers, tank trailers, and chemical handling equipment. Give us a call to find a dealer near you.**



**HAV Self-Propelled Sprayers**



**Chemical Mixing Trailers**



**Walking Beam Sprayers**



**Injection Plates**



**UTV Sprayers**



**Parts, Accessories, Repair Kits & More**



**Fowler Store**  
**877-688-1334**  
 3732 S. Golden  
 State Blvd.  
 Fowler, CA 93625

## Shaking Up the Industry: Flory Industries Expands Harvest Solutions and Embraces Smart Technology

*Story and Photos by Vicky Boyd*

About five years ago, management within Flory Industries began seriously discussing a need for tree nut shakers, whether they designed their own or acquired another company with a line. Having such equipment would complete the missing piece of the Salida-based manufacturer's nut industry offerings of harvesters, sweepers, blowers, shuttles, conditioners, shredders, carts and elevators.

Eventually Flory approached Coe Orchard Equipment in Live Oak about possibly acquiring them. Not only did COE share similar cultures because they were both multi-generational, but the Sacramento Valley manufacturer also was known for its fruit and tree nut off-ground shakers and pistachio industry presence.

"We saw this as an opportunity to get into another category that Flory had never been in before and saw an opportunity to diversify into another nut category," said Flory Industries President and Board Chairman Jason Flory.

Since the acquisition announcement in early 2023, COE has been brought under the Flory umbrella and is now referred to as Flory Off-Ground Harvest Solutions.

Because the Live Oak facility has the space needed to manufacture off-ground harvesters, which consist of sizable catch frames and receivers, it will continue to do so, Flory said. The

trademark yellow paint that COE used on its off-ground harvesting equipment will remain for some time.

"Color, to us, isn't as important," he said. "What's most important is the growers are comfortable with the equipment, and the machinery is meeting the needs of the grower."

Manufacturing of conventional nut shakers as well as some off-ground nut-handling equipment has moved to the Salida facility, with the first nut shakers painted Flory red having hit the market.

"As we move forward, we're aligning both manufacturing sites to be able to produce most of the same machinery," Flory said. "Also, this will address any capacity constraints with the other facility. Each facility has limitations."

At the same time, Flory Industries continues to develop and introduce new products with an eye toward improving machine and operator performance and efficiency.

"We're looking at our harvesting business more holistically and looking at some of the bigger challenges that the industry is facing," he said.

## TECHNOLOGY WHERE IT MAKES SENSE

Almond and walnut harvests require several steps. With clamps around tree trunks, shakers first remove nuts from the trees. Blowers move nuts off the berms, followed by sweepers that push the nuts into row middles.

Growers frequently condition nuts, which involves picking up the nuts in the middles, running them over equipment to remove sticks and rocks, and laying them in a uniform windrow out the back. Even if growers don't condition nuts, they still make several passes with sweepers to create windrows down the row middles.

A harvester finishes the process by picking up the windrowed nuts and conveying them into a towed-behind cart.

One of Flory's most recent developments, which has been trialed in almond orchards this past season, is the Synergy Blower integrated into the VR700 Side-Mount Shaker. In one pass, the operator can shake walnut or almond trees and clean the berms.

This eliminates up to 50% of the entire sweeping pass, resulting in cleaner windrows, decreased fuel and equipment use,



**Mahindra**



**MASSEY FERGUSON**



**ROXOR**



**WM Weiss McNeil**

**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

and lower labor demands.

“It also moves the nuts away from the trees faster so growers can get water back on the trees faster,” Flory said.

sweeping passes typically used to make windrows, again boosting efficiency, Flory said.

In both cases, the company didn’t just add on the components responsible for the enhanced orchard activities. Instead, Flory engineers redesigned the machinery to ensure all of the machinery was compatible and worked efficiently.

#### AT THE RIGHT TIME AND RIGHT COST

As part of a partnership with San Jose-based technology developer Bonsai Robotics, Flory has introduced the V62 sweeper line-up with Visionsteer. Much like lane-assist in passenger cars, Visionsteer uses cameras and artificial intelligence to keep the sweeper centered down the row middle even during dusty orchard conditions. By doing so, the technology helps reduce operator fatigue.

“Operators work long days, and this allows them to focus on the performance of the machines,” Flory said.

In addition, it allows growers to put a less-experienced driver in the sweeper.

“Not only is skilled labor high cost, but that skilled labor is getting even more difficult to find,” Flory said. “This reduces the reliance on skilled labor.”

He viewed Visionsteer as part of the company’s efforts to augment controls and look for ways of adding technology to assist operators. Eventually, it may lead to autonomy, but Flory said the company doesn’t believe the industry is ready for it quite yet.

“Certainly, we believe in autonomy and high-tech, but it’s really a matter of developing the technol-

See 'Flory' on page 13

The shaker system complements the Synergy Sweeps integrated onto the front of the CP8700 Conditioner. In one pass, the operator can sweep the nuts into the orchard middles, where the conditioner easily picks them up, cleans them and windrows them.

The integrated conditioning system can eliminate most of the



*A machinist torques nuts on a machine part-way through manufacturing.*

License# 276660

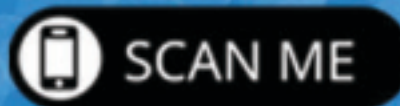


# I.J. Larsen Pumps, Inc.

MODESTO (209)529-2020 HILMAR (209)634-7276



Agricultural  
Residential  
Industrial  
Commercial



**10% Discount for Farm Bureau members**

Discount on New Pump Or Tank only. Discount does not apply to labor or parts.

# 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

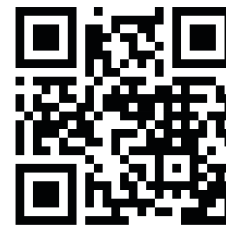
## **Grower Track | 8am to 12:15pm:**

### **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/)



# 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](http://agloan.com/growyourfuture)



SCAN ME

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

From 'Flory' on page 11

ogy where it's here at the right time and at the right cost for the grower," he said.

## CRACKING PISTACHIO OFFLOADING

Pistachios use a different harvesting system than walnuts and most almonds. Typically, two machines — a catch frame shaker and a catch frame receiver — run in tandem with one on each side of the tree row. They stop at each tree, encircling the trunk so the shaker unit can shake the tree. The nuts fall into the catch frame, where they're conveyed into a tow-behind cart in most cases or bins on the side to a lesser extent.

When the cart becomes full, it offloads into a bankout wagon for ferrying to waiting trailers. But the pistachio harvester usually stops for the nut transfer, unlike walnut and almond shuttle cart systems where the offload occurs while the harvester continues down the row.

To address this challenge, Flory said they're developing a shuttle cart and transfer system for pistachios that will allow for on-the-go unloading.



*A mechanic gives a harvester the once-over to ensure everything works before it's delivered to the purchaser.*

## Hilmar Cheese Visitor Center announces new flavors for gift boxes

The Hilmar Cheese Visitor Center announces two new flavors to the annual gift box offerings – Hickory Smoked Gouda and Habanero Pepper Jack.

The Hickory Smoked Gouda uses Hilmar’s award winning processing to make a flavorful smoked product consistent throughout. The Habanero Pepper Jack brings a new level of intensity. Pepper Jack is at 100-500 Scoville Heat Units (SHU) and Habanero Pepper Jack has a very hot, fruity intense heat at 100,000 – 350,000 SHU.

The new cheeses are featured in Hilmar’s Sampler assortment box. All gift boxes feature one-pound blocks of Hilmar cheese and local Central Valley products. The gifts range from \$32.95 to \$89.95 with custom orders as an option.

Gift boxes are available for easy in-store pick-up, local delivery or can be individually shipped.

“We coordinate in-store pick-up and will load the gifts into your vehicle. Gifts of 25 or more (any variety) can be delivered to one specific location on a date and time convenient for you. For example, we can deliver gifts the morning of your employee party. A flat delivery fee to one location within a 25 mile radius of Hilmar Cheese Company will be applied to your order,” said Allison Nunes, tour & communication specialist focusing on gift customer experience for the Visitor Center. “We can also ship individual boxes in the U.S.”

To place bulk orders or request custom boxes, e-mail [hccorders@hilmarcheese.com](mailto:hccorders@hilmarcheese.com) or call 209-656-1196.

The Visitor Center is open Monday

- Friday 7 am – 6 pm and Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. The Hilmar Cheese Visitor Center is located at 9001 Lander Ave. in Hilmar, CA.

Follow @hilmarcheese on Instagram and / hilmarcheesevisitorcenter on Facebook to stay up-to-date with updates, specials, merchandise offerings and more!

About Hilmar™  
Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc. uses the



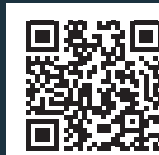
## YOUR PARTNER FOR HARVESTING EFFICIENCY



### 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

SCAN TO VIEW HARVESTERS



FOR PRICING & AVAILABILITY: DAVID KAHN | 510.918.8259 | [D.KAHN@OXBO.COM](mailto:D.KAHN@OXBO.COM)

18 FINK RD. :: CROWS LANDING

power and promise of dairy to improve lives together. We provide health and nutrition for consumers, contribute to brand success for our customers, create opportunities for employees, support independent milk producers and improve the communities where we live and work. With a focus on collaborative product innovation, real-time scalability and a progressive approach to sustainability, Hilmar™ is a global leader in efficiently producing functional cheese and whey ingredients at scale. We deliver high-quality products to customers in more than 50 countries. Founded in 1984, Hilmar operates manufacturing plants in Hilmar, California; Dalhart, Texas and Dodge City, Kansas. For more information, visit [www.hilmar.com](http://www.hilmar.com) and LinkedIn @Hilmar.

Media contact: Denise Skidmore  
209-656-1197  
[dskidmore@hilmarcheese.com](mailto:dskidmore@hilmarcheese.com)

## Immigration Enforcement Leaves Bill Vetoed

Source *Ca Farm Bureau*

Gov. Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill 1136 (Assemblymember Liz Ortega, D-San Leandro) on Oct. 13. The bill would have created new leave and rehire requirements for employers with 25 or more employees, including:

- Allowing up to five days of unpaid leave per 12-month period for legal or administrative appointments related to immigration matters.
- Requiring up to 12 months of unpaid leave for employees detained or incarcerated due to pending immigration or deportation proceedings.

- Mandating reinstatement to the prior or a comparable position for up to 12 months from the start of that leave upon presentation of valid documentation.

Farm Bureau raised concerns that the leave and rehire provisions could expose employers to claims of constructive knowledge of an employee's immigration status.

In his veto message, the governor cited:

- Duplicative discrimination protections already in the law.
- An unreasonably long 12-month rehire requirement and potential conflicts with local school employee rehire rules.
- Implementation costs to the Labor Commissioner's Office estimated to exceed \$10 million.

Staff contact: Bryan Little, [blittle@cfbf.com](mailto:blittle@cfbf.com)



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

Offices in Turlock, Los Banos & Crescent City  
209.634.9031  
[www.westernvalley.com](http://www.westernvalley.com)



**Harvest Party**

**Nov. 8th, 2025**  
MJC West Campus  
2201 Blue Grass 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's sponsorship is tax deductible.

5:00 p.m.  
Hosted Beer & Wine Social

6:30 p.m.  
Dinner

7:00 p.m.  
Live Dessert Auction

8:30 p.m.  
After-Dinner Social & Dance

MOOREHEAD COLLEGE | School of Agriculture  
209-573-6206 | [mjc.edu/events/harvestparty](http://mjc.edu/events/harvestparty)  
[napoleonboycoville.edu](http://napoleonboycoville.edu)

School of Agriculture

## CATTLEWOMEN SELECT OUTSTANDING 2025 COWBELLE

The San Joaquin-Stanislaus CattleWomen selected Kaitlin Protz as the 2025 CowBelle of the year in September. She was given an engraved cowbell and a sterling silver pendant to celebrate her hard work. The award singles out an outstanding member who dedicates a significant amount of time and effort to promote the beef industry.

Mrs. Protz has been a member of the Unit for four years. During that time, she has promoted beef by doing classroom presentations, attending local farm days, Rotary Read-Ins, and presenting at AgVenture field trips. She is eager to teach all ages about beef and how the cattle industry impacts our daily lives.

Mrs. Protz grew up around cattle as her father was a cowboy and a ranch foreman in Acampo. How-

ever, she bred and showed sheep as a 4-H and FFA member in Lodi. She learned firsthand how to care for and feed sheep and cattle. Even today she continues to help her dad with his herd by processing and shipping his cattle.

In 2019, she started a herd of Charolais cattle with her husband. When she is not working cattle or volunteering, she is watching her teenage sons play basketball and volleyball or show hogs. Mrs. Protz lives in Lockeford with her husband and two sons.

Mrs. Protz and 31 other 2025 CowBelles throughout California will gather for a recognition luncheon during the California CattleWomen's State Convention in Reno, Nevada, in early December. There are about 1,800 CattleWomen in California, and the San Joaquin-Stanislaus CattleWomen's Unit has 46 members and is 73 years old.

*Pictured Right:  
2025 San Joaquin-Stanislaus  
CowBelle of the Year, Kaitlin  
Protz*

*Photograph taken by Linda  
Fields Stiehr*



WWW.GREENRUBBER.COM

# Everything for Agriculture

Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag has the products, parts, accessories, and customer service you need to maximize your productivity.

- CUSTOM CONVEYOR BELTS
- URETHANE PARTS
- RENEWED BOGIE WHEELS
- PUMPS, HOSES, FITTINGS
- SPRAY NOZZLES & VALVES
- WATER TANKS & TANK TRAILERS
- SAFETY PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT
- PRESSURE WASHERS & ACCESSORIES
- AND MUCH MORE!

**Green Rubber**  
**Kennedy Ag**  
Ag Industrial Supply  
Belting & Fabrication

**Six locations to serve you. Call today!**

SALINAS (831)753-6100 · MODESTO (209)538-6227 · GREENFIELD (831)674-0999  
WATSONVILLE (831)761-9395 · SANTA MARIA (805)878-8877 · YUMA (928)726-6560



## Reflections & Appreciation from Bill Hobby

One of the great advantages of teaching at Modesto Junior College was all the resources we had for skill development for students that were passionate about the dairy industry and livestock. While they may have been hesitant as to where they were headed in life, they knew they wanted to be around livestock. Since my teaching path was different than most instructors, having worked on the dairy and then in the dairy industry for 20 years, I was able to incorporate the different employment opportunities available in the industry to them. Being book smart is one thing but problem solving under real conditions during field trips and labs gives them a more memorable experience to reference later. We did that weekly in lab.

Going back and looking at hundreds of photos I had taken over the years of the trips and groups of students we exposed to every kind of situation that happens on the

dairy is probably the most important thing we did. Being prepared in class before the trip allowed them to see the problem and know how to address it. The "Ag buses" allowed students to share thoughts on the bus rides, make new friends in their common industry and see real life situations being addressed.

Today as I visit over the phone or stop in on them, it is even more impressive to see them succeeding in the industry today. Whether it is as an A.I. Technician, herdsperson, ranch owner, consultant, milk/cheese processor, spokesperson or advocate for our great industry, they are doing amazing things. We would like to think that our teaching methods and activities used at MJC had something to do with that.

This heifer program we are here celebrating this weekend is just one of the examples of giving our students an opportunity to know "Dairy" and understand why it's so important to us. Teaching students how to move around cattle, teach them to lead,

trust and cooperate makes us a little more cooperative with others as well. I had taught Temple Grandin's handling procedures even before I came to MJC, but a highlight was having her come to MJC and give multiple presentations to a packed pavilion about her experiences. Those big intimidating heifers out there were a lot to handle for some of our young ladies, but they followed the instructions, broke and trained the heifers and gave them a new confidence and sense of accomplishment.

It just goes to show that if you want it bad enough, dream it, work hard, study and learn from the best mentors you can attach yourself to in your industry. It worked for me and now I see it working for hundreds of our students. Congratulations to all the students, industry supporters and especially to the dairymen who over the years have given their very best to this program!

Sincerely,  
Bill Hobby 2004—2020

See 'MJC Dairy' on page 18

# Preserve & Protect Your Legacy

## with Wealth Management Services

We'll help you invest, secure, and pass down your assets. Every decision you make today shapes tomorrow for you and your family. Our comprehensive Trust & Estate Services ensure your assets are managed wisely, your intentions are honored, and your legacy lives on for those who matter most.

Achieve your financial milestones. Connect with a Trust & Estate Specialist today! 209-929-1505



**BANK OF STOCKTON**  
ESTABLISHED 1867  
WITHSTANDING THE TEST OF TIME



2025

2015

Member FDIC 

bankofstockton.com

1975

From 'MJC Dairy' on page 17

## Reflections & Appreciation from Nicole Morris

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Modesto Junior College Dairy Cattle Sale, I find myself reflecting on how deeply this event has shaped not only our program, but also my own life. Some of my earliest memories of this sale go back to when I was about 12 or 13 years old, attending alongside my dad. I still remember the excitement of seeing a beautiful black registered springer donated by Hilmar Holsteins, and how I begged my dad to buy her so I could show her as a cow that following summer. That experience, like so many others connected to this sale, helped spark my lifelong passion for the dairy industry.

Throughout my childhood, I attended at least five MJC sales, never imagining that one day I would be back here not in the seats, but leading the very program that meant so much to me growing up. It's both humbling and surreal to now serve as the Dairy Science Professor and host this sale for our community.

This event has always been a reflection of the incredible people who make it possible. The dairy farmers who generously donate heifers, the stu-

dents who pour their hearts into making it a success, and the community members who continue to show up year after year in support of agricultural education. Since the first sale in 1985, more than 800 head of cattle have been donated, providing students with hands-on experiences that simply can't be replicated in a classroom. These animals have been the foundation for our labs, our dairy judging team, and countless learning opportunities that prepare our students for real-world success.

The proceeds from this sale directly support our program and allow our students to travel, compete, and represent MJC at the highest levels. Beyond funding, this event inspires many of our alumni trace their passion for the dairy industry back to this very sale. A sincere thank you to Hal Carlton, Mark Anglin, and Bill Hobby for building this incredible legacy and laying

the foundation for what the MJC Dairy Program is today. Thank you to our MJC Dairy Advisory Committee for your continued support and guidance. Thank you to the dairy farmers and community members who continue to believe in our mission, and to the students who work tirelessly to make this event successful each and every year.

I am truly grateful to be a part of this history, and I hope this sale continues to thrive for another 40 years and beyond. Here's to honoring the past, celebrating the present, and investing in the bright future of the dairy industry.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Morris  
2020—Present

# 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

## Unlocking New Value: Commercializing Almond Hulls as Food Ingredients

*Source: Almond Board of California*

Historically used for dairy cattle feed, almond hulls have had a consistent place in the animal nutrition space. However, a declining dairy herd, in combination with hulls being traded below their production cost, has propelled the industry and the Almond Board of California (ABC) to think about alternative revenue-generating opportunities.

Helping lead this charge is ABC's Biomass Working Group, formed in 2017 to explore new applications for almond co-products.

"This biomass working group is where business meets science," said Michael Kelley, chairman of the committee and president of Central California Almond Growers Association (CCAGA). "We have become

exceedingly appreciative of the ideas and the potential for the commercialization of products using almond hulls."

### Nutrition Potential

One area almond hulls have shown strong potential for is human food products. Because of their high fiber content, natural sugars, phytochemicals, minerals, and processing versatility, they offer multiple benefits in the value-added ingredients

food space.

Being that they make up 50% of the almond fruit, they are also abundant in California, creating a reliable and readily available supply for large-scale product development.

While some may question their safety for human consumption, there are positive indicators that prove almond hulls can meet food-grade quality standards. ABC Associ-



ate Director of Food Research and Technology, Guangwei Huang, noted that almond hulls have long been used safely in livestock feed, with no negative effects on animal health or performance. Studies have also shown that pesticide residue and toxicity exposure are not a concern.

To explore these possibilities further, ABC partnered with Mattson, a product innovation firm, to develop samples of what could be done with hulls.

These included a high-fiber bar made with 15% almond hulls, delivering five grams of fiber per serving, and a coffee beverage crafted from

**LEADERS IN NUT  
HARVESTING EQUIPMENT**



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



- > [goflory.com](http://goflory.com)
- > (800) 662-6677
- > [sales@goflory.com](mailto: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**

From 'Hulls' on page 19

coarse-ground, roasted hulls. When added to coffee, almond hull powder helped reduce bitterness and enhanced sweetness. In baked goods like bread, it boosted both fiber and phytochemical content.

### Opportunity in “Upcycled” Markets

Another advantage almond hulls offer is that by adding just 10% or more of almond hull powder to a product, it can qualify for a new third-party “upcycled” certification. While “upcycling” is a relatively new term, it’s become increasingly important to consumers concerned about food waste, noted Daniel Kurzrock, founder and CEO of Upcycled Foods.

After working with upcycled ingredients across various commodities, Kurzrock said he’s seen firsthand the wide-ranging benefits. These include improved sustainability and circularity, the creation of new revenue streams, reduced disposal costs and stronger alignment with shifting consumer values.

“The almond industry is not alone in seeing this potential,” he said. “There’s profit potential for every aspect of the stakeholder chain if we’re able to create uses that are solving problems for companies that buy ingredients.”

Because the end-market for almond hulls is still being widely explored, he also suggested that at this stage in development, it’s important to initiate customer conversations before deciding what to invest in.

“An approach that we find to be working with other materials is doing a pilot to produce some quantity of viable hulls that can go to a miller or a secondary processor to start those customer conversations,” he said.

Steps for Commercialization

While it’s not realistic to expect the hulls to be process-ready when leaving the huller/sheller, Huang said efforts to clean and improve their quality can still make a significant impact.

“When the time comes, the industry needs to set minimal specifications or quality requirements for almond hulls for food uses,” Huang said. “We are trying to minimize foreign material, and most importantly, we need the involvement and attention of stakeholders. We’re not expecting the huller/seller to get hulls to the ready-to-process stage, but they can minimize those foreign materials down to less than 5%.”

The industry must also complete a GRAS (Generally Recognized As Safe) assessment for human consumption, a requirement mandated by the Food and Drug Administration since hulls haven’t previously been used as a food ingredient. This assessment is expected to be completed by late 2025, Huang said.

Innovations in Processing

Several companies in the almond industry are already investing in hull-cleaning systems to ensure they are

ready for when almond hulls receive food-safe approval. One of those pioneer companies is Cortez Growers Association.

Recognizing almond hulls as a potential revenue stream, Cortez implemented a cleaning system to remove unwanted materials – sticks, shells, and almond meats – that typically end up in the hull pile. By separating these components, they could sell the almond meats as hash, a “refreshing benefit” to add value to what was once considered waste, said general manager, Dave Thiel.

Other processors are also refining their methods. Corbin Sturdivan of Wilkey Industries explained that current hull cleaning systems include an aspirator to remove the shell from the hull and a detwigger deck to remove sticks from the hulls.

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




- Cardlock
- Fuel
- DEF & Coolants
- Mobile Fueling
- Equipment
- Lubricants








## We Fuel California

(800)266-3782 | [www.ValleyPacific.com](http://www.ValleyPacific.com)

“While this has worked for many years to reduce the fiber content for dairy feed, there is more refinement that we can do with this system by introducing additional screening and additional aspiration,” Sturdivan said.

Through their trials with ABC, Sturdivan and his team discovered that by adding a screen to sift through the hulls, they could be better classified and ranked.

“We would de-twig the product; it would be screened, and the screen would sift out all of the fines from the hulls,” he said. “What is left over is what we would call scalped hulls, and this is your larger, good material created from the early stages of hulling.”

From their observation, Wilkey Industries also found that 1 to 1.3% of total hull weight can actually be recoverable kernel.

“That translates to roughly 3% of your kernel production that is actually sitting in the hull pile,” he said. “So, by integrating a screen and some additional aspiration, not only can we clean the hulls, but we can also reclaim those kernels and hash that have much higher value to be sold instead of letting them go to dairy feed uses.”

### Additional Sorting Techniques

As cleaning technologies continue to advance, innovations in color sorting are emerging as a key tool for preparing almond hulls for food-grade applications. The team at Chandler Automation has spent time working on this, and the initial models have been successful at “creating pure hull piles in one pass,” said CEO, Sean Chandler.

More research is needed to determine where this best fits in the manufacturing process – be it at the huller, processor, or a separate site and how it will be financially feasible.

“We have to do more research on our side to see the best way to mechanically clean hulls, mechanically feed it, and mechanically pass it through our systems because the technology is there to create that pure, premium hull,” he said.

### Looking Ahead

As ABC continues to refine its strategy for marketing almond hulls as a food ingredient, the industry is taking proactive measures to position itself for success, and that starts with collaboration among all players involved.

“We are about to begin a new journey to generate more revenue from almond hulls,” Huang concluded. “It will take a while and more effort to develop the market and demand, but if you are interested in creating more value out of almond hulls, many of us can work together to shorten the process.”

## 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](http://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](http://www.mid.org)

## America Needs Farms of all Sizes

Source: Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President

I am amazed by the diversity of agriculture in our nation. From the expansive ranches in the West to small dairies in the Northeast, from the grain farms of the Midwest to the tree fruit orchards in the South, American agriculture is as varied as the regions of our country. And that matters. It matters that we have access to leafy greens year-round. It matters that you can buy fresh apples to fill your pie and butter for the crust. We all rely on farms near and far to keep our pantries full, and we need farms of all sizes to keep our food supply secure.

We have come to take our abundant food supply for granted in our country, and folks off the farm may not think too much about local agriculture other than a trip to the apple orchard or pumpkin patch this time of year. But farmers and Farm Bureau know that our nation's agriculture relies on a diversity of farm sizes and commodities. The American Farm Bureau is proud to represent farms of all sizes in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Most of our members come from small- and medium-sized farms. In fact, we poll our voting delegate body—the group of grassroots members that sets our policy—every year, and nearly two-thirds come from small- and medium-sized farms. Ninety-seven percent of them are family farms, and that number tracks right along with USDA statistics for the percentage of family farms in the country. Unfortunately, it's getting harder for smaller farms to stay in business, and that's a problem that mat-

ters to all of agriculture—big and small.

We have lost tens of thousands of farms across our country in recent years. It's heartbreaking when any family farm must close, and I hate to think of how many more we could lose in the coming months. As the government shutdown drags on, farmers across the country are left waiting for relief and access to loans to keep growing food for the next season. Smaller farms are also without critical resources from USDA such as market reports that help them plan and local staff to connect them with financial help.

Meanwhile, the economic outlook for farm country has gone from bad to worse in the last few years. Farmers were already facing low prices for their crops and high expenses. That has reached a tipping point with some overseas markets lost to ongoing trade disputes. I hear from farmers who are facing heartbreaking decisions, uncertain of how much longer they can hold on. But it doesn't have to be that way. We can reopen top markets and expand to new ones, and Farm Bureau is urging the administration to do just that without any more delay. We need Congress to find a path forward to reopen the government and get back to work for all the country. And top of the list for business that Congress needs to get done right after the budget: delivering a new farm bill and finally addressing the labor crisis in farm country. None of these are easy tasks—they will take hard work. But

farmers don't shy away from hard work, and neither should our lawmakers.

I know the picture I am painting might look dire, but it doesn't have to be. These are all challenges that can be tackled. Together, we can help farms of all sizes succeed to ensure America's ability to be food independent long into the future.



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*



We can find ways to bring young and beginning farmers to the field. And we can innovate to find new ways for farmers to connect with customers and build a brighter future for all of agriculture. That's why I'm honored to lead our federation of small and large farms raising crops and livestock of all kinds as we work together to achieve these goals. My friends, a bright future for agriculture is absolutely possible. I know the mountains seem tall right now, but we will work together to reach the summit.

### Government Shutdown Puts U.S. Farms at Risk

Farmers and ranchers don't quit when times get tough. When a tractor breaks down, we get out our tools and get to work. When a storm is coming, everyone pitches in to get the crops harvested. And when we disagree on how to handle a problem, we sit down at the kitchen table or gather around the tailgate, and we work it out. That's what Congress needs to do now to

end the shutdown. It's time for both sides of the aisle to come together, find a solution, and reopen the federal government. Farmers, rural communities, and families across the country are counting on our lawmakers to do their job.

### The Federal Shutdown Hurts Rural Communities

Shutting down the federal government has ripple effects across our nation's economy and communities. It's not just bringing things to a halt in Washington, D.C.; it also cuts off important programs and services that rural Americans rely on. USDA offices in counties across the country are severely diminished in their staff and capacity. The men and women who work at these offices, serving local farms and ranches, are our neighbors. These federal employees at the local level often live paycheck to paycheck and cannot wait indefinitely as Congress holds up federal funding.

Small- and medium-sized farms have been left without critical reports and data they rely on to buy and sell what they grow. For example, USDA's Market News—a free service for farmers and ranchers—provides valuable market information to farmers and ranchers who can't afford a team of economists to help them make market decisions. These are decisions that cannot be put on hold: planting, growing and harvesting seasons do not operate on a congressional schedule.

### The Federal Shutdown Hits the Farm Economy

This federal shutdown could not come at a worse time for the farm economy. And let's be clear, there is never a good time for our government to shut down. Farmers are facing a serious economic storm right now. Row crop prices are low, production expenses are at record highs, and our markets have been severely limited by ongoing

See 'American' on page 28



## FROM OUR FAMILY ORCHARDS TO YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE

VISIT  
**MODESTO**

It's a story of generations: the care, tradition, and hard work cultivated in our local orchards and fields.

This holiday season, that story continues at your family's table. Our MoCheer campaign, Visit Modesto is celebrating the direct line from farmers to festivities. We want to hear **your traditions!** Share a family recipe using a local ingredient and tag @visitmodesto with #MoCheer for a chance to win a collection of local holiday artisan goods.



visitmodesto.com

## The Cowboy and the Tax Assessor

*Submitted by Arby Hoobyar  
Written by DAN BONDS, worked for Dave Wilson Nursery from 1964-2003*

He rode into town one hot day, awful dusty and looking real tired.

That old buckskin he was on had salt streaks on him, like he had been rode real hard.

Now the first old timer he met up with, he said, "I want to ask you something straight out. I hear there is a small spread for sale somewhere hereabout."

The old timer answered, "Yeah, it's the old Gaither place, about two miles south of town. I haven't been out there in quite a spell, but I hear it's all rundown."

The cowboy wound up buying the place, and he worked it all alone. After two years and a lot of hard work he had a place, he called home sweet home.

He repaired the corrals, shingled the barn, and painted the house real bright. The tax assessor drove by one day and saw this beautiful sight.

He almost wrecked his pickup truck trying to turn it around. "Somebody is making improvements out here I didn't know about," he thought with a frown.

He parked his pickup, got out, and spotted the cowboy and his dog over in the shade. He said, "I'm the tax assessor hereabouts, and I've come to assess the improvements

you've made."

The cowboy said, "You go right ahead, but there is one place you better stay out. It's the corral that's built just back of the barn — the one that's built real stout."

The assessor showed him his business card and said, "There is something I want you to know. This card says I can do anything and go anywhere that I decide to go."

The assessor took off, and the cowboy chuckled, for he didn't tell him about Big Red. Now, he's that 1,800-pound Santa Gertrudis bull that was behind the barn locked up in that little shed.

Now the assessor checked all around — he checked both far and wide. He finally wound up behind the barn, for he felt that cowboy had something to hide.

He climbed into the corral and walked on over to that closed door on the little shed. He jerked the door open and found himself eyeball to eyeball with 1,800-pound Big Red.

He turned to run, and the race was on in this little round corral. Every time he hit the ground, he'd let out this awful yell. The cowboy heard the commotion, and he went to see what was going on. He climbed up on the corral fence and said to himself, "Now that old boy can run."

Every time the assessor came by, he would yell, "Open the gate! I am getting real tired!"

The cowboy said, "You can stop all this if you'll just show Big Red your card."



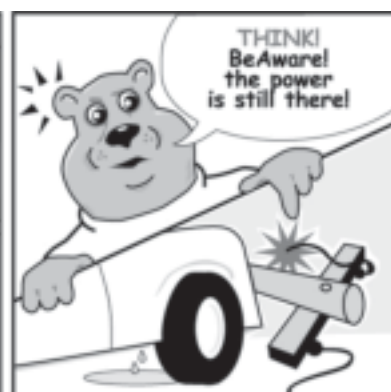
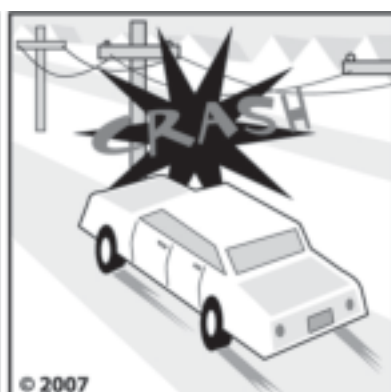
# FARM BUREAU



## YOUR LEGACY IS OUR LEGACY

*inquire now!*  
 No 1-844-DWN-TREE  
 DWNTREES.COM

📷 📱 @davewilson



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

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!**



# TUOLUMNE COUNTY BUSINESS MEMBERS



## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

- **A L Gilbert Company**
  - Oakdale, (209) 847-1721
- **Armstrong Logging**
  - Twain Harte, (209) 586-1384
- **Aspen Meadow Pack Station**
  - Sonora, (209) 965-3402
- **Benton Roberson CPAs LLP**
  - Sonora, (209) 586-5236
- **Blue Mountain Minerals**
  - Columbia, (209) 533-0127
- **California Reforestation Inc**
  - Sonora, (209) 840-1326
- **Canepa & Sons Well Drilling**
  - Sonora, (209) 532-1136
- **Cedar Ridge Apple Ranch LLC**
  - Sonora, (209) 533-9463
- **Conifer Communications Inc**
  - Sonora, (209) 532-5859
- **Covers Apple Ranch**
  - Tuolumne, (209) 840-2674
- **Crook Logging Inc**
  - Groveland, (209) 962-7716
- **Diestel Turkey Ranch**
  - Sonora, (209) 532-4950
- **Doherty Tire of Sonora**
  - Standard, (209) 532-3484
- **DSRS Inc.**
  - Sonora, (209) 993-8146
- **Fulton Trucking Inc.**
  - Groveland, (209) 962-4350
- **Hurst Ranch**
  - Jamestown, (209) 984-3016
- **Joe Cover & Sons Inc**
  - Tuolumne, (209) 840-2674
- **Lockhart Appraisal**
  - Soulsbyville
- **Mountain Oasis Purified Water LLC**
  - Sonora, (209) 533-9000
- **Left Coast Land Clearing**
  - Sonora, (209) 536-9174
- **Sierra Resource Management Inc**
  - Sonora, (209) 984-1146
- **Tuolumne Utilities District**
  - Sonora, (209) 770-8902
- **Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware**
  - Twain Harte, (209) 586-3571
- **Valley Pacific Petroleum**
  - Stockton, (209) 948-9412
- **Yosemite Clean Energy**
  - Mariposa, (209) 800-2831
- **Yosemite Farm Credit**
  - Turlock, (209) 667-2366



## Edwards, Lien & Toso, Inc.

*Agricultural Appraisal Services*

*Providing Full Service Agricultural Valuation Products*

Randal H. Edwards, ARA  
Jeffrey A. Lien  
Anthony J. Toso, ARA  
Richard L. Kilgore, ARA  
Martin Seanez, ARA  
Tiffany L. Holmes, ARA

(209) 634-9484  
eltappraisers.com  
info@eltappraisers.com



Kyle E. Dalrymple, ARA  
Mary Anne Dores  
Kay J. Austin  
Stephanie J. Bengard  
George L. Morasci  
Jason L. Edwards  
Alyssa L. Haines

8408 N. Lander Ave., Hilmar, CA 95324 • Fax: (209) 634-0765

**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!

**LOG IT, GRAZE IT**

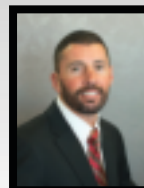


**OR WATCH IT BURN**

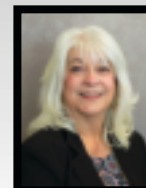


**RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic. 0499798

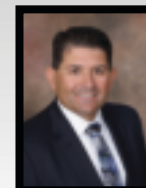
*"Proudly celebrating over 55 years of excellence in our industry"*



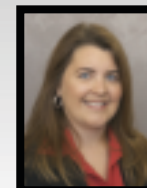
**BOBBY ROSA**  
(209) 856-8820  
broosa@rppins.com



**LUCIA FARAO**  
(209) 856-8846  
lfarao@rppins.com



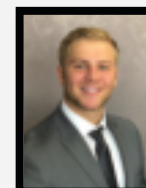
**LEROY ROCHA**  
(209) 856-8839  
lrocha@rppins.com



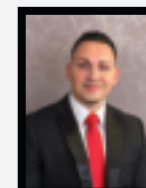
**TAMMY GRAY**  
(209) 856-8885  
tgray@rppins.com



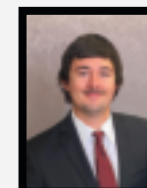
**LESLIE MACHADO**  
(209) 856-8814  
lmachado@rppins.com



**COLLIN STRASSER**  
(209) 856-8831  
cstrasser@rppins.com



**ALEX GULLIEN**  
(209) 856-8856  
aguillien@rppins.com



**JONATHAN WEATHERRED**  
(209) 856-8849  
jweatherred@rppins.com

**Call us today for a personalized Insurance Consultation!**

**(800) 399-7473 • (209) 854-2000 • www.rppins.com**



From 'American' on page 23  
trade disputes. A shutdown adds another level of uncertainty for farmers who are barely holding on.

Without local USDA offices fully open, farmers cannot weather this storm or prepare for next year. Farmers cannot take out loans, including mortgages and crop loans, which many will be counting on to help pay for supplies to grow next year's crops. A federal shutdown also holds up critical disaster payments for farmers struggling to recover from drought, hurricanes, fires and floods that have all taken a toll on crops this year. Without these tools and assistance, many farmers will not be able to afford to grow a crop next year.

## The Federal Shutdown Harms Food Security and Sustainability

Farmers want to feed people, and we want to keep farming to keep our food supply secure and sustainable for families across the country. A government shutdown places our food supply at risk. Farming is tough, even under the best circumstances, but the last several years have been especially hard on farm country with many unable to hold on. According to USDA's most recent Census of Agriculture, we lost 141,000 farms from 2017 to 2022. Since then, we have lost another 20,000. If we continue to lose family farms, we will see more production shift outside our borders. This not only places our food security at risk but also has serious impacts on our nation's sustainability

goals. When farms go under, many are then sold for development, and that land never returns to agriculture. In the near term, the shutdown is halting new signups for conservation programs that improve soil health and water quality and help farmers fulfill their commitment to protect our natural resources.

America's farmers are doing everything we can to hold on. We don't shut down when we hit a challenge because we know families across the nation are counting on us to keep growing food for our tables and pantries. We are now counting on Congress to live up to its end of the bargain to re-open the government and ensure America's farms can stay open for the health and security of our nation.



## 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.



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



DECEMBER 10-12, 2025

SAFE Credit Union Convention Center  
Downtown Sacramento, CA