



Merced County Farm News



After Identifying Gaps in Previous Aid, USDA Announces ‘Pandemic Assistance for Producers’ to Distribute Resources More Equitably

USDA Reopens Program Sign-Up to a Larger Share of Producers with Plans to Expand Outreach and New Programming

By: USDA

WASHINGTON, March 24, 2021 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who

felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative—USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers—will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs. The Department will also develop rules for new programs that

will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others. Existing programs like the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will fall within the

new initiative and, where statutory authority allows, will be refined to better address the needs of producers. USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers was needed, said Vilsack, after a review of previous COVID-19 assistance programs targeting farmers
See 'USDA' Page 10

Op-Ed: Board of Supervisors Takes Action to Address Illegal Dumping

By: Daron McDaniel, District 3 Supervisor and Chairman of the Merced County Board of Supervisors



Daron McDaniel, District 3 Supervisor and Chairman of the Merced County Board of Supervisors

If there's one thing we can agree on as a community, it's that we don't like seeing trash in or around our neighborhoods. It happens far too often in California, and Merced County is no exception. Whether it be discarded mattresses, couches, tires, or just a pile of someone's household garbage—it's an unacceptable trend that needs to stop. Recently, the Merced County Board of Supervisors took collective action to address this issue by implementing fines for those who dump illegally

While County Code previously contained language addressing illegal dumping, there was no means to penalize anyone who dumps illegally unless he or she is literally caught in the act. Thanks to a new ordinance approved by the Board earlier this year, there is now an administrative penalty that can be imposed on an individual if two or more pieces of identifying information is found within or amongst the dumped material. County Code Enforcement will continue to make a concerted effort
See 'Illegal Dumping' Page 14

Address

INSIDE:

5

CAFB Legislative Update

16

CA Bullet Train Hopeful over Biden's infrastructure plan

17

Action by Insurance Commissioner Will Define Scope of Farmers' Coverage Gaps



Greetings Merced County Farm Bureau members. I hope this finds you and your family

from the

President's Corner

Eric Harcksen

well. It has been over a year since Governor Gavin Newsom had issued a mandatory “Stay at Home” order to flatten the curve for COVID-19. The question we have to ask ourselves was

it worth it and did it make a difference. I have asked myself this question time and time again. The authority that our county agencies have come into has been interesting to watch. The control that they have had over our everyday lives has been, in my opinion, a little over stepping to say the least. Let alone the overstepping control over businesses has been detrimental to some so much so that they have gone out of business, never to return again. It has been shocking to me the amount of power that some agencies acquired and how quickly they were to use it and continue to use it. I question

why June 15th is the date as to when restrictions will be lifted, given the unknown about infection rates. As far as the Farm Bureau is concerned, we are here and operating as usual. Here for the farmer and always working towards a better year ahead. We are in this together and want all our members to know that as long as there are issues to fight for, we are fighting them on your behalf. I hope your spring has brought you many blessings. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office during our business hours.

Towards the end of January, we mailed out our announcement regarding the MCFB Sweepstakes. In any other year, we would have celebrated at the Merced Fairgrounds with plenty of time to mingle and carry on through the evening. In place of that, we are holding a sweepstakes event that is taking place through the 2021 year and allows us to celebrate local agriculture in our own way. We began this journey by taking our donations and giving back to community businesses while providing individuals something to look forward to during COVID 2.0. The Sweepstakes has been more than we would have anticipated due

to the generosity of the community. Although it is not a typical raffle where you must pay to play, individuals from throughout the community have elected to participate in the donation aspect. We appreciate each of you who have taken the time to send in a small donation as we understand these are difficult times. You can find a recap of the winners and their prizes on page 24 of the *Farm News*. Things have begun to pick up in other areas as well as various city plans are starting to come to the table. Both Livingston and Los Banos are conducting public outreach meetings on their General Plan Updates. Counties and cities are mandated to provide updates to their plans on a

routine basis and local involvement is encouraged at all costs. If you have not participated in a General Plan, think of this document as a wish list for local officials and planners. It provides the opportunity to account for potential new growth, changes to zoning guidelines and direction as to how the agency or organization can develop during that time. You can find more on the plans and an opportunity to sign up for the e-blasts by checking out the links below: City of Los Banos: www.losbanos2040.org City of Livingston: www.livingstoncity2040.com The County Supervisors are also holding their virtual Town Halls. While they are set virtually through Zoom given the pandemic, residents can hear from their elected representative, meet department heads and staff, learn about county projects and ask questions. You can register on the county’s website at www.co.merced.ca.us. Once on the main page, you can find Town Hall Meetings under the Community tab. Should you not be able to watch on Zoom, you can also view on Facebook live (@mercedcounty) or government access channels 95/96 (Comcast) and/ or 99 (AT&T). Town Hall dates are as follows: District 1 – Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6pm (can be reviewed on Facebook) District 2 - Wednesday, April 28, 2021

from the

Director's Desk

Breanne Ramos



at 6pm District 3 - Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 6pm District 4 - Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6pm District 5 - Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6pm (can be reviewed on Facebook) I encourage you to engage with your local officials. Be involved as agriculture will need all hands-on deck attitude!



Farm Bureau Extension

APRIL 19

Coffee Talk with
Karen Ross,
Secretary of CDFA

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

cbbf.com/FBecoffeetalk

Merced County Farm Bureau’s Mission Statement

Merced County Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, grassroots organization that advocates for the men and women who provide food, fiber, and nursery products for our community, state, and nation. Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize

California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible, guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply. Merced County Farm Bureau supports policies and legislation that promote and protect our Country’s number one industry - agriculture for future generations and the security of our nation.



from the

Editor's Notes

Denelle Flake

third-grade teachers. Our program is now comprised of 31 educational videos, covering ten different areas in agriculture. Across all our videos, we have received close to 2,000 views. If you would like to view our program, visit our website www.mercedfarmbureau.org and click on the ‘Virtual FARM2U Program’ tab at the top.

In honor of national ag week this past month, Merced County Farm Bureau delivered agriculture education newspapers and coloring books throughout our cities. We also thanked our FARM2U teachers that took the time to complete our survey by providing them agriculture education tangibles for their classrooms!

Our Rooted in Agriculture rewards program applications were due Friday, April 9th. Our Rooted in Agriculture program allows us to honor those TK-6th grade teachers that incorporate ag lessons into their curriculum. Stay tuned for announcement of our rewards program recipients in our next edition of the Farm News.

This year Merced County Farm Bureau awarded \$23,750 across all the scholarships we manage. I would like to thank all our generous scholarship donors, the Natcher family and Merced County YF&R for making these scholarships possible. I would also like to thank our scholarship committee, Bill Arnold, Joe Sansoni, Brent Chipponeri, and Joe Scoto, for taking the time to read through our over 50 applications. Please see pages 12 and 13 to meet our outstanding scholarship recipients!

We have started releasing our second round of virtual FARM2U videos for our Merced County

Calendar of Events

April 19
Farm Bureau Extension - Coffee Talk (pg. 2)

April 29
Women for the Land Learning Circle

May 4
Women for the Land Learning Circle

May 17-21
Ag Container Recycling Event (pg. 4)

May 25
Document Shredding Event @ MCFB (pg. 24)



Merced County Farm News

Published monthly by
Merced County Farm Bureau
Phone (209) 723-3001
Fax (209) 722-3814
646 S, Hwy 59, Merced CA 95341
Email: dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org
(USPS 339-500)

Entered as Second Class matter, Jan. 20, 1948 at the US Post Office in Merced, CA. Subscription is included in membership. Singles issues are 50 cents. Merced County Farm News is printed by Mattos Newspapers Incorporated, 1021 Fresno Street, Newman, CA 95360, (209) 862-2222.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Merced County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1232, Merced, CA 95341; telephone (209) 723-3001; FAX (209) 722-3814. Merced County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in Merced County Farm News, nor does Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer, director or employee of the Merced County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

Merced County Farm Bureau Staff

Breanne Ramos
Executive Director
Lorraine Passadori
Program Director
Denelle Flake
Farm News Editor
Alexxis Rudich

Project Assitant/ESJ Grower Relations

Board of Directors

Pres: Eric Harcksen 620-1953
1st VP: Joe Sansoni 761-9284
2nd VP: Alan Sano 559-905-1240
Sec/Treas: David Barroso 652-6437
Past Pres: Gino Pedretti III 756-1612

District 1

Sean Davis 769-1804
Joe Maiorino 564-6791

District 2

Bob Vandenberg 704-5568
Joe Maiorino Jr 564-6789

District 3

Mike Martin 675-1907
Chad Perry 675-4474

District 4

Jean Okuye 756-2421
Galen Miyamoto 761-5366

District 5

Brent Chipponeri 652-3473
John Van Ruler 648-3877

District 6

Dante Migliazzo 769-9525
Bill Arnold 761-0542

District 7

Wiebren Jonkman 564-0870
Tom Roduner 769-9353

District 8

Julie Giampaoli 769-4973
Joe Scoto 761-0489

Directors at Large

Jim Johnston 564-7551
Jeff Marchini 769-9116
Tim Lohman 988-3545
Bob Giampaoli 769-4973
Dan Dewees 658-4343
Louie Bandoni 761-0625
Michael Serrano 485-1935

Mariposa County Farm Bureau Staff

Danette Toso
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Pres: Kelly Williams 376-2408
1st VP: Elnora George 376-2419
2nd VP: Carla Kelly 742-6862

Directors

Abel Lopez 376-2208
James Palmer 374-3470
Walter Palmer Jr 374-3470
Trevor Lee Smith 769-9969
Danette Toso 376-2304
Tony Toso 376-2304

Tom Rogers
CFBF Director - District 9

Andrew Genasci
CFBF Field Representative

Sarah Baskins
YF&R State Committee - District 9

Stay Connected with MCFB

Follow us on instagram
[@merced_farm_bureau](https://www.instagram.com/merced_farm_bureau)

Like us on Facebook
Merced County Farm Bureau

Join our mailing list by emailing
info@mercedfarmbureau.org



Agriculture Container Recycling Event



MAY 17-MAY 21, 2021

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL THE
MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AG AT 209.385.7431

HOSTED BY
**MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
& MERCED COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

To participate, you must:


- Ensure containers meet the Container Preparation Checklist found at https://www.acrecycle.org/Where_and_How_to_Recycle/Container_Preparation_Checklist
- Have a known quantity of containers prior to making appointment
- Make a pre-inspection appointment with the Ag Commissioner's office to ensure your containers are approved (must be done a week in advance of the event)
- Finalize your appointment drop off for the event



IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER


CASH PATRONAGE DIVIDEND




\$25,400,000



CHECKS TO BE MAILED IN MARCH

MODESTO 209-527-1900	TURLOCK 209-668-3522	PATTERSON 209-892-6136
MERCED 209-383-1116	LOS BANOS 209-827-3885	OAKDALE 209-847-7021



yosemitefarmcredit.com   

California Farm Bureau Legislative Update

By: **CAFB**

April 9, 2021-

Agricultural Employment

AB 73 (Rob Rivas, D-Hollister) would require the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to maintain a stockpile of N-95 respirators to be made available to agricultural employers as a backstop for shortages of respirators to comply with the Cal/OSHA wildfire smoke regulation. Farm Bureau is working with Rivas' office seeking clarifications of the requirement for agricultural employers to report their levels of employment to DIR.

AB 95 (Evan Low, D-Silicon Valley) imposes a new unpaid leave requirement in the Labor Code for bereavement. This is problematic because it exposes employers to mis-apply or fail to comply with the bereavement leave mandate to liability under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA); employer representatives have suggested that such leave must be mandated, it should be provided under in the Government Code as part of the existing California Family Rights Act, avoiding PAGA liability. AB 95 was approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on April 8 and referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 364 (Freddie Rodriguez, D-Chino) would impose duplicative registration, bonding and other regulatory requirements on farm labor contractors who employ H-2A temporary visa workers by designating them as foreign labor contractors to address human and labor trafficking. Proponents claim AB 364 is necessary to close a loophole in the 2014 legislation (SB 477, Steinberg) creating foreign labor contractor registration, though the office of the author of the SB 477 told Farm Bureau in 2014 that the omission of farm labor contractors was intentional and the Assembly Judiciary Committee report on the bill cited farm labor contractor licensing as a reform that helps curtail labor trafficking. Farm Bureau opposes AB 364 and testified at the Assembly Labor Committee. AB 364 passed the Assembly Labor Committee on April 8 and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 654 (Eloise Reyes, D-San Bernardino) requires California

Department of Public Health (CDPH) to make names and locations of workplaces where COVID-19 outbreaks (three or more cases) have occurred, exposing employers to needless public attention when their employee contract COVID-19 in the non-work interactions. Farm Bureau opposes. AB 654 passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on April 8 and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 857 (Ash Kalra, D-San Jose) is a re-tread of SB 1102 (Monning, 2020) which was vetoed by Governor Newsom. AB 857 requires the DIR to create a duplicative notification requirement for H-2A employers and mandates a notification template the mis-characterizes the existing requirement for employers to compensate travel time at the employee's regular rate of pay rather than the minimum wage. Farm Bureau opposes AB 857 and testified at the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. AB 857 passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on April 8 and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1041 (Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland) amends the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) to require employers to make unpaid CFRA leaves available to care for any individual an employee regards as a family member. Farm Bureau opposes due to the uncertainty and ambiguity that will be caused by the changes. AB 1041 passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on April 8 and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1119 (Wicks) amends the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to add family responsibilities to the list of protected characteristics on the basis of which an employer may not discriminate without violating FEHA. Farm Bureau opposes due to the uncertainty and ambiguity that will be caused by the changes.

SB 338 (Lena Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) expands possible joint liability for various employment and workplace safety violations committed by port drayage motor carriers (motor carriers who move freight into or out of port facilities from off-site terminals) on shippers, increasing shipping costs for agricultural exports and possibly

compounding already serious port congestion. SB 338 passed the Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee on April 6, and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Farm Bureau opposes.

SB 606 (Gonzalez) creates a new classification of employment law violations that will cause some employers to be dubbed "egregious employers" and would thereby subject them to much higher penalty levels. These would be levied on an employee-by-employee basis rather than location by location. Farm Bureau opposes. SB 606 was approved April 6 by the Senate Committee on a 9-2 vote and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Climate Change

Assembly Agriculture Committee will hear AB 1289 (Ash Kalra, D-San Jose) next week on Thursday, April 15th. This bill would create a Smart Climate Ag Program at the Department

of Food and Agriculture to subsidize the transition from livestock, dairy and animal feed producers to "plant-based agriculture" that is "lower water use." Beyond impractical and fraught with questions, the bill makes disparaging and concerning claims about the dairy and livestock sector and would establish a policy to reduce/eliminate livestock and dairying in the State. Farm Bureau is leading a coalition of organizations in opposition to the measure.

Commodities

The Assembly Health Committee will be hearing AB 535 (Cecilia Aguiar-Curry) on Tuesday, April 13th. This bill would prohibit the representation of olive oil as "California olive oil" unless the olives used were produced in California. This bill would also prohibit the

See 'Legislative' Page 6



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

"Proudly celebrating over 50 years of excellence in our industry"



Bobby Rosa
(209) 856-8820
brosoa@rppins.com



Tammy Gray
(209) 856-8885
tgray@rppins.com



Leroy Rocha
(209) 856-8839
lrocha@rppins.com



Lucia Farao
(209) 856-8846
lfarao@rppins.com



Jeff Wolf
(209) 856-8821
jwolf@rppins.com



Ayesha Smith
(209) 856-8886
asmith@rppins.com



Leslie Machado
(209) 856-8814
lmachado@rppins.com



Zach Withrow
(209) 856-8843
zwithrow@rppins.com

Call us today for a personalized Insurance Consultation!

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



BENEFITS DIVISION
OF RICO, PFITZER, PIRES & ASSOCIATES
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. Lic. 0181506

Legislative

continued from page 5

representation of olive oil from a particular region in California unless at least 85% of the olives used were produced in that region. This prohibition would extend to brand names, labels, advertising, and packaging.

Economic Relief

The Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking public comments on a draft Request for Proposals for the California Underserved and Small Producer Grant Program. The Program is intended to facilitate assistance to small and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who need support applying for economic relief programs and assistance with business planning and marketing. Funding will be provided for technical assistance providers and direct assistance. The draft RFP can be found here and awards are contingent upon funding in the budget. Public comments can be submitted until April 22, 2021. The Department will also be hosting a workshop on April 19th from 1-3pm. Registration for the workshop can be found here. Farm Bureau will be reviewing the draft RFP and commenting.

Economic Development

The Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee is set to hear, AB 778 (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) on Wednesday, April 14th. This bill would require all state institutions to purchase California-grown and raised products over other domestic and non-domestic agricultural commodities, unless the products are not grown or in season in the State. This would replace the current modest 5% purchase preference available for California producers on state contract bids. Farm Bureau is supporting this bill.

Food Safety

The Food and Drug Administration posted several updates regarding food safety on April 6th. First, was a release of the report on an investigation into the Fall 2020 outbreak of the E. coli 0157:H7 linked to leafy greens. The report describes findings from the investigation, as well as trends key to understanding leafy greens outbreaks linked to the California Central

Coast growing region (encompassing the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria growing areas) that have occurred every fall since 2017. The FDA also released an updated version of the Leafy Green Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC) Action Plan, reaffirming the need for collaborative action to improve the safety of leafy greens, and building on the work accomplished in 2020

Insurance

SB 11 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park), Farm Bureau's sponsored legislation to authorize the California FAIR Plan to underwrite insurance coverage for commercial farms and ranches, was heard in the Senate Insurance Committee. The legislation passed unanimously by a vote of 12-0 and has been referred to the full Senate for a final vote. SB 11 has no opposition and is supported by a coalition of our agricultural colleagues and insurance associations.

Taxation

AB 1253 (Santiago, D-Los Angeles), a bill which would impose a new personal income tax surcharge, ranging from 1 percent to 3.5 percent, on certain earners and businessowners that file under the personal income tax laws, is being opposed by Farm Bureau and a coalition of other taxpayer and business organizations. At a time when California is experiencing a \$22 billion budget surplus, which may increase to as much as \$40 billion if you add in special fund reserves, it's difficult to argue for the need to further increase revenues. In addition, California is set to receive more than \$100 billion in federal "relief" dollars related to COVID-19. For these reasons and others, Farm Bureau is opposing AB 1253. The bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

AB 65 (Low, D-Silicon Valley), a bill which would impose yet another new 1 percent personal income tax to fund a universal basic income program in California, is being opposed by Farm Bureau and a coalition of taxpayer and business organizations. As California appears to be fairly secure financially, a new and additional income tax on certain earners is ill-advised when such a program, if deemed necessary, could be funded via the state's general fund. It should be noted that AB 65, at this time, only imposes the 1 percent tax on those earning \$2 million or more. Nothing prevents the legislature from

lowering the \$2 million threshold to other, lower income earners in the future. This is especially true given the highly volatile fluctuations in income tax earnings for California's highest earners. The bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Transportation

SB 287 (Grove, R-Bakersfield), a bill which would resolve an ongoing licensing issue related to hauling horse and stock trailers, is being supported by Farm Bureau. Under existing law, any person operating a single vehicle with two axles having a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000lbs or pulling a trailer with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of less than 10,000lbs can drive with a noncommercial Class C driver's license. Even if the towing vehicle is pickup truck, once a trailer exceeds a GVWR of 10,000lbs, a driver must have a valid Class A commercial driver's license (CDL), with certain limited exceptions.

In 2019, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) issued formal clarification regarding the California driver license requirements for towing horse and/or stock trailers, fueling confusion among the agricultural and equine communities. CHP determined that operators of horse and stock trailer combinations with a GVWR greater than 10,000lbs used in a "recreational capacity" are ineligible for any of the farmer and rancher exclusions provided in California Vehicle Code section 12804.9(b)(3) (G). The determination means that horse trailers leaving a horse show, or from a backcountry trailhead, are not considered "agriculture" and thus are ineligible for the exclusion provided above. Instead, these operators would otherwise be required to have a valid Class A commercial driver's license. SB 287 corrects this flawed interpretation and would grant operators the same licensing flexibility as others with recreational vehicle endorsements. The bill will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, April 13.

Utilities

AB 525 (Chiu, D-San Francisco), a bill which would require the development and then mandated procurement of offshore wind generated electricity for California's investor owned utilities, is being opposed by California Farm Bureau and a coalition of other electrical

ratepayers. Generally, Farm Bureau is supportive of a diverse portfolio of renewable energy; however, we believe that AB 525 inappropriately elevates offshore wind projects above all other, and potentially less expensive, renewable sources of energy. As a result, California ratepayers will be forced to pay billions of dollars in offshore wind infrastructure that will circumvent existing processes designed to identify the most appropriate array of energy resources needed by the state. AB 525 predetermines winners and losers related to energy development and ignores the very significant rate impacts that would result from procurement. AB 525 awaits a hearing in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee.

AB 1087 (Chiu, D-San Francisco), a bill which would eliminate the California Climate Credit on electricity bills of residential, agricultural and commercial ratepayers to fund the Environmental Justice Community Resiliency Hubs Program (Program), is being opposed by Farm Bureau as part of a coalition of business, industry and other agricultural organizations. The coalition doesn't oppose the creation of the (Program), as some of California's most disadvantaged communities continue to lack access to many of state's clean energy programs. However, we fundamentally disagree with the funding source.

Currently, over 85 "emissions-intensive trade-exposed" industrial categories are eligible to receive a California Industry Assistance Credit on their utility bill to protect against "emission leakage." This includes a wide variety of industrial sectors from wineries, cement manufacturers, and dairies, to food processors and petroleum refineries. This credit protects eligible industrial sectors against emissions leakage by compensating them for a portion of the GHG emission costs associated with the electricity they buy.

Even with these climate credits, California industrial, agricultural, and commercial ratepayers are already subject to some of the highest electricity costs in the nation. We have only just begun to pay for the necessary improvements to our electrical infrastructure to minimize wildfire risk and reduce the use of public safety power shutoff (PSPS)

Legislative

continued from page 6

events, which will account for tens of billions of ratepayer dollars. All of this while business and individuals are still forced to shoulder the financial implications and impacts of PSPS events, and additional costs to ensure that the state does not experience further rolling blackouts. This makes these critical protections for these ratepayers even more important as higher electricity costs have the potential to further increase the costs of goods and services across the state. The legislation is double referred to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee and Assembly Natural Resources Committee – it recently passed in the Utilities and Energy Committee by a vote of 8-3.

Senator Josh Becker's (D-San Mateo) SB 345 was heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on April 5, 2021 and placed on the Suspense File. It would require that the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) develop a common definition of "nonenergy benefits" in all distributed energy resource programs, which, in many circumstances could be contrary to the core purpose of the CPUC to determine appropriate rates and ensure reliable utility services. Although the bill was amended in the Policy Committee, it expanded the circumstances in which nonenergy benefits would apply. CAFE joined with a coalition to oppose the legislation because the CPUC's core expertise is in setting appropriate rates and ensuring oversight over the state's regulated utilities to ensure appropriate and cost-effective utility service. Its functions are fundamentally economic ones; ensuring that California's ratepayers are not paying more than they need to for reliable services. Prioritization of nonenergy benefits over other cost-effectiveness factors may result in increased costs that burden those very customers sought to be benefited by this bill. Incorporating environmental benefits into all of the CPUC's demand response programs could cause unforeseen difficulties, including unnecessary increases in rates with marginal environmental benefit.

Waste

Last year, Farm Bureau and others

supported legislation to extend the allowance for alternative management of treated waste wood, rather than be classified as a hazardous material governed by the Department of Toxic Substances. Without notice or an alternative, Governor Newsom vetoed the legislation, forcing the Department to scramble developing an interim variance process. In response, Farm Bureau is supporting AB 332 (Assembly Environmental Safety), a bill which would re-authorizing the alternative management standards that have been in place in regulation since July 2008. The bill passed Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee this week unanimously and will next be heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Wildlife

AB 391 (Carlos Villapudua, D-Stockton) proposes to allocate \$5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Food and Agriculture to partner with organizations, such as RCDs, UC Cooperative Extension and USDA, to deliver technical assistance, outreach and grants to incentivize participation in state and federal pollinator habitat and forage establishment. Farm Bureau is supporting the measure and it will be heard in Assembly Agriculture Committee on April 15th.

Friday Review readers may remember, AB 564 (Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego), a bill which would codify the Governor's Executive Order to require the state to conserve 30% of lands and 30% of coastal waters by 2030 in the effort to promote biodiversity. Farm Bureau led a coalition in opposition to a similar bill, AB 3030 (Ash Kalra, D-San Jose), last year. This new bill, however, contains a more concerning provision that's not within the Executive Order which states that public agencies shall not approve projects that are inconsistent with or would impair the successful implementation of the 30x30 goal. We question how this provision could be used to justify contestation of any host of actions, including voluntary agreements, the irrigated lands regulatory program, actionable pests and diseases, vegetation management, incidental take, and waste discharge requirements, among other things. The bill has been assigned to Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review to be heard on Wednesday, April 14th. Farm Bureau is leading a large coalition in opposition.

Atwater FFA Students Earn State's Highest FFA Degree

Fifteen Atwater FFA students have been awarded with their State FFA Degree by the California FFA Association. The FFA State Degree is the highest degree a student can earn at the state level and is only presented to a small percentage of the over 89,000 FFA membership. Requirements for the degree include a minimum of two years of agriculture course work and 24 months of active FFA membership, Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project(s) earnings and investments of at least \$1000 or at least 500 unpaid hours outside of class time, leadership activity involvement, active in school and agriculture activities, and carry a satisfactory scholastic record.

"The state degree represents the cream of the crop," explains FFA advisor Shelby Fishman.



Atwater High School senior Stefani Sanchez earned her California FFA State Degree through her various horticultural projects and as a school nursery manager during her four year high school tenure.

"Our program continues to grow with more students taking advantage of the opportunities agricultural

education and FFA has to offer towards personal growth, premier leadership, and educational and career success."

Atwater High School students who earned their FFA State Degree include Kate Brigham (dairy replacement heifers), Gabriella Lucas (market lambs, work placement), Naomi Gonzalez (market goats), Tristian Cardey (market goats, breeding goats, market rabbits, breeding rabbits), Jessica Garcia (market hogs), Joshua Vann (market hogs), Allison Hall (market hogs), Gabriela Moreno (market lambs), Celeste Chargoy Velasco (market goats), Alonso Villanueva-Serrano (market goats), Yureili Aguila (market goats), Teresa Cavallero (market hog, market rabbit, work placement), Alyssa Perez (market hogs), Michell Pena (market hogs), Daniel Narez (market hogs, horticulture manager), and Stephanie Sanchez (market hogs, horticulture manager). Each student is prepared and planning to attend either a community college or a major university to further their education towards their career interest.

For more information on the Atwater High School Agriculture Department and Atwater FFA, please log on the website www.AtwaterFFA.org.

WE SELL LAND

AG & Ranch
DIVISION
PROPERTY TEAM

Jeff Stephenson
(209)777-4970

Sarah Bell
(209)769-4698

Stephanie Morgado-Lewis
(209)917-2390

DRE#s 02021955, 01984144, 02020696

Preserving the Film Reels of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

By: Rebecca Gourevitch, UC Merced Library

In addition to archiving the records of county Cooperative Extension records such as Merced's, the CARA (California Agricultural Resources Archive) project at UC Merced is also preserving historical reports and film from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR), the statewide organization that oversees UCCE county offices and personnel. In 2019, we accepted several boxes of 16mm film reels from the UCANR statewide office. Produced by UCCE personnel throughout California, the films date from 1953 to 1979 and cover UCANR activities such as the 4-H youth development program, food and nutrition education, wildland management, the ag industry, animals, and adolescent health.

In previous columns we've discussed how archivists approach organizing records. When the library acquires collections, the archivist first conducts a survey of the materials making note of major topics, themes, and how the records are organized. For example, did the material come from the offices of a certain farm advisor or home demonstration agent? This step helps the archivist to process and arrange the materials in a way that makes them easily accessible to the public. In addition to these concerns, the archivist must also take into account the physical properties of the materials. Doing so can help determine

the approximate date of records that may otherwise be undated. Some mediums, in particular audiovisual items, are now obsolete and require older technologies to listen to or view them. Archivists need to be familiar with different formats and media types and how to handle them—both to preserve them and to provide access to researchers.

While surveying this collection of over 100 UCANR films, the archivist documented essential details such as the type of canister, the diameter of the reels, and condition of the medium, as well as titles, dates, transcriptions and other production information. Doing this work required opening each film can, and the vinegar smell was very strong! Why? The base of 16mm films made during this time period is cellulose acetate, which carries with it certain preservation concerns. If the reels are not stored in the right environment where temperature and humidity are controlled, and if they are not housed in archival quality boxes and cases, the films are at great risk of developing what is called "vinegar syndrome." This form of deterioration occurs when acetic acid is released from the film base, leading to

syndrome go too far, it becomes impossible to play the media or even transfer it to a digital file format.

Clearly, these reels were in various states of deterioration and needed immediate attention so their contents would not be lost. However, working with such film requires specialized equipment and trained experts to digitize—all of which comes at an expense. Since we did not know beyond the little information on the cans what the contents of these films were, nor the quality of playback once digitized, we decided on a set of films that would constitute a pilot for preservation and digitization. We worked with the MediaPreserve, a company based in Cranberry Township, PA with extensive experience working with universities, libraries, and other cultural heritage institutions to preserve and digitize such materials. Their experienced specialists helped to guide us through the steps needed to make these films last, including housing in archival quality film cans and digitizing them into sustainable file formats.

So far, we have already received the digital files for the first three films of our pilot and they are high-

quality professional productions. One film, titled 4-H Trail, was produced in 1963 to illustrate the extensive range of activities undertaken by 4-H club members in California, with scenes from local club meetings, family farms, camps, and field days accompanied by singing from a county 4-H club chorus. Another film, What's in Food? (1962) is a production of the "Homemaker's Notebook" with UCCE home nutritionist Marion Tate presenting information about healthy eating. The last of the three was chosen because of the intriguing title, "Muppets" on the film's canister. It turned out to be a series of short clips from 1975 titled Children's Nutrition (Candy) produced for the KTVU station that feature puppets—not to be confused with the widely known Muppets—speaking about the benefits of eating healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, instead of candy.

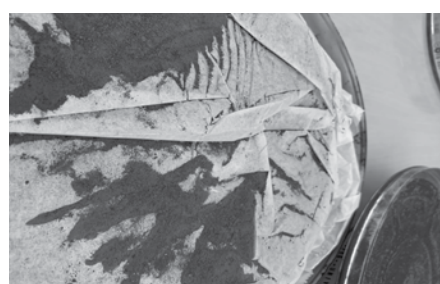
We are seeking the funds to support the digital preservation of the other films in the collection. The range of titles include Modern irrigation equipment (1964), Tomatoes (undated), Hills of Grass (Madera County, undated), California deer (1965), and Cows n' kilowatts 4-H. In the meantime, you can see the films digitized from our pilot on our digital platform, Calisphere: https://calisphere.org/collections/27754/?type_ss=moving%20image

We look forward to digitizing and sharing more of these films with you.

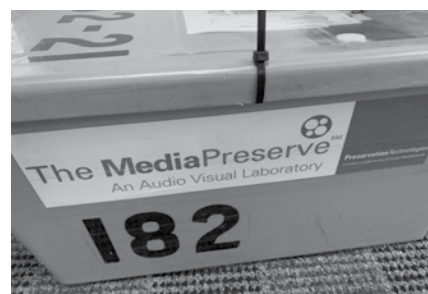


Film reels are laid out on a table and organized by title. UCCE collection and develop research questions for their StoryMaps.

embrittlement, shrinkage, and bubbling of the film. Not only does this affect the particular film omitting the acid, but when off-gassing occurs, it can damage any objects in its vicinity. The strong smell of vinegar is an indicator that the process has started. Once vinegar syndrome begins, it is irreversible; if the effects of vinegar



One aspect of deterioration emanates from the metal cans which can rust and cause a red powder to flake off onto the object.



The MediaPreserve sent us their own lock boxes so that the films are protected as they make their way to their offices in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.



Boxes of film reels from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Cooperative Extension Records.



Scan this QR code to view the films on Calisphere.

Merced County Farm Bureau Hertiage Members

Platinum Hertiage Members



Gold Hertiage Members

Grimbleby Coleman CPAs Holt Ag Solutions Minturn Nut Company Turlock Irrigation District



Delivered Fuels | Lubricants | CFN Cardlock

member of



CFN
A FleetCor Company

Visit our Merced Cardlock Location:

385 S Hwy 59, Merced, CA 95341

We proudly sell products from these brands and more!



We Fuel California
Family Owned & Locally Managed Since 1947
(800)266-3782 | www.vpps.net



Call for all your insurance needs.

Agriculture | Crop | Commercial | Personal | Health

Glaucio Cota
glaucio@wisg.info
(209) 850-2144

Winton-Ireland, Strom & Green is
an equal opportunity provider.

WIS&G
Winton-Ireland, Strom & Green
Insurance Agency
Lic. #0596517

USDA

continued from page 1

identified a number of gaps and disparities in how assistance was distributed as well as inadequate outreach to underserved producers and smaller and medium operations.

“The pandemic affected all of agriculture, but many farmers did not benefit from previous rounds of pandemic-related assistance. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to helping as many producers as possible, as equitably as possible,” said Vilsack. “Our new USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative will help get financial assistance to a broader set of producers, including to socially disadvantaged communities, small and medium sized producers, and farmers and producers of less traditional crops.”

USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will establish partnerships with organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

The payments announced today (under Part 3, below) will go out under the existing CFAP rules; however, future opportunities for USDA Pandemic Assistance will be reviewed for verified need and during the rulemaking process, USDA will look to make eligibility more consistent with the Farm Bill. Moving forward, USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers will utilize existing programs, such as the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach, and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and others to enhance educational and market opportunities for agricultural producers.

USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers – 4 Parts Announced Today

Part 1: Investing \$6 Billion to Expand Help & Assistance to More Producers

USDA will dedicate at least \$6 billion to develop a number of new programs or modify existing proposals using discretionary funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act and other coronavirus funding that went unspent by the previous

administration. Where rulemaking is required, it will commence this spring. These efforts will include assistance for:

- Dairy farmers through the Dairy Donation Program or other means;
- Euthanized livestock and poultry;
- Biofuels;
- Specialty crops, beginning farmers, local, urban and organic farms;
- Costs for organic certification or to continue or add conservation activities
- Other possible expansion and corrections to CFAP that were not part of today’s announcement such as to support dairy or other livestock producers;
- Timber harvesting and hauling;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other protective measures for food and farm workers and specialty crop and seafood producers, processors and distributors;
- Improving the resilience of the food supply chain, including assistance to meat and poultry operations to facilitate interstate shipment;
- Developing infrastructure to support donation and distribution of perishable commodities, including food donation and distribution through farm-to-school, restaurants or other community organizations; and
- Reducing food waste.

Part 2: Adding \$500 Million of New Funding to Existing Programs

USDA expects to begin investing approximately \$500 million in expedited assistance through several existing programs this spring, with most by April 30. This new assistance includes:

- \$100 million in additional funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which enhances the competitiveness of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops.
- \$75 million in additional funding for the Farmers Opportunities Training and Outreach program, administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, which encourages and assists socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning farmers and ranchers in the ownership and

operation of farms and ranches.

- \$100 million in additional funding for the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, administered by the AMS and Rural Development, which supports the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and enterprises and value-added agricultural products.
- \$75 million in additional funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, administered by the NIFA, which provides funding opportunities to conduct and evaluate projects providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers
- \$20 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to improve and maintain animal disease prevention and response capacity, including the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
- \$20 million for the Agricultural Research Service to work collaboratively with Texas A&M on the critical intersection between responsive agriculture, food production, and human nutrition and health.
- \$28 million for NIFA to provide grants to state departments of agriculture to expand or sustain existing farm stress assistance programs.
- Approximately \$80 million in additional payments to domestic users of upland and extra-long staple cotton based on a formula set in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 that USDA plans to deliver through the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills program.

Part 3: Carrying Out Formula Payments under CFAP 1, CFAP 2, CFAP AA

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 2020 requires FSA to make certain payments to producers according to a mandated formula. USDA is now expediting these provisions because there is no discretion involved in interpreting such directives, they are self-enacting.

- An increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle. Cattle producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will automatically receive these payments beginning

in April. Information on the additional payment rates for cattle can be found on farmers.gov/cfap. Eligible producers do not need to submit new applications, since payments are based on previously approved CFAP 1 applications. USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$1.1 billion to more than 410,000 producers, according to the mandated formula.

- Additional CFAP assistance of \$20 per acre for producers of eligible crops identified as CFAP 2 flat-rate or price-trigger crops beginning in April. This includes alfalfa, corn, cotton, hemp, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugar beets and wheat, among other crops. FSA will automatically issue payments to eligible price trigger and flat-rate crop producers based on the eligible acres included on their CFAP 2 applications. Eligible producers do not need to submit a new CFAP 2 application. For a list of all eligible row-crops, visit farmers.gov/cfap. USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$4.5 billion to more than 560,000 producers, according to the mandated formula.
- USDA will finalize routine decisions and minor formula adjustments on applications and begin processing payments for certain applications filed as part of the CFAP Additional Assistance program in the following categories:

Applications filed for pullets and turfgrass sod;

A formula correction for row-crop producer applications to allow producers with a non-Actual Production History (APH) insurance policy to use 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield in the calculation;

Sales commodity applications revised to include insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments, and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus payments, as required by statute; and

Additional payments for swine producers and contract growers under CFAP Additional Assistance remain on hold and are likely to require modifications to the regulation as part of the broader evaluation and future assistance; however, FSA will continue

See 'USDA' Page 11

Municipal compost, healthy soils, and processing tomatoes



from the
Farm Advisor
Scott Stoddard
UC Cooperative Extension,
Merced County

crops and using compost are two major practices that CDFA is targeting for California growers.

In theory, increasing soil organic matter improves plant health, increases water infiltration, improves water quality, reduces erosion and dust, and reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. But it is not easy to increase organic matter in irrigated soils in the San Joaquin Valley, especially with annual cropping systems where soils are frequently cultivated. The combination of cultivation, water, and warm soil temperatures creates a system where organic matter is rapidly “burned”, or mineralized into plant available N. And just like burning wood in a campfire, this process also releases CO₂ and NO_x into the atmosphere.

Thus the push for compost, rather than animal manure, because compost has a lot more carbon compared to nitrogen, and so it is much slower to mineralize. This is especially true for municipal compost, which is composed of primarily lawn clippings, leaves, and ground sticks, plus a few jar lids, twist ties, and crushed water bottles thrown in for good measure. So even in California, the organic matter increases, plants grow better, and gas emission go down. It’s a win-win-win. At least in theory.

But would this actually occur under real working conditions? To test, I participated in a CDFA Healthy Soils Demonstration project where I evaluated the impact on soil, crop yield, and greenhouse gas emissions from the application of municipal compost on processing tomatoes. The field was located near Dos Palos, CA, and had been in tomato production for two years at the onset of the trial. Compost treatments were applied in November 2017, 2018, and 2019 with a Terra Gator applicator with target application rates of 0, 15, and 30

tons per acre. The compost was then incorporated with a light disc to about 6” depth. This compost was made from ground trees and yard waste, with ~1.2% N and > 50% OM. Greenhouse gas samples were collected monthly over the winter after significant rainfall events, using small metal chambers placed in the field. Once tomatoes were transplanted, greenhouse gas sampling continued 1-2x a month until harvest. Treatment yields were measured by using a conventional tomato harvester and weighing the trailers at the PTAB station in Los Banos (2019) or Huron (2020).

By the end of the trial, soil bulk density was significantly ($p < 0.05$) less in the 30 T/A treatment, while E.C. and organic C and N were significant increased. Organic carbon increased from 1.5% to almost 2.5%, for example. Tomato yields also increased

slightly as compost rate increased in both years. There was no significant correlation of GHG emissions to compost rate, though the total amount of N₂O released increased as compost rate increased. While compost did increase yield, the 30 T/A application cost exceeded the additional revenue, and in this particular field location, was not profitable.

Compost, if clean of trash and weed seed, is good for soil regardless of source. But in this project, municipal compost was expensive, and even with increased tomato yield, was not economical to apply. Furthermore, preliminary data suggest that heavy compost applications actually increased GHG emissions, at least in the first two years after application (though the amount was relatively small under drip irrigated conditions typical for processing tomatoes).

There’s a lot of interest right now in healthy soils and soil quality, or at least there is a lot of effort by various government and non-government organizations to get growers interested in healthy soils. Both NRCS and CDFA offer incentive programs for growers to adopt practices that have been shown to “improve soil health”. According to the CDFA website about the Healthy Soils Initiative, the programs are “a combination of innovative farm and land management practices contribute to building adequate soil organic matter that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions”. Increasing organic matter can be done in a variety of different ways, but planting cover



Application of compost in the fall.

USDA

continued from page 10

to accept applications from interested producers.

Part 4: Reopening CFAP 2 Sign-Up to Improve Access & Outreach to Underserved Producers

As noted above, USDA will re-open sign-up for of CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021.

FSA has committed at least \$2.5 million to establish partnerships and direct outreach efforts intended to improve outreach for CFAP 2

and will cooperate with grassroots organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

Please stay tuned for additional information and announcements under the USDA Pandemic Assistance to Producers initiative, which will help to expand and more equitably distribute financial assistance to producers and farming operations during the COVID-19 national emergency. Please visit www.farmers.gov for more information on the details of today’s announcement.

WESTERN VALLEY
INSURANCE
WesternValley.com

Nationwide
is on your side

FARM • RANCH • AGRIBUSINESS

810 West K Street, Suite A, Los Banos, CA 93635 • Ph-209.826.5667

www.westernvalley.com

Lic# 0649647

2021 Scholarship Recipients



Gabriela Moreno

Atwater High School
MCFB Scholarship, YF&R Scholarship, & Arthur R. Nutter Scholarship
 Gabriela plans to attend Merced College to study Ag Education & Communications to become an Ag Teacher.



Cody Batchelor

Buhach Colony High School
Arthur R. Nutter Scholarship
 Cody plans to attend Merced College to study Ag Mechanics to become an Ag Teacher.



Kindall Grisham

Golden Valley High School
MCFB Scholarship & Arthur R. Nutter Scholarship
 Kindall plans to attend Fresno State to study Animal Science to become a Vet.



Lalanie Brace

Gustine High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Lalanie plans to attend Modesto Junior College to study Ag Science to become an Ag Teacher.



Gabriella Lucas

Atwater High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Gabriella plans to attend Merced College to study Ag Education & Communications to become an Ag Teacher.



Alysa Aguilar

Delhi High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Alysa plans to attend UC Davis to study ag business.



Robert Davey

Golden Valley High School
MCFB Scholarship & Arthur R. Nutter Scholarship
 Robert plans to attend Fresno State to study Ag & Music Education to become a Teacher.



Larynne Holland

Hilmar High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Larynne plans to attend Fresno State to study Ag Education & Ag Business to become an Ag Teacher.



Shayla Silva

Buhach Colony High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Shayla plans to attend Texas A&M to study Animal Science to become a Large Animal Vet.



Joanna Curiel Topete

El Capitan High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Joanna plans to attend Universal Technical Institute to get certified in welding and become a Welder.



Haylee Heffner

Golden Valley High School
Farm Employee's Children Scholarship
 Haylee plans to study Nursing to become a Nurse.



Lily Sapien

Le Grand High School
MCFB Scholarship
 Lily plans to study Animal Science to become a Vet.

2021 Scholarship Recipients



Ashley Urquiza
Le Grand High School
Farm Employee's Children Scholarship
Ashley plans to attend Sacramento State to study Psychology & Criminology to become a Forensic Psychiatrist.



Vanessa Quiroz
Los Banos High School
Farm Employee's Children Scholarship
Vanessa plans to attend UC Riverside to study Psychology to become a Psychologist.



Sarah Sanchez
Merced High School
MCFB Scholarship
Sarah plans to attend Fresno State to study Ag Education to become an Ag Teacher.



Melany Rivas
Pacheco High School
MCFB Scholarship
Melany plans to attend Fresno State to study Ag Education to become an Ag Teacher.



M'Lyssa Frago
Livingston High School
MCFB Scholarship
M'Lyssa plans to attend Cal Poly SLO to study Ag Communications to become an Ag Lawyer.



Cayden Pricolo
Los Banos High School
MCFB Scholarship
Cayden plans to attend Oklahoma State to study Ag Business with a concentration in Crop & Soil Science to pursue a career in Crop Protection Sales & Marketing.



Daisy Soriano-Perez
Merced High School
Farm Employee's Children Scholarship
Daisy plans to attend Fresno State to study Dairy Science to become a Livestock Vet.



Maartje Vander Dussen
Stone Ridge Christian High School
MCFB Scholarship
Maartje plans to attend Cal Poly SLO to study Ag Communications to pursue a career in Ag Marketing.



Joey Rawls
Los Banos High School
MCFB Scholarship
Joey plans to attend Feather River Junior College to study Ranch Management.



Zachary McCullough
Los Banos High School
Arthur R. Nutter Scholarship
Zachary plans to attend Merced College to study Ag Engineering.



Sidney Sanchez
Merced College
YF&R Scholarship
Sidney plans to transfer to Fresno State to become an Ag Teacher.

***Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients!
We wish you the best in your future endeavors.***

Fifty-six students benefit from Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc. scholarships

HILMAR, CA. April 5, 2021. Fifty-six students demonstrating community involvement and academic performance will each receive a scholarship toward their higher education through Hilmar Cheese Company's annual scholarship program. This is Hilmar Cheese Company's nineteenth year awarding scholarships.

The scholarship program has three categories: children of employees of Hilmar Cheese Company, children of the dairy farm families who ship milk to Hilmar Cheese Company, and students with an agricultural major living in the counties where the company is located. This third category is for students not affiliated with the company; but dedicated to the agricultural industry and living in Merced and Stanislaus counties in California, and Dallam and Hartley counties in Texas. Additionally, this year previous recipients of a producer or employee scholarship were invited to apply for a renewal scholarship and eleven were awarded.

Fifteen children of Hilmar Cheese Company employees will receive a scholarship. Nine graduating high school seniors and six college students were awarded \$1,000 include Alissa Paniagua (Delhi High School), Elisabeth Garner (Atwater High School), Haileigh Faria (John H. Pitman High School), Isabelle Buenrostro (Central Valley High School), Sydney Vallier (John H. Pitman High School), Jesse Davis (Dalhart High School), Dalia Martinez (Stratford High School), Alejandra Long (Dalhart High School), Bethany

Berngen (Dalhart High School), Abigail Starr (Merced Community College), Jill Reyna-Canales (Fresno Pacific University), Maxwell Lee (Merced College), Eli Roos (University of California Merced), Gracie Alves (Solano Community College), and Louis Alcala (West Texas A&M).

The seven children of the dairy farm families who ship their milk to Hilmar Cheese Company in California to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship are Lilianna Garcia (Whitmore Charter High School), Anthony Diniz (Hilmar High School), Shianne Omlin (Modesto High School), Colton Hoekstra (Ripon Christian High School), Avery Oliveira (Hilmar High School), Brielle Prock (Denair High School), and Bernadette Silveira (Merced Junior College).

Merced and Stanislaus counties California agricultural majors M'Lyssa Frago (Livingston High School), Gabriella Lucas (Atwater High School), Emma Menefee (Los Banos High School), Kindall Grisham (Golden Valley High School), Alayna Azevedo (Escalon High School), Cody Batchelor (Buhach Colony High School), Anthony Agueda (Hughson High School), Alyssa Zipser (Waterford High School), Caitlin Elizabeth Van Gorkum (Ripon Christian High School), Elizabeth Gomez-Vega (Turlock High School), Melanie Wolf (Fred C. Beyer High School), Tabitha Xavier (California State University, Fresno), Katelyn Struiksma (Oklahoma State University), and Sidney Miller (California State University, Fresno) were each awarded \$500.

Dallam and Hartley counties Texas agricultural majors Emma Lathem (Dalhart High School), Gannon Swecker (Dalhart High School), Jessica Beth Nolt (Dalhart High School), Claudia Taylor (Dalhart High School), and Jordan Smulders (Frank Phillips College) are awarded \$500.

Employee children who were awarded Renewal Scholarships of \$500 were Ellena Urrutia (University of California, Riverside), Ethan Machado (California State University, Stanislaus), Victoria Marcelino (University of California, Davis), Makayla Fontes (Merced College), and Julia Travis (University of California, Berkeley).

Six children of the dairy families who ship milk to Hilmar Cheese Company were also awarded Renewal Scholarships of \$500. Congratulations to Tanner Hoekstra (Oklahoma State University), Carter Azevedo (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Catherine Machado (Loyola Marymount University), Alison Bylsma (Azusa Pacific University), Grace Nightengale (Arizona State University), and Jenna Nightengale (University of California, Davis).

The Hilmar Cheese Company scholarship program reflects the company's ongoing support of higher education and its commitment to employees, dairy farm families, and the California and Texas agricultural industries.

Qualifying students are encouraged to apply November 1 through February 1, 2022. For more information about Hilmar Cheese Company's scholarship program, visit the About Us section of www.hilmarcheese.com.

Central California Irrigation District - Redfern Ranches Ag Leadership Scholarship Opportunity

Redfern Ranches, a landowner within Central California Irrigation District (CCID), sponsors a scholarship to support continuing undergraduate or graduate level education. In order to qualify, students must have completed two years of coursework at the time of the award of scholarship and be a relative of one of the following (1) Landowner or consumer in CCID or in any other agencies of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors; (2) Employee of a landowner or consumer in CCID or in any other agencies of the Exchange Contractors; (3) Employee or former employee of any of the aforementioned water agencies. The scholarship will be at least \$2,500 and is awarded annually. Please visit www.ccidwater.org for more information or contact our office (209) 826-1421

Illegal Dumping continued from page 1

but with the option of imposing an administrative penalty on offenders, we now have another tool in the proverbial toolbelt to combat this issue.

Code Enforcement will be flexible when working with offenders in an effort to avoid fines, but if cooperation

and communication breaks down, those fines will be levied. An appeals process will be available for anyone who disagrees with the enforcement action or penalty amount.

I would like to personally thank the entire Board of Supervisors for approving this item, especially District 4 Supervisor Lloyd Pareira and District 5 Supervisor Scott Silveira who led the charge. I would also like to thank staff from the Merced County Department

of Community and Economic Development for their stellar work on the development of this ordinance.

Merced County is a beautiful place. We need to keep it that way.

Residents of Merced County or its cities can dispose of trash and unwanted items at any of our annual "Community Cleanup" events: www.countyofmerced.com/communitycleanup.

If you do see someone illegally

dumping, please contact the Merced County Department of Public Works—Roads Division at 209-385-7601 or report it by using the Merced County mobile app. To get the app on Android/Google Play, search "Merced County" and download. For iPhones, download the "CivicMobile" app, open it, then search for and select "Merced County."

If we all do our part to keep our community clean, we can all enjoy the benefits.

Merced County Announces New Vaccination Site, Transitions to 'My Turn' for COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling

By: Merced County

MERCED COUNTY, CA—Merced County is excited to announce the opening of a new large-scale vaccination resource.

The State has located one of its “OptumServe” vaccination sites at the Atwater Community Center at 760 E. Bellevue Road and will vaccinate 400 people per day, beginning immediately.

Registration for an appointment at the OptumServe site is available through MyTurn.ca.gov. No walk-ins will be accepted.

“Having a reliable vaccination resource in a centralized location such as Atwater is a major win for the community,” said Chairman Daron McDaniel of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. “The Board has pushed hard for a more equitable share of vaccine doses from the State, and we’re encouraged to see those efforts paying dividends.”

As part of a statewide initiative,

Merced County is now transitioning to the State’s “My Turn” system for vaccine scheduling.

With this change, the County will no longer be using www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com to schedule appointments. However, the website will continue to house general vaccine information and will direct people to the new “My Turn” website: MyTurn.ca.gov. Anyone previously signed up through www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com will receive an email to register in the State’s system for vaccine scheduling.

Similar to the County’s site, My Turn will allow users to register for an email or text notification informing them when they’re eligible to receive vaccination. If eligible, users can also register for vaccination appointments. My Turn only displays clinics up to seven days out, so please check the site often to secure an appointment.

Please note: For administrative purposes, health insurance may be

collected from those who have it, but health insurance is not required to receive the vaccine.

Merced County first launched its COVID-19 vaccine registration/notification website (www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com) in mid-January before any State platform was available. The State’s My Turn website will not allow for the County’s data to be migrated over, so those currently registered on www.VaccinateMercedCounty.com will be notified to register on My Turn and new users on the County’s site will be directed to My Turn moving forward. The transition to My Turn will not negatively impact anyone’s ability to receive the vaccine.

The My Turn website is currently available in English, Spanish and six other languages. Those who do not have internet access can call 1-833-422-4255 for assistance in English, Spanish or 254 additional languages via a third-party operator. All residents,

regardless of tier, are encouraged to register with My Turn at MyTurn.ca.gov.

As a reminder, it is still a local and statewide mandate to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet for social distancing. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Practice social distancing
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- Stay home and isolate, if you are feeling sick

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Merced County: www.countyofmerced.com/vaccines

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Pause in Merced County

By: Merced County

April 13, 2021 MERCED COUNTY, CA—Due to extremely rare adverse effects that have been reported as a result of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, those doses are currently being paused at Merced County clinics, including the recently-opened OptumServe vaccination site in Atwater.

To date, more than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the United States. The CDC and FDA are currently reviewing data involving six reported cases of blood clotting in individuals who received the vaccine. Read more here.

This rare side effect is associated with the J&J vaccine only and is not an issue with other available vaccines.

The J&J vaccine is only being paused at this time out of an abundance of caution while officials investigate these issues and determine a best course of action moving forward.

While the J&J vaccine is on hold, various Merced County clinics will be canceled. Additional clinics will be scheduled once enough Pfizer/Moderna vaccine is secured. The recently-opened OptumServe vaccination site in Atwater, which was administering the J&J vaccine, will be closed until further notice. Anyone who was previously signed up for a now-canceled vaccination appointment will be notified via text message of the cancellation and encouraged to sign up for upcoming clinics.

Anyone who would like to receive vaccination moving forward is encouraged to schedule an

appointment at MyTurn.ca.gov.

As a reminder, it is still a local and statewide mandate to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet for social distancing. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Practice social distancing
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not

possible

- Stay home and isolate if you are feeling sick

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Merced County: www.countyofmerced.com/vaccines



Biden says he is 'prepared to negotiate' scope of infrastructure plan and how to pay for it

By: Jacob Pramuk, CNBC

President Joe Biden said Monday that he is ready to bargain with lawmakers about changes to his more than \$2 trillion infrastructure plan.

"I'm prepared to negotiate as to the extent of my infrastructure project as well as how we pay for it. ... I think everyone acknowledges we need a significant increase in infrastructure. It's going to get down to what we call infrastructure," the president said ahead of an Oval Office meeting with House and Senate members from both parties.

The president has said he will engage with Republicans skeptical of his proposal and try to win their support for the package. Still, Biden has stressed he will move forward without GOP votes because he considers a jobs plan necessary as the country recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Democratic-held Congress

returns to Washington this week from recess with infrastructure at the top of its agenda. Lawmakers will likely take months to craft and pass massive legislation that would affect everything from roads, bridges, airports and trains to broadband, housing, utilities and job training.

It would also hike the corporate tax rate and seek to deter offshoring of corporate profits. The proposed tax hikes have irked Republicans.

In a statement following the meeting, the White House said Biden and lawmakers "had a good exchange of ideas, and the President asked for their feedback and follow-up on proposals discussed in the meeting, while underscoring that inaction is not an option."

Democrats want a large-scale package that addresses policies not considered traditional transportation infrastructure, including an expansion of broadband access and improvements to drinking-water systems and electric grids. Many Republicans have argued an infrastructure bill should only tackle transportation.

Before the meeting, Biden said water systems and broadband should be considered infrastructure.

"It's not just roads, bridges, highways," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., again criticized Democrats on Monday for what he called fitting unrelated priorities into the plan.

"They are embarking on a campaign to convince everybody that any government policy whatsoever can be labeled infrastructure," he said.

The attendees at Monday's meeting included Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and ranking member Roger Wicker, R-Miss. The panel has broad jurisdiction over communications technology, highways and aviation, among other areas.

Wicker is not among the Senate Republicans seen as most likely to broker a deal with the Biden administration. Biden also noted that Rep. Don Young, an Alaska Republican and the longest currently serving House member, attended the

meeting Monday.

Biden administration officials briefed senators from both parties on the proposal last week, NBC News reported. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., also started to reach out to representatives about projects they would like to see included in the bill, according to NBC.

Republicans have signaled they will support an infrastructure bill only if Biden slashes the scope and price tag of his proposal. GOP lawmakers have also criticized Biden's plan to increase the corporate tax rate to 28% to offset the investments. Republicans cut the rate to 21% from 35% in 2017.

If Democrats choose to pass the bill by themselves through budget reconciliation, Biden will have to navigate dissent within his own party. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., has urged Biden to raise the corporate rate to 25% rather than 28%.

At the same time, progressives have pushed the president to take more aggressive action to combat climate change and transition to green energy.

CA bullet train hopeful over Biden's infrastructure plan

By: Will Shuck, Capitol Weekly

State rail officials are taking the glass-half-full view. Rather than lamenting the fact that high speed rail is absent from the president's infrastructure plan, they're pointing to supportive statements from Biden and his team, and insisting there's time before Congress irons out a final deal to claim a share for California's fast train.

"It's a lot of money," Brian Annis, the High Speed Rail Authority's chief financial officer, said of rail's piece of the \$2.3 trillion plan. "We're talking \$80 billion with a 'b,' and I can't say we know how big our slice is going to be."

Overall, said Annis, "We're very pleased with it."

Unfortunately, when the president's team laid out the pieces, California HSR's sections appear to have been

left of the box. Instead, Biden and his team are proposing \$80 billion "to address Amtrak's repair backlog; modernize the high traffic Northeast Corridor; improve existing corridors and connect new city pairs; and enhance the grant loan programs that support passenger and freight rail safety, efficiency and electrification."

In the same summary, the White House notes "there are currently projects just waiting to be funded that will give millions more Americans reliable and fast inter-city train service." It's just high-speed rail isn't mentioned among them.

Annis recalls optimistically the Obama Administration's stimulus plan for the economy in the wake of the Great Recession. That was 2009, and California reaped \$8 billion for the train project. Another \$3.5 billion came the following year. Since then, however, the federal flow has halted.

So, taken in context, it's not unreasonable to hope, even for a sliver of such a big pie. "With an \$80-billion rail pot," said Annis, "we're happy with the total program."

They take hope, too, from the president's own words.

Talking with reporters outdoors on the Rachel Maddow Show on Monday, a masked President Biden offered examples of what he meant by infrastructure investment. Getting lead pipes out of schools, he said, was infrastructure, as was repairing aging federal buildings that are "absolutely leaking energy every single day."

"Talking about high speed rail," the president said, "that's infrastructure."

And state officials are happily sharing a portion of the president's press remarks when rolling out the massive plan. On that day, President Biden said, "... Imagine what we can do, what's within our reach if we

modernize those highways. You and your family could travel coast to coast without a single tank of gas, on board a high-speed train."

So, yes, he mentioned the concept of high speed rail, but only the concept, and only in an east-west direction, not the north-south alignment California needs.

"But," Annis insists, "there really is no doubt there is money in there for high-speed rail. The enormity of the pot should not be overlooked."

"Enormous barely covers it."

The \$2.3-trillion American Jobs Plan includes a whopping \$621 billion on the broad category of transportation. But rail does not rank first, second or even third. The biggest slice, at \$174 billion, goes to electric

Bullet Train

continued from page 16

cars. The next biggest, at \$115 billion, is for “modernizing” the nation’s roads and bridges. There’s \$85 billion to invest in public transit, and then the number at issue, \$80 billion, “for Amtrak and freight rail.”

In California, a 119-mile stretch of high-speed rail is under construction in the Central Valley, part of the planned link between Bakersfield and Merced. Ultimately, the California bullet train is envisioned as connecting the Bay Area-Sacramento region with Los Angeles and San Diego along 520 miles of track. Cost projections vary,

but by one estimate the price tag for the total project is \$80 billion. A California congressman, Jim Costa, D-Fresno, has reintroduced legislation to finance \$32 billion worth of projects in high-speed rail corridors.

Even if there isn’t a sweet plum for California’s promised railway in the big plan, a longer term question is whether the state can reestablish a steady stream of federal funds that will keep on coming.

“Definitely we’ve suffered in not having a federal funding partnership since 2010,” said Annis. “You need that kind of commitment. No doubt if we get a significant and sustained federal funding partnership, you could say that would be a game-changer going forward.”

Action by Insurance Commissioner Will Define Scope of Farmers' Coverage Gaps

By: CAFB

With California farmers and ranchers finding increasing difficulty in purchasing wildfire insurance for their businesses and properties, the California Farm Bureau welcomed today’s call by the state insurance commissioner for data on commercial insurance coverage.

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said he hopes the request from Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara will lead to more sustainable insurance coverage for farmers and ranchers.

“We thank Commissioner Lara for leading the efforts to bring certainty back to the wildfire insurance marketplace,” Johansson said. “Farmers and ranchers from around the state have told us they have been unable to renew insurance and have not been able to find replacement coverage. Commissioner Lara’s action should help us determine the breadth and depth of the problem.”

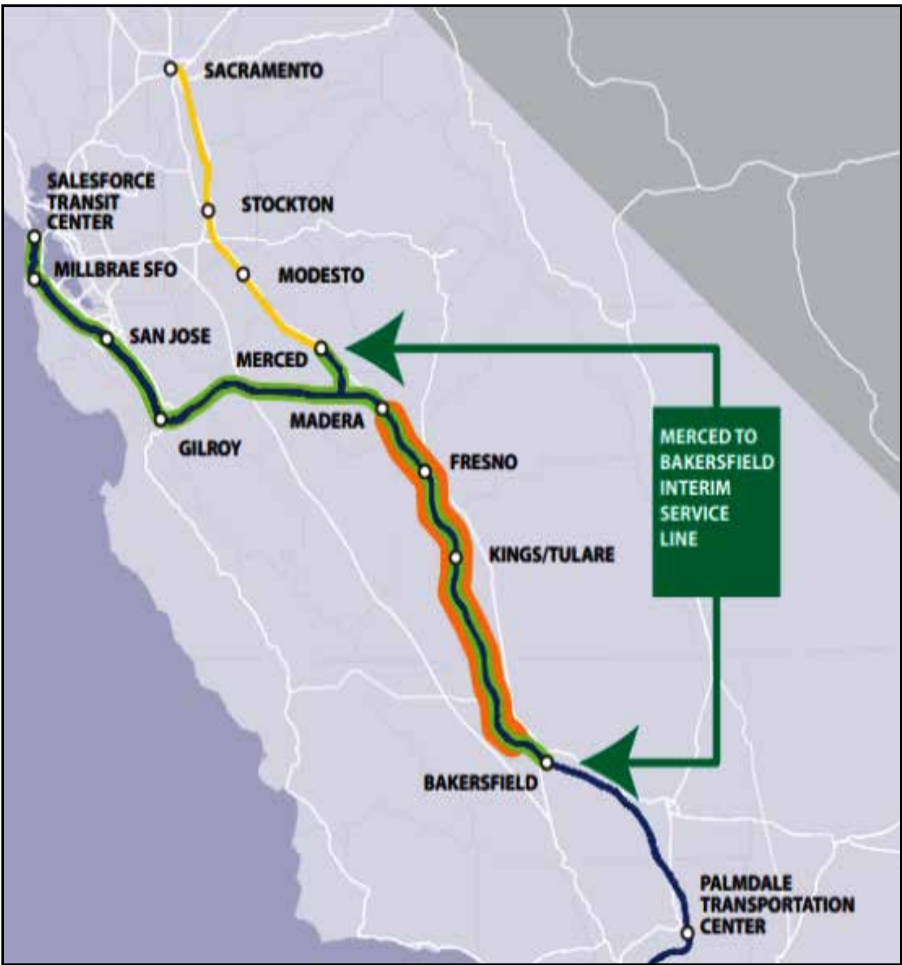
In a notice issued today, Lara directed insurance companies to provide data about the availability of

commercial insurance for businesses including farms, ranches, timber harvesting operations, wineries, cotton gins and other agricultural businesses.

“Farm Bureau has been working with Commissioner Lara and insurance companies to stabilize the insurance market for California farms and ranches,” Johansson said. “We believe the commissioner’s action will help us move toward a long-term solution.”

Legislation sponsored by the California Farm Bureau would also address the problem by specifically authorizing the state’s insurer of last resort, the California FAIR Plan, to underwrite insurance coverage for commercial farms and ranches. The legislation, Senate Bill 11 by Susan Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, received unanimous support from the Senate Insurance Committee last week.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 32,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members.



A map of a portion of the high-speed rail lines.
(Illustration: High Speed Rail Authority, 2021.)

Pazin & Myers, Inc.
129 West 15th Street
Merced, Ca 95340
Serving Merced and Mariposa Counties for over 35 years!



(209)725-2050



*Meeting all of your residential,
farming, commercial, and retail needs...*
GASOLINE - DIESEL - QUALITY LUBRICANTS

Ag community welcomes more environmentally friendly farming but says it'll take money

By: John Cox, The Bakersfield Californian

California's agricultural community made clear in a series of public meetings last month that growers, dairies and ranchers stand ready to expand forward-thinking environmental practices — but that such activities don't necessarily make financial sense without some form of government support.

Their message of enthusiastic, if somewhat conditional, embrace of biodiversity and carbon sequestration efforts carried across a new, 39-page draft document that lists many ways ag producers say they can help California's fight against climate change.

Based on feedback gathered during six online sessions in February, the state's dairies look forward to putting certain waste to beneficial use, ranchers want to help protect against wildfires and growers are eager to bury carbon that might otherwise escape to the atmosphere.

But in case after case, the report suggests carrying out these strategies raises costs prohibitively, such that ag producers might not move forward without financial support of some kind. Often the suggestions offered were

for the state to step in with taxpayer-funded incentives.

Participants in February's comment sessions also expressed concerns that farmers and ranchers already feel overburdened by regulations and paperwork requirements. They generally called for streamlining existing regulations and avoiding imposition of new ones.

The report came as a response to Gov. Gavin Newsom's October executive order calling for action to promote biodiversity, enhance resiliency and otherwise conserve California agricultural and other lands. The governor pushed for conserving 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030 while supporting "economic sustainability" and food security through collaboration.

Environmentalists welcomed the directive even as farmers expressed caution it might lead to unfunded mandates or new operational restrictions.

The draft released March 30 spans a great number of proposals, some of them already being practiced in California in one form or another, sometimes on a demonstration basis paid for by state grants.

The report can be viewed online at https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/oefi/climate/docs/CDFA_Farmer_Rancher_Led_Climate_Solutions_Meetings_Summary.pdf.

Led_Climate_Solutions_Meetings_Summary.pdf.

Public comments on the draft can be submitted to cdffa.oefi@cdffa.ca.gov. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. April 30, 2021.

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross said in a news release that input from the ag community was critical and so she was pleased the six sessions drew comments from a total of 322 participants.

"We look forward to building upon this report in collaboration with our sister agencies to identify recommendations and strategies to meet the state's carbon neutrality goals," she stated.

In a section of the report dealing with dairy and livestock operations, a wide variety of anonymous suggestions included proposals for exporting surplus nutrients contained in cow manure. It said some should be spread onto cropland surrounding dairies that currently must import fertilizer. It called for "turning manure from a waste into an asset" with the help of incentive programs.

Another dairy-related idea that came up was to find ways to convert farm vehicles to run on "biomethane" produced by covering and fermenting waste in manure lagoons. Some

local dairies do use the methane they generate but often it is refined and sold for use off site.

The report listed research topics that might be worthwhile for California ag, among them a study of how sheep and goat grazing can be used to lower wildfire risks, sequester carbon and improve soil quality.

There were also proposals for financial assistance to promote greater use of solar installations on farms and ranches. It called for spending as well on helping growers switch to farming methods that reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

Several suggestions were made with regard to what should be done with biomass, which is basically woody waste that in years past would be burnt openly or sent to an electrical generator running on trimmings.

One idea was to promote greater adoption of gasification technology, which turns biomass into liquid fuel plus biochar, or activated carbon. A gasification plant proposed in McFarland would be the first such facility in California.

Other recommendations ranged from making greater use of composting and mulching to funding farmers' three-year transition to organic farming to helping small farmers buy electric tractors.

- New Member Benefit -



Farm Bureau members can now get their vehicles serviced for less! Jiffy Lube service centers offer services beyond the oil change with locations across California.

Take your vehicle to any one of the convenient locations and receive a 10 percent discount off all products and services except tires and batteries.

Reference account name "California Farm Bureau" and Account number #12821837 under our national fleet listing.

New coalition aims to protect California’s pollinators

By: Angelina Martin, Turlock Journal

It’s no secret that almonds reign supreme when it comes to crops in Stanislaus County, but it can be easy to forget that pollinators like bees and butterflies are essential for the orchards to thrive. A diverse coalition announced this week is aiming to protect the vital, six-legged friends of farmers in order to make sure that the state’s robust farming industry continues to provide.

The California Pollinator Coalition, convened by the Pollinator Partnership, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Almond Board of California, is made up of more than 20 organizations which all represent the large majority of the state’s crop and range land. The coalition has pledged to increase habitat for pollinators — a classification which also includes beetles, wasps, moths and other insects — and increase collaboration between the agriculture and conservation groups for the benefit of biodiversity and food production.

“The CPC is designed to be truly a voluntary partnership, adaptively managing as we go forward, building trust and focusing on the many mutual goals between agriculture and conservation,” said Laurie Davies Adams, President and CEO of Pollinator Partnership, during a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

According to Adams, the collaboration brought forth through the CPC will result in on-the-ground improvements, advanced technical guidance, funded research, the documentation of relevant case studies and tracked progress toward overall healthier pollinator habitats. The effort will benefit both growers and the environment, she said, through means like increasing biodiversity, improving pollinator success, sequestering more carbon in soil and more.

So, how will it work?

The new coalition is going to prepare grower-friendly guidance to build and maintain pollinator habitats on farms and ranches which will promote voluntary, incentive-based habitat establishment and integrated pest management practices. The CPC will also conduct research and disseminate relevant science by

monitoring outcomes through metrics like adoption rates and the effectiveness of these practices.

As the coalition learns to trust each other, the hope is that more organizations will join and the effort will expand throughout the state. The coalition also hopes their success will serve as a model for even more collaboration among interests who have not always been aligned, but who are willing to come together in partnership to confront common challenges.

“It’s so important when we think about the challenges before us: a changing climate, loss of biodiversity and the critical importance of the health of our pollinators for food and our environment. There’s no better way for us to come together than with this remarkable coalition,” CDFA Secretary Karen Ross said. “It seems obvious to many on the outside, but it’s really not that obvious that we should all be working together and that bringing this group together gives us a new model of what we can do.”

California is home to more than 1,600 native bees and hundreds of other species of pollinating insects. Globally, pollinators provide service to more than 180,000 different plant species, more than 1,200 crops, and are responsible for producing an estimated one out of every three bites of food. They sustain ecosystems and support natural resources, all while adding \$217 billion to the global economy each year. According to the 2019 Stanislaus County Agricultural Report, almond pollination was the eighth-most profitable commodity locally, valued at nearly \$84 million.

But pollinator populations are declining and often suffer from the same challenges as California’s agriculture.

"This will not be an easy or quick fix," said Josette Lewis, Chief Scientific Officer of the Almond Board of California. "It will require a robust and sustained effort, but we are determined to be part of the solution. Almond growers and many other farmers depend on pollinators to produce a crop and pollinators depend on us to provide safe habitat. Working lands can and should be part of the solution."

While just beginning its work, the Coalition is catalyzing new

collaborations and continuing to recruit partners who understand the urgency and share the common goal of supporting both the health of pollinators and agriculture. Current California Pollinator Coalition membership includes:

- Agricultural Council of California
 - Almond Alliance of California
 - Almond Board of California
 - California Alfalfa and Forage Association
 - California Association of Pest Control Advisers
 - California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
 - California Cattlemen's Association
 - California Citrus Mutual
 - California Department of Food
- and Agriculture
 - California Farm Bureau Federation
 - California State Beekeepers Association
 - California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance
 - Environmental Defense Fund
 - Monarch Joint Venture
 - Monarch Watch
 - Pollinator Partnership
 - Project Apis m.
 - University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service of California
 - Western Growers
 - Dr. Neal Williams, University of California, Davis



PREFERRED PACK
CLUB
GREAT WOLF LODGE

As a member, you can

SAVE UP TO 30%

on your next stay at Great Wolf Lodge

You're going to love winding down our waterslides, dining in one of our fantastic restaurants and building family traditions. All of our lodges include a colossal, 84" indoor waterpark, daily activities, spacious family suites and much more. So clear your calendar and head to your nearest Great Wolf Lodge.

To take advantage of this offer, simply provide your unique offer code when booking, and present a valid work ID or documentation at check-in.

California Farm Bureau

Offer Code: CFBF958A



For more information, visit greatwolf.com or call 800.905.9653

Valid on a per night basis and must be presented at time of booking. Limited number of rooms available for each date. May not be valid during holiday and blackout periods, or combined with any other discount or promotional offer. Multiple night minimum may apply. Offer based on four guests per room and must have one individual 21 years of age or older staying in each room. Offer may be terminated at any time without notice. Offer is not transferable and is not redeemable for cash. Void where prohibited. See documentation at check-in. Limit of two rooms per valid ID. Additional charges may apply for themed and premium suites, weekends and/or holidays.



WALTER MORTENSEN INSURANCE

INSURICA

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT NETWORK

209.353.2700

Tom Murphy

Jeff Runyon

From small farms to large commercial operations, the INSURICA Agriculture Experts have grown up in agricultural communities.

We've designed insurance programs to provide broad and flexible coverage for both your personal and business needs.

Tom Murphy | 209.353.2700 | tmurphy@INSURICA.com | INSURICA.com



Merced County Business Member Directory

Businesses Supporting the Farm Bureau

To be included in the directory, join Merced County Farm Bureau as a business member by calling 723-3001.

REPAIRS & SERVICES

AC King..... 722-3552
Atwater Radiator & Muffler, Inc. 358-2638
Car Plus..... 722-3552
Freitas Auto Wreckers 722-7086

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Allison Sierra, Inc. 966-4082
Dias Construction, Inc. 634-9601
M-Mig Construction, Inc. 631-6017

LANDSCAPE

Bergman Landscape 669-9138

FARM EQUIPMENT

Garton Tractor, Inc. 726-4600
Holt Ag Solutions 723-2021
J M Equipment Co Inc 386-1797
Kirby Manufacturing 723-0778
Laird Mfg LLC..... 722-4145
N&S Tractor 383-5888

REAL ESTATE

Flanagan Realty..... 723-4337 (Merced)
Flanagan Realty. (559) 665-1313 (Chowchilla)
Property Team 769-4698
Dick Templeton Property Team 761-4441
Rucker Real Estate..... 722-6532
Valley Real Estate Sales, Inc. 854-1000

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Blue Diamond Growers..... (559) 474-2996
California Sweet Potato Growers..... 394-7935
California Women for Agriculture 723-5878
Central CA Irrigation District..... 826-1421
Cortez Growers Association..... 632-3118
Dos Palos Co-op Gin..... 387-4151
Farmers Rice Cooperative (916) 923-5100
Gustine Drainage District 854-6782
Hilltop Ranch Inc. 874-1875
Livingston Farmers Assoc..... 394-7941
Merced Boosters 761-0815
Merced Irrigation District..... 722-5761
Turlock Irrigation District..... 883-8205
Merced College Ag Division 384-6250

FARM SERVICES

A-Bar Ag Enterprises 826-2636
Caddy Shack Rodent Servc. (559) 363-3315
Cal Ag Safety..... 351-0321
Cal Corn Growers Inc..... (559) 665-5775

Chipponeri Electric..... 634-4616
Chozen Few Ranches..... 585-8633
Dutch Door Dairy..... 648-2166
Farm Management Inc. 667-1011
Guerrero Farm Labor 492-0408
Horizon Farms, Inc. 383-5225
J & F Fertilizer..... 854-6325
La Follette Enterprises, Inc. 632-1385
Machado Feed Company..... 658-5943
Marciel & Co 777-0911
Mid Valley Ag Service 394-7981
Modern Dairy..... 722-7452
Modesto Dairy Supply 669-6200
Silva & Sons Custom Spreading..... 667-2566
Silva's Hay Source 777-7440
The Pollination Connection..... (877) 970-BEES (2337)

FOOD PROCESSING

A V Thomas Produce 394-7514
Del Rio Nut..... 394-7945
Minturn Huller Co-op..... (559) 665-1185
Parreira Almond Processing Co..... 826-1262
Sensient Natural Ingredients (800) 558-9892
Yosemite Farms..... 383-3411

HARVESTING & HAULING

Bertuccio Hay 761-6247
Castillo Brothers Hay..... 392-3817
Diamond J Farms 564-0870
Minturn Huller Co-op..... (559) 665-1185
Northern Merced Hulling..... 667-2308
Wallace & Son 382-0131

IRRIGATION, WELLS, & SEPTIC

Allison Sierra, Inc. 966-4082
Agri-Valley Irrigation 384-8494
Dickey's Pump Service 394-3112
Frasier Irrigation Company 387-4202
Irrigation Design & Construction, LLC..... 387-4500
Precision Aqua..... 756-2025
Quality Well Drillers..... 357-0675
Rain for Rent/Westside Pump(559) 693-4315
Robal Inc..... 826-4540
Shannon Pump Company 723-3904

INSECT & WEED CONTROL

Environmental Spraying Service 667-1038
Malm Ag Pest Management 392-6905
Star Creek Land 704-1790

FARM SUPPLIES

Ag Flag 357-3424
Cal Farm Service 358-1554
Kellogs Supply 722-1501
Livingston True Value
Hardware & Farm Supplies..... 394-7949
Marfab 826-6700
Modesto Dairy Supply 669-6200
Stanislaus Farm Supply 723-0704

FUEL SERVICES

W.H. Breshears, Inc..... 522-7291
Western States Petroleum Assoc. (661) 321-0884
Valley Pacific Petroleum..... 948-9412
Van De Pol Petroleum 667-0236

INSURANCE

Barlocker Insurance 383-0220
Fluetsch & Busby Insurance 722-1541
Diane Norton Insurance 357-3626
Rico, Pfitzer, Pires and Associates .. 854-2000
Walter Mortensen Insurance 353-2700
Western Valley Insurance 826-5667
Winton Ireland Insurance 394-7925

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Alice B. Contreras CPA 722-6778
American Ag Credit 384-1050/826-0320
Farmers & Merchants Bank 626-4100
Grimbleby Coleman CPAs 527-4220
Trans County Title Company 383-4660
Yosemite Farm Credit 383-1116

SOLAR

Coldwell Solar 259-9260

MISCELLANEOUS

Amarants Propane Service 358-2257
Berliner Cohen LLP 385-0700
California Farmland Trust (916) 544-2712
EAC Engineering Inc..... 664-1067
The Hat Source..... 357-3424
Merced County Fair..... 722-1506
P. B. Iyer, M.D..... 854-1120
Queen Anne's Garden Nursery..... 358-3875
Santa Fe Pet Hospital 383-5050
SS Blue 722-2583
Unwired Broadband (559) 336-4157

Sincere Appreciation



from the
**Mariposa
CFB**
Danette Toso

It is with sincere appreciation, that I write this today. The outpouring of support from far and wide for our Rib Dinner was astounding! From the tickets purchased, ribs eaten, to the volunteers, I can't thank everyone enough. The weather was absolutely beautiful, the hills still green, and the wild flowers were popping, a perfect

day and setting for our fundraiser! It's obvious to me that supporting agriculture and the youth in our community is truly important to our friends and neighbors. Last year was extremely disheartening for everyone, and the inability to hold fundraisers

was devastating to many organizations. This year, we're back on track and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and the ability to resume our lives without restriction is just around the corner. Thank you again for your support,

and as always, I encourage farmers, ranchers and conservators to invite friends, neighbors and family members to join the collective voice of the Farm Bureau. Together, we can make our organization stronger than ever, one member at a time.



**From the Farm to the Table,
We'll Keep You in the Green.**
Always willing to come to the table—our locally grown firm has helped ag companies keep their accounting operations in the green since 1973.



grimbleby coleman
certified public accountants, inc.
— established 1973 —
209-527-4220 or GCCPAS.NET
 **Contact us today!**



Mariposa County Business Member Directory

Businesses Supporting the Farm Bureau

To be included in the directory, join Mariposa County Farm Bureau as a business member by calling 742-5875.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES			HARDWARE STORES			REAL ESTATE		
Gallaway Feed and Supply.....	374-3331		Coast Hardware.....	966-2527		Cathey's Valley Real Estate.....	742-2121	
Mariposa Feed & Supply.....	966-3326		Foster Ace Hardware	966-2692				
Bootjack Equipment Rental & Feed.	966-3545							
ASSOCIATIONS			MEDICAL			SERVICES		
35-A District Agriculture Assn.....	966-2432		Mariposa Physical Therapy.....	742-7242		Chases Foothill Petroleun.....	966-3314	
Mariposa Chamber of Commerce....	966-2456					Edward Lien & Toso Ag Appraisers...	634-9484	
Mariposa County Farm Advisor	966-2417		MISCELLANEOUS			Palmer Tractor	374-3470	
Mariposa County Farm Bureau	742-5875		Allison Sierra Inc	966-4082		Ranch Fence, Inc.....	966-5914	
			Happy Burger Diner	966-2719		Valley Pacific Petroleum.....	948-9412	
			Mariposa Friends of the			Yosemite Glass & Window Inc.	966-3292	
			Fairgrounds Foundation.....	742-4680				
CONSTRUCTION			Hugh A. Yamshon Ranch					
Bucks Construction	878-3702		Mariposa Gun Works	742-5444				
Tobey Guenthart Construction	374-3334		Miners Roadhouse 14	966-2444				
			Pony Expresso	966-5053				
FINANCIAL SERVICES						WINERIES		
Inter-County Title Company.....	966-3653					Mount Bullion Vineyard.....	377-8450	
Yosemite Bank.....	966-5444					Rauch Ranch Vineyard & Winery	742-7162	

Support Farm Bureau Member Businesses

► MCFB Farm & Ranch Connection


M-MIG CONSTRUCTION INC.
Serving Merced & Surrounding Counties

**Specializing in Dairy Construction
Steel Buildings**

Locally Owned & Operated
Matthew Mgliazzo-Owner
Contractors Lic. #870007
291 Business Park Way, Atwater



Construction
www.mmigconstruction.com
209-724-9488



Verdegaal
FARMS INC.
ALMOND SHELLING

Since 1986

- **State of the Art Equipment**
- **80' Truck Scale**
- **Maximized Returns**
- **Owner Operated**

New for 2012

- **Inshell line complete with Satake color sorter**
- **High Capacity dryer for bin or bulk loads**

Peter Verdegaal Office
209-628-1008 209-356-0210

8016 Winton Way, Winton
***Serving Stanislaus &
 Merced Counties***



VAN DE POL

FUELS & LUBRICANTS

More than a distributor of fuel & lubricants,
we're your strategic partner - delivering
great service, rooted in family values.

Performance delivered.

Fuels | Lubricants | Renewable Diesel
Industrial Fluids | Diesel Exhaust Fluid

209.667.0236 | vandepol.us



COMPLETE AUTO BODY COLLISION SERVICE
Domestic and Foreign

COMPLETE UPHOLSTERY SERVICE
Vinyl Tops, Convertible Tops
Tonneau Covers

923 Martin Luther King Jr. Way • Merced, CA
Leonard Rich • (209) 723-1022

Ad Space Available

3 x 3 inches
\$38.50/month

Thank you for adverstising in the Merced County Farm News.

Are you intersted in running an ad in the Farm News? Call Denelle at 723-3001 for prices and publication schedule.

► Merced Farm & Industrial Businesses on Highway 59



Please patronize these members business for your farm, home and industrial needs!

Stanislaus Farm Supply	723-0704	Valley Pacific Petroleum.....	948-9412
Merced County Farm Bureau	723-3001	Shannon Pump Co.	723-3904
Agri-Valley Irrigation Co.	384-8494	Kellogg's Supply	722-1501
Kirby Manufacturing	723-0778		

► MCFB Farm & Ranch Connection

AG Towing

209-445-8503

- Towing Services
- Fuel Transferring
- Roadside Assistance
- Winching
- Flat Tire Changes
- Car Wreck Towing
- Lockouts & Jumpstarts
- Residential Transportation

24/7 Towing Services

Ray's Gardening
678-3189

A Tradition in Trust Since 1919



**PEARSON
REALTY**
AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

CALIFORNIA'S LEADING FARM & RANCH SPECIALISTS

For a free consultation
please contact:

JIM WATSON

Pearson Realty, Ag Division
Over 15 Years Experience & Service

Specializing in:

Agricultural Land

Transitional Land

1031 Exchanges

Cattle Ranches

Recreational/Hunting

Office: 209.378.2300 | Mobile: 209.349.2225 | jwatson@pearsonrealty.com

SUNNYACRES
NUT COMPANY, INC.

Newly expanded hulling and shelling, including a new inshell line



Space available for quality growers
12245 Sunny Acres Ave, Turlock CA
209-667-6200 • Sunnyacresnut@gmail.com

est. 1973
**Custom Weed Control
Enterprises Inc.**

WEED CONTROL

"We Use Environmentally Safe
Proven Methods." Problem
Weed
Specialist

**RESIDENTIAL
AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL**



Discing & Clean-up - Pre-Asphalt Application
Call Us First! 209 723-2161



IRRIGATING THE VALLEY SINCE 1967
Madera, CA - 559.673.4261

**SHANNON
PUMP CO.**

Sales & Service

Vertical turbines Domestic pumps
End suction booster pumps Sewage & stormwater
pumps Multi-stage pumps prefabricated booster systems
for domestic, process & landscape requirements.
Special metallurgy for all types of fluids.
In-house machine shop

All popular brands - HazMat 40HR Certified Techs
LICENSED, INSURED AND BONDED
SERVING THE INDUSTRY FOR OVER
50 YEARS
(209) 723-3904



ACKING
YOU CALL, WE COME.

209.722.3558

ackingmerced.com

We carry Bergstrom & RedDot
Fully stocked parts department
AC Hoses built on site

Frasier Irrigation

Since 1962

Engines and Pumps
Irrigation Fittings
Return Systems
Design & Installation
Mainline
Gaskets



CATERPILLAR®



JOHN DEERE

**"We have what fits
your needs"**

7602 W. Azusa, Dos Palos
209-387-4202



RONALD MARTELLA
FARMS, INC.

MARTELLA'S WALNUT HULLER & DRYER
2100 Geer Road, Hughson
(209) 883-4819 Fax (209) 883-0819

For Your Convenience

- Full Service Available
- From Field to Buyer
- 80' Truck Scale
- Almond Drying Available

Owner/Operators
Aaron Martella, Kevin Chiesa, Ron Martella



DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

*An opportunity to purge your files and dispose of
them safely to prevent identity theft.*

MAY 25 • TUESDAY • 1 - 4 PM
MCFB OFFICE
646 S. HWY 59 MERCED

\$10 per bankers box of documents
Documents can be dropped off prior to event between
regular Farm Bureau hours of 9-5pm Monday through
Friday. Owner must sign waiver releasing MCFB of
liability.
Please contact us by May 14th to let us know how many
boxes you will be bringing. If there is not enough interest,
event will be cancelled.
Merced County Farm Bureau office at (209) 723-3001

MCFB Sweepstakes March Winners

Tom Murphy

2-hour pack trip with Aspen Meadows Pack Station

ASPEN MEADOW
PACK STATION INC.



&

Anthony Ventura

\$150 gift certificate for Jacobsen Ranch lamb



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

In a year like no other, your partnership made all the
difference. **American AgCredit is pleased to distribute a
full 1% in cash patronage to our members** — a record \$142
million for 2020, and more than \$830 million since 2005.

It pays to be a member.



Call 800.800.4865 today
or visit AgLoan.com/Patronage

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