



Merced County Farm News



USDA to Provide Pandemic Assistance to Livestock Producers for Animal Losses

Farm Service Agency Will Begin Taking Applications for Indemnity Program July 20

By: USDA

WASHINGTON, July 13, 2021— Livestock and poultry producers who suffered losses during the pandemic due to insufficient access to processing can apply for assistance for those losses and the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity

Program (PLIP) in [recorded] remarks at the National Pork Industry Conference in Wisconsin Dells, WI. The announcement is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Livestock and poultry producers can apply for assistance through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) July 20 through Sept. 17, 2021.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, authorized payments to producers for losses of livestock or poultry depopulated from March 1,

2020 through December 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing access as a result of the pandemic. PLIP payments will be based on 80% of the fair market value of the livestock and poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal of the animal. Eligible livestock and poultry include swine, chickens and turkeys, but pork producers are expected to be the primary recipients of the assistance.

"Throughout the pandemic, we

learned very quickly the importance and vulnerability of the supply chain to our food supply," said Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. "Many livestock producers had to make the unfortunate decision to depopulate their livestock inventory when there simply was no other option. This targeted assistance will help livestock and poultry producers that were among the hardest hit by the pandemic alleviate some

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Governor signs 'transformational' budget for UC ANR research and outreach

By: Pam Kan-Rice, UC ANR

The state budget signed by Governor Newsom Monday night [July 12] includes a historic increase for the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. The state restored UC ANR's budget to pre-COVID levels of FY 2019-20 and provided a 5% increase plus an additional \$32 million in ongoing funding, bringing total state support to \$107.9 million for the division, which contains the county-based UC Cooperative Extension, Integrated Pest Management and 4-H Youth Development programs.

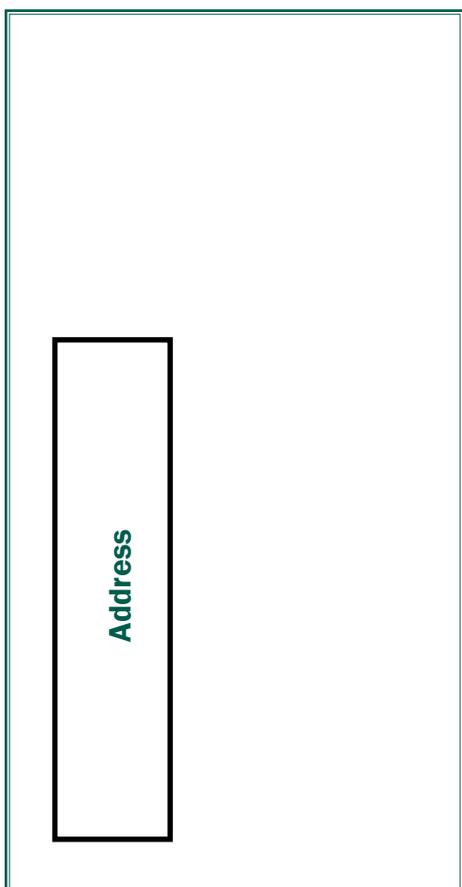
"This budget increase is transformational and will allow us to rebuild UC Cooperative Extension's boots-on-the-ground to help Californians cope with wildfire, drought and climate adaptation," said Glenda Humiston, UC vice president for agriculture and natural resources.

Over the past 20 years, state funding for UC ANR decreased by almost 50% (adjusted for inflation), resulting in a significant reduction of UC ANR's Cooperative Extension advisors and specialists – from 427 positions in 2001 down to only 269 in 2021 – creating vacancies in many critical positions.

"We appreciate UC ANR stakeholders for sounding the alarm," Humiston said. "And we are immensely grateful to Senator John Laird, chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee on Education, for recognizing this critical need and for his leadership and dedication to restoring UC ANR's budget to bring back Cooperative Extension throughout California."

With this new funding, UC ANR will begin recruiting for 20 UC Cooperative Extension academic

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from the
**President's
 Corner**
Eric Harcksen

employees properly for their safety and yours. The Merced County Farm Bureau provided us with basic training for any field position that you have employees working in and we plan on doing more of these trainings in the future. As employers try to grow their staff it is very important to give the proper training whenever possible.

We are in the process of making our board room capable of running zoom

meetings with a large TV, speakers and microphones. This is to ensure that those who want to attend a meeting but still are not comfortable being around crowds can join us. Our plan is to be able to rent out the conference room when the project is complete.

Dry is the term best to describe the Western US and especially California. Yet again, finger pointing has started at who consumes the most water in our state. Whether it be the agriculture industry, family housing or the environmentalists. The State of California has not looked at our water issues seriously enough in the last 50 years. One thing that bothers me most is that we start to look among ourselves here in agriculture

as to who is using the most water. We must remember we are on the same team and remember we are producing food for the world. Agriculture is one family, one wheel that works together to make this place better to live in. As a community, we need to come together to fight for our water and sustain our livelihoods. This is our legacy and your staff at MCFB are fighting for you and will continue to do so until we have what we need.

Our board of directors will go dark this month and we will reconvene in August. However, your executive team will meet this month as scheduled. Your Merced County Farm Bureau office will still be open normal business hours this month to serve you.

Happy July from your Merced County Farm Bureau. I hope this finds you and your family well. As we make our way to the fields and start to put another harvest in the books, I would just like to remind everyone not to forget to train your

Looks as though we are back in that period where both our president and I have something on water. It is not necessarily a good sign, but I do feel it is one where we are edging closer to normal. No effort in lying at this point, I'll take anything I can get.

There are some discussions that are taking place outside of the recurring drought concerns and are topics that I feel should be known within the farming decisions moving forward. For starters, let's pick up where I left off a few months ago on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The governing bodies (Groundwater Sustainability Agencies or GSAs) and their advisory committees have still been meeting during the COVID period and these meetings have started to tackle the larger issues at hand. We've also started to receive more calls on these matters as landowners are beginning to see where it hits them – in their pocketbooks.

Each of the subbasin governing bodies have their own jurisdictions and are broken up as the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, Chowchilla Subbasin, Turlock Subbasin and Merced Subbasin. Within these, each are discussing the amount that can

be pumped, implementation of fees and regulations and infrastructure improvements or additions to achieve such plans. It is harder to detail out each of these in grander detail in a single column as each are taking their own steps; however, our door is always open for a case-by-case scenario. I would also encourage you to engage in your local management group. No matter what subbasin (or subbasins one falls in) the conversations on allocations, how to manage, etc is heating up and you need to be at the table. Review the websites for your subbasin as they have the details of meeting agendas, minutes and calendar of upcoming meetings.
 Turlock Subbasin – www.turlockgroundwater.org
 Merced Subbasin – www.mercedsgma.org
 Delta Mendota Subbasin – www.deltamendota.org
 Chowchilla Subbasin – www.maderacountywater.com/chowchilla-subbasin/

Recently the county has presented a staff proposal to our local GSAs that would make adjustments to the Merced County Groundwater Mining and Export Ordinance. Please keep in mind this is something that will need to be

taken to the supervisors for discussion so it is currently being evaluated at the staff level to date. As the ordinance is currently written, a landowner would take a well application to the county for review and approval. The county would then indicate next steps depending on what the landowner has detailed on the application – depth of request, previous crops, replacement or new well, etc. In this case, the county has full approval or denial.

As the proposal sits, the landowner would be required to ask the GSA to approve the application to ensure it fits their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). You would still need to have the county approve the application, but this would be a ministerial process. Responsibility for limitations, enforcement, etc will fall to the GSA board. Although much of the previous regulations on export of water remain, there is a consideration for potential new groundwater banks in that it would be required to produce a letter from the GSA that holds jurisdiction over the site. The GSA would have to ensure the approval of the pumped water and confirming it is surface water in a regulated bank.

If you are in an area that has not adopted a GSP, your property would not fall under this new rule and the



from the
**Director's
 Desk**
Breanne Vandenberg

landowner would fall back on the current ordinance.

The above staff recommendation should go to the Board of Supervisors in the next few months. I know the timing is hard as you are either directly in harvest or are gearing up for harvest, the time is now to engage!

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.

USDA

continued from page 1

financial burden from these losses.”

Additional Assistance Planned

The previous administration proposed pandemic assistance using flat rates across the industry, which does not take into account the different levels of harm felt by different producers. Pork industry supported analysis projected that disruptions in processing capacity in the pork supply chain create a situation with small hog producers and especially those that sell on the spot market or negotiate prices, bear a disproportionate share of losses. USDA has examined the difference between the negotiated prices for hogs and the 5-year average and documented a significant drop during April through September of 2020 due to the pandemic. USDA has set aside up to \$50 million in pandemic assistance funds to provide additional assistance for small hog producers that use the spot market or negotiate prices. Details on the additional targeted assistance are expected to be available this summer.

PLIP Program Details

Eligible livestock must have been depopulated from March 1, 2020 through December 26, 2020, due to insufficient processing access as a result of the pandemic. Livestock must have been physically located in the U.S. or a territory of the U.S. at the time of depopulation.

Eligible livestock owners include persons or legal entities who, as of the day the eligible livestock was depopulated, had legal ownership of the livestock. Packers, live poultry dealers and contract growers are not eligible for PLIP.

PLIP payments compensate participants for 80% of both the loss of the eligible livestock or poultry and for the cost of depopulation and disposal based on a single payment rate per head. PLIP payments will be calculated by multiplying the number of head of eligible livestock

or poultry by the payment rate per head, and then subtracting the amount of any payments the eligible livestock or poultry owner has received for disposal of the livestock or poultry under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or a state program. The payments will also be reduced by any Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 1 and 2) payments paid on the same inventory of swine that were depopulated.

There is no per person or legal entity payment limitation on PLIP payments. To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Applying for Assistance

Eligible livestock and poultry producers can apply for PLIP starting July 20, 2021, by completing the FSA-620, Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program application, and submitting it to any FSA county office. Additional documentation may be required. Visit farmers.gov/plip for a copy of the Notice of Funding Availability and more information on how to apply.

Applications can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator. Livestock and poultry producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

As USDA looks to long-term solutions to build back a better food system, the Department is committed to delivering financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers and businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19 market disruptions. Since USDA rolled out the Pandemic Assistance initiative in March, the Department has announced over \$7 billion in assistance to producers and agriculture entities. For more details, please visit www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance

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Calendar of Events

July 29

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Family Night Out with the Modesto Nuts (pg. 24)

August 2

Deadline to nominate for FSA County Committee Elections (pg. 10)

Historic records of UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County now online

This past month, the UC Merced Library made 2,898 digitized items from the UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County archive available online. It is our newest collection made publicly available as part of the UC Cooperative Extension Archive and CARA project. The collection represents extension work in Fresno County over the twentieth century and provides a fascinating angle on agriculture in the Valley.

Many of the items are from the files of farm advisors and the historical records they inherited from their predecessors. Reports reveal the cumulative results of crop trials that, for example, examined the effects of fungicides and growth regulators. There are newsletters such as Forage Queen, Tree Topics, In-a-Nutshell and other communication materials that imparted information to growers and families in the Valley. There is also a

substantial amount of material related to the 4-H youth development program and CalFresh, a statewide program that provides food benefits to low-income families and individuals. These documents demonstrate Cooperative Extension's reach throughout the community.

Visit Calisphere to see the entire

digitized archive: <https://calisphere.org/collections/27767/>. Topics include growing and harvesting of almonds, pistachios, grapes, alfalfa, and cotton among other crops. Other sets of records are categorized by processes such as irrigation, fumigation, soil formation, and fertilization. Some interesting highlights are below:

YOSEMITE FARM CREDIT

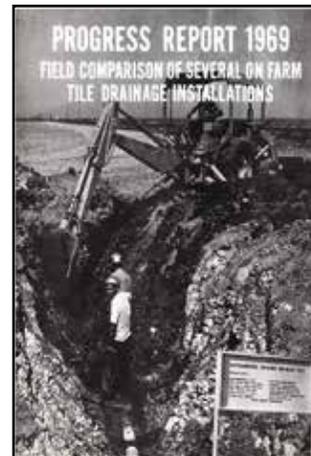
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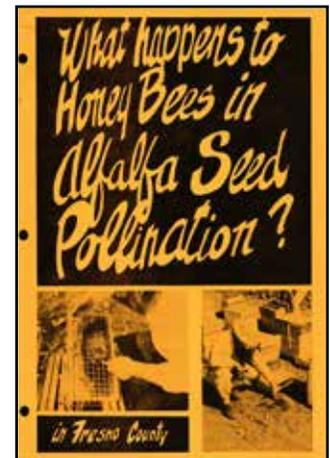
MODESTO | MERCED
TURLOCK | LOS BANOS
PATTERSON | OAKDALE

Dairy Loans • Orchard Development • Land Purchases • Crop Loans • Equipment Loans

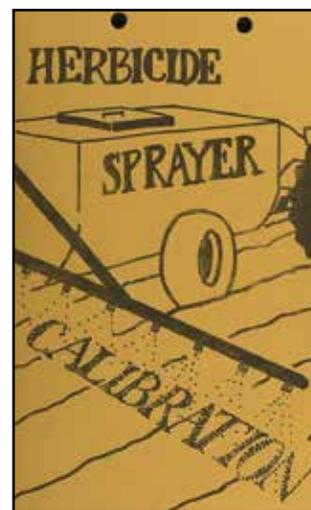
yosemitefarmcredit.com



Progress report - field comparisons of several on farm tile drainage installations, 1969
Date: 1970, May



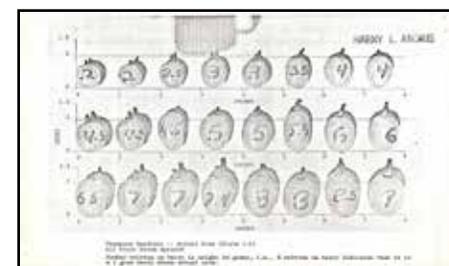
What happens to honey bees in alfalfa seed pollination?
Date: 1969-01-07



Herbicide sprayer
Date: 1971-12-24



Forage queen
Date: 1965-01-25



The grapevine: gibberellin--1967 results
Date: 1968-05-01

Photo Credits:
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Source: Calisphere

California Farm Bureau Legislative Update

By: **CAFB**

July 09, 2021 -

Agricultural Employment

This week saw legislative action on bills of concern to agricultural employers:

AB 73 (Robert Rivas, D-Salinas) would allow agricultural employers to access a state-operated essential workers' respirator stockpile originally created by legislation in 2020. The bill passed the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on July 5 on a 5-0 vote and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. After reviewing amendments made to AB 73 on June 28 and 29, Farm Bureau requested additional amendments in hopes of being able to offer support.

AB 701 (Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego) establishes an entirely new regulatory regimen for warehousing and food processing employers with 100 or more employees at a site or 1000 or more statewide who use performance metrics, making such metrics difficult and legally hazardous to use. AB 701 passed the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee on July 5 by 4-1 vote and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Farm Bureau opposes.

SB 410 (Connie Levya, D-Chino), which exempts occupational safety and health regulations from the standard regulatory impact analysis current required of all proposed regulations with an economic impact in excess of \$50 million, passed the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on a 5-2 vote and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a 9-4 vote on July 7 and is eligible for floor consideration. Farm Bureau opposes.

SB 606 (Lena Gonzalez, D-Long Beach) 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 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on July 6 by an 8-2 vote and was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Air Quality

The California Air Resources Board has released a draft of the 2021 California Agricultural Equipment emissions inventory, which updates population, activity, emission rates, and resulting emissions from agricultural equipment in the state. The updated inventory was developed using data from a 2018 agricultural equipment survey, USDA acreage data, satellite data on farm acres per county, others. It also incorporates equipment replacements through various incentive programs. To discuss the methodology and data used to develop the draft, CARB is hosting a webinar on July 15th at 1:00pm. Registration to view and participate in the virtual event can be found here. Public comments are due by July 30th over email to Julie Schiffman at Julie.schiffman@arb.ca.gov. Farm Bureau is in the process of reviewing the inventory and potentially providing comments.

Animal Health & Welfare

In the midst of record-breaking temperatures, the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program has issued the following message: The National Weather Service has issued a warning for excessive heat throughout California, extending into next week. Particularly concerning is that overnight lows in many areas may remain in the mid to upper 70s, temperatures that minimize nighttime thermal recovery of livestock. Attached is a CDQAP advisory for the coming heat event. In addition to resources related to protecting both cattle and employees from anticipated record high temperatures, the advisory also includes new information from CDFA on mortality management during the heat wave. Importantly CDFA has established a Rendering Disruption Emergency Call Number to facilitate collection of field information and help coordinate response between agencies. The number will be monitored throughout the anticipated heat event, including nights and weekends. The staff at CDFA is also nearing completion of a county-by-county emergency response plan as well as coordinating development of long term solutions with the department's sister agencies. Industry trade organizations are an important part of this planning process, including the Ag Council, CDC, CFBF, MPC and WUD.

Appointment

Michael Flores has been appointed Deputy Secretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It is likely Mr. Flores will focus on fairs and expositions. Mr. Flores has been a Political Consultant since 2019, served as senior advisor for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association 2005-2019, multiple positions for Governor Gray Davis, was President and Commissioner of the California Fish and Game Commission and Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Climate Change

Farm Bureau has joined a large coalition opposing AB 1395 (Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance) which will be heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on Monday. This bill would amend the state's existing climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 to a 90% reduction of GHGs below

1990 levels by 2045. This would be a rapid and aggressive acceleration of the state's reduction goal beyond the authorized date for the Cap and Trade system. Moreover, Farm Bureau has expressed concern that this will reprioritize focus on investments in GHG emission reductions leaving little incentives available for on-farm carbon sequestration activities.

The Senate Natural Resources Committee will hear a bill, AB 284 (Robert Rivas, D-Salinas), on Tuesday opposed by the agricultural community. This bill would require the Air Resources Board to set a carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction goal for 2045. Farm Bureau is leading a large coalition in opposition arguing that the Board does not have regulatory authority over natural and working lands and as such, any goal should be developed only based on what's possible under voluntary, incentive-

See 'Legislative Update' Page 6



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Legislative Update

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based practices. Thus far, Mr. Rivas and the sponsors have been unwilling to make such a reference in AB 284. This bill would also create the first of its kind, sector specific emission reduction goal for the natural and working lands sector. No such sector-specific goal exists for any other industry, including those subject to Cap and Trade obligations.

The Department of Food and Agriculture's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet on July 15th from 9am to 3pm. The panel will discuss developing a below-ground biodiversity metric, receive an update on the Healthy Soils Program, consider recommendations from an advisory committee empaneled to review the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), and review comments on the proposed Conservation Agricultural Planning (CAP) Program. Farm Bureau had provided written comment on the last two components and will do so orally.

The Department of Food and Agriculture is facilitating a webinar on July 20th from 7-11:30am with representatives from California and the Western Cape region of South Africa to discuss agricultural impacts and strategies on climate change. Speakers include: Dr. Peter Johnston, University of Cape Town, Dr. Tapan Pathak, UC Merced, Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, CDFA, and Dr. Stephanie Midgley, Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

Commodities

Senate Health Committee will convene on Wednesday to hear AB 535 (Aguiar-Curry, D-Winters), a bill which addressed standards for olive oil labeling. The bill was heard in the

Senate Agriculture Committee last week where the author committed to taking amendments to require the front label of olive oil using the word California to include the following statement: "percent (or %) California olive oil." These amendments are not yet reflected in the bill language.

Food Safety

The first of the California Agricultural Neighbors webinars on food safety was held on June 30th. The working group is also hosting one more webinar with subject matter experts on the interim report and food safety recommendations to limit the persistence of E. coli from food safety experts.

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, has unanimously passed in the Senate by a vote of 39-0. The bill now awaits further action from Governor Newsom. For those who have been tracking the development and discussions related to SB 11, this legislation has been nearly one-year in the making. Farm Bureau, our respective coalition members, and the California Department of Insurance, have been working in earnest to address the insurance availability issues impacting commercial agriculture. It's also important to acknowledge that our legislative leaders, Senate Pro-Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and fellow Senators Ben Hueso (D-San Diego), Bill Dodd (D-Napa), Brian Dahle (R-Bieber), Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), Andreas Borgeas (R-Fresno), Brian Jones (R-Santee), and Assemblymembers Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals) and Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), were instrumental in their support of the

legislation as well. Should Governor Newsom sign SB 11, the legislation would take effect immediately. For the FAIR Plan, however, the clock starts ticking and they will have 90-days to submit the insurance forms, guidelines, and rates to the California Department of Insurance for approval. Throughout the negotiations on SB 11, FAIR Plan and the Department have been developing the framework of the farm policy. It is our understanding that FAIR Plan and the Department are in working in concert so that California's commercial agricultural businesses will have coverage before the end of this year. Once approved by the Department, FAIR Plan property insurance policies will be made available to California insurance agents and brokerages.

Water

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the fee schedule this week for their new Winery General Order to regulate wastewater discharges from winery operations. As previously reported the Winery General Order was adopted after the Water Board's annual fee adoption meeting for the Waste Discharge Permit Fund (WDPF) in September, therefore the Water Board staff presented winery fee recommendations and the Board adopted a tiered fee schedule this week based on volume of process water generated. The Winery General Order fees are anticipated to remain in place as adopted until September 2022 when they will be reevaluated and potentially adjusted to meet program needs. The fee schedule is as follows:

PROCESS WATER GENERATED	FEE
<10,000-30,000 ga./yr.	- \$750
30,001-100,000 ga./yr.	- \$1,000
100,001-300,000 ga./yr.	- \$1,200
300,001-600,000 ga./yr.	- \$2,000

600,001-1,000,000 ga./yr. - \$3,000
 1,000,001-3,000,000 ga./yr. - \$7,000
 3,000,001-7,000,000 ga./yr. - \$13,000
 7,000,001-15,000,000 ga./yr. - \$19,000

As reported last week, the State and regional water boards presented a draft racial equity resolution at a public workshop this week. The majority of the discussion seemed to be focused on the need for a more balanced diversity in the water boards' workforce. Additional public comment was focused on a greater need for instream flows for Native Americans, the reallocation of water rights to reflect inequities in the diversity of water right holders, drinking water quality for poorer communities and people of color, among other public comments. Written comments from the public are due by noon, this Monday, July 12th. Submit written comments to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with subject line: "Comment Letter – Racial Equity Resolution."; or by fax to: (916) 341-5620; or mail to: Clerk to the Board, Ms. Jeanine Townsend, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 997377, MS 7400, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377. The California Farm Bureau encourages Farm Bureau members to submit comments on how the water boards' policies and regulations disproportionately impact farmers, ranchers and their employees of racial diversity. The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution is available on the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity/ Submit written comments to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with subject line: "Comment Letter – Racial Equity Resolution."; or by fax to: (916) 341-5620; or mail to: Clerk to the Board, Ms. Jeanine Townsend, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 997377, MS 7400, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377. Farm Bureau is engaged in the process.

Central Valley Community Bank Announces Kelly Tenente as Vice President, Portfolio Manager

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

July 7, 2021... James M. Ford, President and CEO of Central Valley Community Bank (Bank), is pleased to announce the addition of Kelly Tenente to the Agribusiness Lending Department as Vice President, Portfolio Manager throughout the

San Joaquin Valley and Greater Sacramento regions.

Kelly joins Central Valley Community Bank with over 10 years of industry and agribusiness expertise. Known for her excellent client relationship management and new business development, Kelly has a strong commercial banking

background managing agribusiness and real estate loan portfolios.

In her new role, Kelly is responsible for supporting the Bank's Agribusiness Lending Department with management and maintenance of the loan portfolio, while also charged with new business development. Kelly can be reached directly at (209) 956-1106.

"Kelly's agribusiness experience and industry knowledge will be a valuable asset in managing existing and helping to grow this business specialty in our geographic footprint," said James M. Ford, President and CEO of Central Valley Community Bancorp and Central Valley Community Bank.

Field bindweed yield impacts on processing tomatoes



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

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is considered by many tomato growers to be the most problematic of all weeds in California production areas. Indeed, field bindweed and the closely related morningglory weeds were ranked the 4th most troublesome weeds in North America in a recent survey by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA, 2017). The rapid adoption of drip irrigation and the economic necessity of maintaining the beds and replanting with only minimal tillage for multiple seasons in processing tomatoes has created a system where field bindweed has become more prevalent. Field bindweed is extremely difficult to control because it propagates from seed and vegetatively from buds formed in the roots. Seedlings can be controlled with tillage when very young, but they become perennial very rapidly. Chemical control of seedlings is possible, but established plants are much more difficult to control. Established plants often have a large root system relative to the amount of top growth, and thus are extremely tolerant of post emergence herbicides such as carfentrazone (Shark),

glufosinate (Rely), and glyphosate (Roundup).

Bindweed is a headache not only for its persistent and pernicious growth habit and ability to reduce tomato yields, but also because it can physically stop a processing tomato harvester in the field. Vigorously growing vines can become entangled around the shaker and conveyor belts, requiring the equipment operator to shut down and manually clear out the foliage.

Several years ago, myself and other UC researchers conducted herbicide trials evaluating field bindweed control -- with marginal success. In a given year and location, most of the registered herbicides in tomatoes gave only temporary suppression -- about 40 – 80% bindweed control at 8 weeks after transplanting. Best results were observed where herbicides were stacked: trifluralin (Treflan) pre-plant incorporated followed by rimsulfuron (Matrix) post. Glyphosate helped in situations where the bindweed emerged early and could be applied before transplanting.

Earlier this year, I was asked to summarize the effects of weeds on processing tomato yield. This made me go back and look at this work, but with a slightly different emphasis: impact of weed control (or really, lack of weed control) on yield. To increase the size of my dataset, I also included data from trials done at UC Davis. Where I had data for both yield and weed control in good, replicated trials, I performed a regression analysis comparing % weed control and % relative yield (relative yields remove the year-to-year and location variability). In the end, I used 4 trials



Weeds in processing tomato field

from 2012-13 (Table 1).

Surprisingly, these data suggested that where bindweed dominated, it did not have a big impact on processing tomato yield. Even with just 50% control 8 weeks after transplanting, potential yield was 88-95%. This may have occurred because bindweed does not shade out the tomato canopy nearly as much as some other weeds. However, when other broadleaf weeds dominated, such as pigweed, nightshades, and lambsquarters, yields dropped rapidly. I had some plots with

a 99% yield drop if these weeds were allowed to grow all season.

There have been no new registered herbicides in processing tomatoes in the last 10 years, while robotic weed control has progressed rapidly during this time. Neither our current slate of herbicides nor robots provide adequate control of field bindweed, however, this may not matter as much as previously thought. The annual grasses and broadleaf weeds have far greater yield impact, and luckily, we do have ways to control those.

Table 1. Processing tomato yield loss estimates from herbicide trials at UC Davis and UC WSREC in 2012-13.

year	location	main weeds	yield range		relative yield regression eqn		Source
			vs. control	at 50% control	P test	R ²	
2012	UC Davis	field bindweed	58 - 100%	95%	0.003	0.72	Lanini and Stoddard, 2012. Field Bindweed Management in Drip Irrigated and Furrow Irrigated Processing Tomatoes
2012	UC WSREC	broadleaf, especially lambsquarters	28 - 108%	69%	0.000	0.64	
2013	UC Davis	field bindweed	60 - 100%	88%	0.000	0.71	Sosnoskie, Hanson, and Lanini, 2013. Field Bindweed Management in Early and Late Planted Processing Tomatoes
2013	UC WSREC	various broadleaf, incl bindweed	1 - 115%	42%	0.000	0.78	Stoddard, 2013. Field Bindweed Management in Drip Irrigated Processing Tomatoes

Relative yields based on 1) highest yielding herbicide plot (UCD 2013) or 2) yield of hand weeded plots.
 Main broadleaf weed species included puncture vine, pigweed, lambsquarters, purslane, and nightshades.
 P test: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. If < 0.05, there is a significant correlation association.
 Weed control ratings taken at 8 weeks after transplanting.



Farm Bureau Extension's offerings continue with a CE series of classes held virtually. Join California Farm Bureau on four dates this summer and fall for relevant content that meets your CE requirements for pesticide licensing. Subject matter experts will share information immediately

applicable to your business operations and advance your professional development. CE Certificates will be sent for each webinar attended after successful completion of a simple quiz on the material.

This CE Series consists of four classes which will take place from 10-11 a.m. and is free to all agricultural Farm Bureau members.

CE Class Dates & Topics:

August 26: Common Violations

October 7: Pesticide Training Requirements

November 18: Updates: PPE and Closed Systems

For more information or to register, visit cfbf.com

Heat, drought, wildfires: Summer singes the West

Farmers already forced to abandon crops as more water restrictions loom.

By: Tim Hearden, Western FarmPress

July 13, 2021 - When Firebaugh, Calif., grower Joe Del Bosque decided this spring to forego planting asparagus because of a lack of water, he was giving up on a field that still had five years of productivity left, he said.

Del Bosque was hoping to save his melon crop through water transfers. But as the summer progressed and there was very little water available for the spot market, he had to let some of his melon acreage go, too.

He said the asparagus decision had already forced him to cut one-third of his staff.

"This is one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make in a long time," he said. "Seventy people are going to lose their jobs here. Next year, there will be no harvest here. Those 70 people lose two months of work. It's a very difficult hit for them."

Del Bosque was one of three growers who explained their plight in videos released Monday, July 12, by Western Growers, as heat and drought have forced California officials to escalate water-saving measures they had planned for 2022 if conditions didn't improve. Only 20% of the runoff expected from January's snowpack made it into reservoirs.

The lack of water isn't just claiming annual crops such as melons and vegetables, but trees, too.

"Around this time of year we'd normally be prepping for harvest," said Ross Franson of Woolf Farming, who started knocking down almond trees in a 400-acre orchard. "But due to the dire drought that's going on in the state

of California right now, we made the decision to pull these trees out simply because we didn't have the water to irrigate them."

"These trees are all dead, and they shouldn't be," said Jared Plumlee of Booth Ranches, which produces citrus in Orange Cove, Calif., and destroyed 70 acres of trees as a result of the drought. "It's just a shame. This block had probably 20 years of productive life, and we were forced to push it out."

No water, no crops

Western Growers posted the videos as part of a campaign titled "No Water = No Crops," warning that the regulatory uncertainty of water deliveries to farms is jeopardizing the future of agriculture in California and threatens to change the state's landscape in fundamental ways.

"Is that really what you want?" Western Growers CEO Dave Puglia said in a message to state water regulators. "Do you want a bunch of dust blowing through the center of the state interrupted by fields of solar panels, which don't employ many people?"

"It is a question that needs to be posed to Californians, generally, and their political leaders. Is that what you want? Because that is the path you are on."

The campaign comes as record heat and drought have combined with an early start of wildfire season to present myriad challenges throughout the West. Over the weekend, the region saw its second major heat wave in a couple of weeks, as temperatures reached 114 degrees in Redding,

Calif., and Fresno, 113 in Sacramento, 99 in Pendleton, Ore., and 98 in Wenatchee, Wash., according to the National Weather Service.

The heat is making matters worse as nearly the entire West is in drought, with extreme to exceptional drought extending through much of the Southwest, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. In California, the 2021 water year for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin is currently the driest since 1977, prompting state water officials to begin curtailing diversions for many water rights holders.

The extreme heat has dried out many crops, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. In Siskiyou, Trinity, and Modoc counties in California, alfalfa fields showed dried down splotches from pests or disease, NASS reported. Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture are in poor to very poor condition, and some ranchers have been trucking in water to replenish drying foothill stock ponds, according to the agency.

The hot, dry afternoons have presented a challenge for melon growers, who are also dealing with shortages in labor, truck drivers and supplies, the California Farm Bureau observes.

The weather has also made it more difficult for firefighters battling several wildfires in the West, as the air is so dry that much of the water dropped by aircraft to quell the flames evaporates before it reaches the ground, the BBC reported.

The largest wildfire in California — the Beckwourth Complex — was raging through mostly timber

along the Nevada state line and had burned about 134 square miles as of Monday morning, according to The Associated Press. In Oregon, the Bootleg Fire has burned 224 square miles of heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, near Sprague River in Klamath County, the AP reports. Wildfires are also burning in Washington, Idaho and Arizona.

New heat protection rules

In response to the heat waves, Washington and Oregon recently issued new heat-protection rules for farmworkers and other outdoor workers. The rules are similar to those in California, which focuses on four areas:

Plan – Develop and implement an effective written heat illness prevention plan that includes emergency response procedures.

Training – Train all employees and supervisors on heat illness prevention.

Water – Provide drinking water that is fresh, pure, suitably cool and free of charge so that each worker can drink at least 1 quart per hour, and encourage workers to do so.

Shade – Provide shade when workers request it and when temperatures exceed 80 degrees. Encourage workers to take a cool-down rest in the shade for at least five minutes. They should not wait until they feel sick to cool down.

While the West is expected to get a bit of a respite from the heat later this week, the federal Climate Prediction Center sees a greater-than-average chance of above-average temperatures lingering throughout the region for the remainder of the summer.

UC ANR

continued from page 1

positions and prioritizing many more critical positions for hiring during the next several months.

"As in the past, we will be talking to our community partners and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing needs to prioritize the next round of hiring," Humiston said. "We must identify positions to address California's emerging and future needs. While this state budget increase

will allow UC ANR to hire more people, we will continue seeking funding from additional sources to expand access to our diverse resources for all Californians."

To learn more about how UC ANR enhances economic prosperity, protects natural resources, develops

an inclusive and equitable society, safeguards food, develops the workforce, builds climate resilience, and promotes the health of people and communities in California, see the stories in its 2020 annual report at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/UCANR/files/352362.pdf>.

Merced County Farm Bureau Heritage Members

Platinum Heritage Members



Gold Heritage Members

Grimbleby Coleman
CPAs

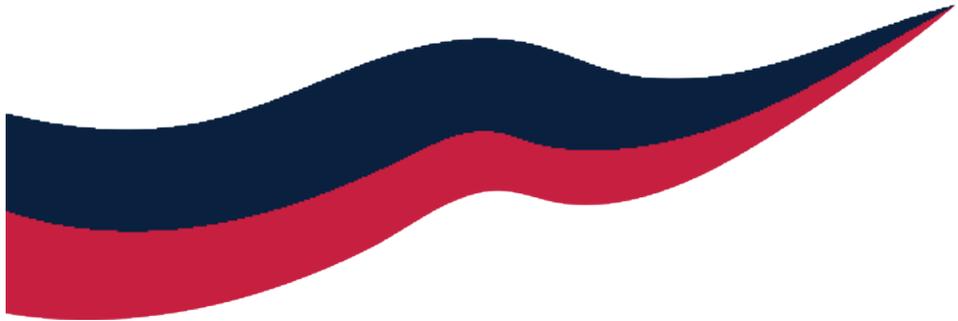
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2021 USDA FSA County Committee Elections

LAA1, is up for election. LAA1 is central Merced County with an eastern boundary of highway 99 and a western boundary being the San Joaquin River.

Deadline to nominate is August 2, 2021.



Farm Service Agency
County Committee Elections 2021




Don't Miss Out On Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 1, 2021, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 6, 2021. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

Uniform Guidelines

USDA issued uniform guidelines for county committee elections to help ensure that FSA county committees fairly represent the agricultural producers of a county or multi-county jurisdiction, especially underserved (minority and women) producers. Targeted underserved producers are African-Americans, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. In addition to minority and women producers, USDA strongly encourages beginning farmers to actively seek a position on a county committee. The guidelines govern the FSA county committee election process and are designed to increase participation of underserved (minorities and women).

The following are just some of the specifics of the guidelines:

- If no valid nominations are filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot.

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected or appointed members, FSA county committees may also include non-voting minority advisors. Advisors are selected to county committees in counties or multi-county jurisdictions that have significant numbers of underserved (minority or women) producers but lack such members on FSA county committees. Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of underserved (minorities and women) in decisions made by county committees. FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community-based organizations.

- FSA county committees annually review local administrative area boundaries to ensure the fair representation of minority and women producers in their county or multi-county jurisdictions.
- FSA county offices locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as minority and women farmers and ranchers as potential nominees for the FSA county committee elections through outreach and publicity, including the development of partnerships with community-based organizations.

The guidelines are located at FSA County Committee Elections page at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Appointed Voting Members

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to appoint targeted underserved committee members with voting privileges to serve on FSA county committees in county or multi-county jurisdictions that lack fair representation from those groups. Secretarial appointees do not replace elected members but join them as voting members on the committee. Individuals serving as non-voting minority advisors are encouraged to submit a nomination form. These forms are also accepted from community-based organizations representing targeted underserved producers. Targeted underserved voting members are appointed by the Secretary from the nominations received.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For program specifics or additional information about FSA county committees, visit a local USDA Service Center or the FSA county committee website at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Find your Local USDA Service Center

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov.

Overview

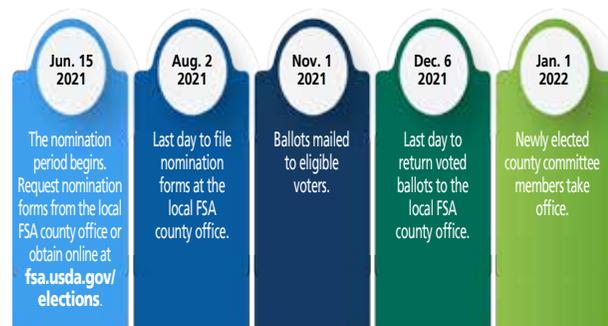
Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply using their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations and provide local input on:

- Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs; and
- Payment eligibility.

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in FSA county committee elections—whether you are a beginning or established producer, historically underserved producer (minority and women), or whether you have a large or small operation—because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Election Period



Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the operations of an entire farm also may be eligible to vote. Members of American Indian tribes holding agricultural land are eligible to vote if voting requirements are met. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member," located at fsa.usda.gov/elections. Producers may contact their local FSA county office for more information. To find your local FSA county office, visit farmers.gov.

Nominations

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county office. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. In addition, organizations representing underserved (minority and women) farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Nomination forms are filed in the FSA office that administers a producer's farm records and is available at the FSA county office or online at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA county office by August 2, 2021.

Celebrate July National Ice Cream Month! Tour, Taste, Shop & Eat inside the Hilmar Cheese Company Visitor Center

**By: Denise Skidmore, Director,
Education & Public Relations, Hilmar
Cheese Company, Inc.**

HILMAR, CA. July 2, 2021.
The Hilmar Cheese Company
Visitor Center is now open
inside to experience the exhibits and
enjoy great food. Open Monday -
Friday from 7 am-6 pm to TOUR,
TASTE, SHOP & EAT.

TOUR

Outdoor ice cream making is the
perfect activity for family and friends!
Offered Monday-Friday at 11am for \$3
per person. Reserve a spot by booking
online at hilmarcheese.com/booktours.
The ice cream making includes an
activity booklet, Hilmar Cheese pencil,
hairnet and an ear tag. Guests see



New Calf Exhibit

the cheesy MOOvie, make ice cream
and now the exhibits are back open
to enjoy! Explore the second level to
learn more about the dairy industry,
Hilmar Cheese Company and to watch

cheesemakers package 640 pound
blocks of cheese.

TASTE

Free cheese samples are back in
the Visitor Center! Have you tried a
Squeaker? Hilmar Cheese Squeakers
are fresh cheese curds made that day
and flavors change daily. Taste the
squeakers and other cheese samples.
Delicious milkshakes, smoothies and
coffee beverages are made with Real
California Milk.

SHOP

Got cheese? Hilmar Cheese
signature cheeses, local cheeses and
cheeses from all over the world are
available! Add gourmet foods to make
a charcuterie board. There is a wide
selection olives, salami, jams and nuts.
The Visitor Center also has a variety of

gift options from hats, stuffed animals,
candles, dish towels, farmhouse décor
and more!

EAT

Inside dining and patio seating is
now available! Wednesday and Friday
BBQs are back! The most popular
sandwiches right now are the BBQ
Bacon Club and the California Classic.
Mouthwatering cream cheese brownies
and delightful cheese pies (which are
better than cheesecake) are available.
The cheese pie of the month for July is
Oreo cheese pie.

Follow Hilmar Cheese Company
on social media to stay up-to-date with
specials and activities. Hilmar Cheese
Company Visitor Center is open
Monday – Friday 7 am to 6 pm. Call
209.656.1196 with any questions.

Nationwide Honors Six California Agricultural Teachers, Names 2020-2021 “Ag Educator of the Year”

***Eureka High School’s Sandy Lovfald selected as California’s Golden Owl Award® grand prize
winner and “Ag Educator of the Year”***

**By: Nationwide and California FFA
Foundation**

June 28, 2021 - Des Moines, IA
– Agricultural teachers play an
essential and selfless role as they
work to prepare future generations for
successful careers. After recognizing
six exceptional California teachers
as finalists through the Golden
Owl Award, the California FFA, in
partnership with Nationwide and the
California Farm Bureau, selected
Sandy Lovfald, agricultural teacher at
Eureka High School, as California’s
2020-2021 “Ag Educator of the Year.”

Lovfald was formally recognized
as the Golden Owl Award grand
prize winner during the broadcast of
the California FFA State Leadership
Conference in Sacramento. In addition
to the title of California’s Ag Educator
of the Year, Lovfald received the
coveted Golden Owl Award trophy and

a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded donation
to further Eureka High School’s
agricultural education efforts.

Nominations described Lovfald
as hardworking, dedicated and well
respected within the agricultural
education community. One nomination
read, “While in high school, I had
no plan to continue my education
after high school. I didn’t think I
was capable. With the support of
Mrs. Lovfald, I found a passion
for agriculture and understood the
importance of pursuing higher
education. I went on to graduate
from my dream college and I’m now
an ag teacher myself! My goal in
life is to have as big of an impact
on my students as she did on me.”
Another one stated, “She is the most
selfless person I know. If she hears
you need somebody to talk to she’ll
be listening in a heartbeat. She is so
kind to everyone no matter what kind

of day she’s having. Ms. Lovfald has
taught me so many life lessons through
agriculture.”

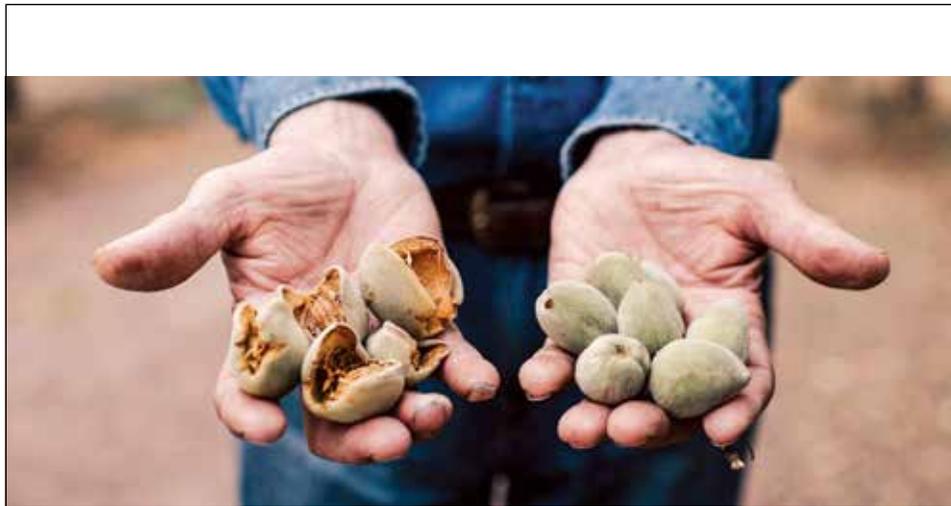
As the number one insurer of farms
and ranches in the United States, I,
Nationwide established the Golden
Owl Award with its state partners
to shed light on the contributions
of California’s leading agricultural
teachers and provide additional
resources to support their programs.

“With deep roots in agriculture,
Nationwide is proud to recognize the
men and women who are making a
difference in our communities as they
help students pursue their passions,”
said Brad Liggett, Nationwide’s
president of Agribusiness. “We’re
honored to recognize the contributions
of teachers, highlight the growing
need for their services, and supply
additional resources to help provide
students with optimal learning
experiences.”

Nationwide supports the future of
the ag community through meaningful
sponsorships of national and local
organizations. In conjunction with the
Golden Owl Award, Nationwide is
donating \$5,000 to each participating
state’s FFA, including the California
FFA, to further support the personal
and professional growth of students,
teachers and advisors alike.

The Golden Owl Award is the result
of a partnership between Nationwide,
the California FFA, California
Farm Bureau, Illinois FFA, Illinois
Association of Vocational Agriculture
Teachers, Farm Credit Illinois, Indiana
FFA, Farm Credit Mid-America, the
Iowa FFA Foundation, New York FFA,
New York Farm Bureau, Ohio FFA,
Ohio Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania
FFA, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and
Compeer Financial.

For more information, visit www.goldenowlaward.com.



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\$2,500 in cash prizes highlights 2021 California Farm Bureau Photo Contest



By: CAFB

The 40th annual California Farm Bureau Photo Contest has opened, with \$2,500 in cash prizes at stake. This year's theme, "Member Reflections," encourages Farm Bureau members who are amateur photographers to enter photos that showcase California's agricultural bounty from their personal perspective.

Photos may highlight a variety of farm, ranch and food imagery. Examples include farm animals, items being grown or harvested, rural scenery, fresh or plated food, and people working and living on a farm or ranch. There are no specific categories

for entries; participants may submit up to five high-resolution digital photos or prints.

Entries will be eligible for one of 12 cash prizes, ranging from \$50 up to the \$1,000 Grand Prize. The contest is open to members of county Farm Bureaus in California. Participants must be amateur photographers—those who do not regularly receive income from photography.

In addition to the general competition, photographers younger than age 14 as of Sept. 30, 2021, and who are children or dependents of Farm Bureau members, are invited to submit photos as Budding Artists. Presented by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, this category awards a first-place prize of \$250 and a second-place prize of \$100. All Budding Artists entrants also receive a copy of the "Imagine this..." book of stories written by students and inspired by agriculture.

In addition to the cash prizes, winning photos will be published in the weekly California Farm Bureau newspaper Ag Alert® and bimonthly California Bountiful® magazine. The photos will also appear on the organization's websites, www.cfbf.com, www.californiabountiful.com and www.agalert.com, and social media pages.

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online by Sept. 30. Entry forms and official contest rules are available online at www.cfbf.com/photocontest and www.californiabountiful.com, and from county Farm Bureaus.

For more information or additional forms, contact photocontest@cfbf.com.

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There's Nothing Like An 'In-Person' Livestock Show At The Merced County Fair!

By: Jonathan Whitaker, The Merced County Times

Smiles were everywhere. The kids were excited. And it was just nice to see everybody get together again.

Then the students, the judges and all the great fair supporters did what they always do.

They got down to business.

And boy did they come through.

This year's Livestock Show and Sale at the Merced County Fair — held without the carnival rides, midway attractions and entertainment — brought in a record total in sales.

- A total of 531 beef, goats, sheep, swine, rabbits and chickens were sold generating \$750,969.86 in sales/add-ons.
- A total of 42 dairy replacement heifers were sold generating \$150,502.50 in sales/add-ons
- Grand total for the entire sale: 573 animals and a whopping \$901,472.36 in sales/add-ons

The numbers were way over last year's "virtual" sale that generated \$571,000, though that event was considered a huge success during the pandemic. In 2019, sales reached \$724,197 with a total of 617 animals.

Of course there was plenty of competition and awards to be handed out to 4-H, FFA and Independent exhibitors.

Photos from the 2021 Merced County Fair



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Golden Valley FFA Ag Sales Wins State Competition

The Golden Valley FFA Agricultural Sales team was recently named the Overall High Team in the State at the Cosumnes River College Field Day on May 16th. The Agricultural Sales contest consists of multiple sub-contests which includes a team sales presentation, and individual sales interviews. Team members on the State Champion team included: Kindall Grisham, Senior, Ashley Sandlin, Senior, Cameron Ivy, Junior, and Amethyst Lumley, Junior.

Individually, Cameron Ivy was named the 2nd High Individual overall, Amethyst Lumley was the 6th High Individual overall, Kindall Grisham was the 9th High Individual overall, and Ashley Sandlin was the 11th High Individual overall.

The purpose behind the contest is to build skills in the sales and marketing of an Agricultural product. Each year, the State releases a product that is to be sold and marketed in each contest. This year, the product was selling and marketing the CalAg license plate. Team members are essentially salesmen for the company and attempt to make the sale to the prospective customer.

The Ag Sales team was coached by Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor, Cody Jacobsen. Cameron Ivy stated that the “Ag Sales Contest taught him many various aspects of the Agriculture and Sales industry which will be utilized throughout my entire life and that I will always remember the fun times I had as a team the past

year.” The team now will prepare for the National Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana in October.

Additionally, all 4 team members have held multiple leadership positions at the Chapter and Sectional levels. Ivy served as the 2020-2021 Merced/Mariposa Sectional Reporter and 2020-2021 Chapter President, Grisham served as the 2019-2020 Merced/Mariposa Sectional Secretary and 2019-2020 Chapter President, Sandlin served as the 2019-2020 Chapter Vice President, and Lumley

will be serving as the Golden Valley FFA Chapter Secretary and ASB President this upcoming year.



L to R: Cameron Ivy, Amethyst Lumley, Ashley Sandlin, Kindall Grisham, Coach Cody Jacobsen

Gustine FFA Members participate in MMCA Show.

By: **Garret Gomes, Gustine FFA Reporter**

Members from Gustine FFA participated in the in-person Merced Mariposa Cattlemen's Association (MMCA) show and sale June 18 and 19 at the Merced County Fairgrounds. Gustine FFA members Kaitlin Does and Garret Gomes participated in the show over the weekend. Although the show was a little different this year, as it was separate from the Merced Fair, it was a fun and learning experience for both of the participants. Kaitlin and Garret were able to meet so many new people, show off their hard work, and

learn many new skills.

Kaitlin Does exhibited the 2021 MMCA Champion Bred Heifer. Kaitlin also won Intermediate Showmanship and earned the title of Overall Champion MMCA Project.

Garret Gomes placed first in his breeding class, and won Outstanding New FFA Exhibitor.

Garret Gomes shared, “It was a great experience to be able to show off all my hard work over the past couple of months. It was really fun to be able to show my first ever bred heifer this year.”

Gustine FFA would like to thank all of our supporters and congratulate Kaitlin Does and Garret Gomes.



Kaitlin Does exhibited the Champion beef bred heifer in this picture above at the sell with her heifers buyers.



Garret Gomes is pictured above with the 2021 MMCA show judges.



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Almond growers had expected a record Central Valley harvest. Drought just took 13%

By: John Holland, The Modesto Bee

July 13, 2021 - The worsening drought forced a 13% cut in the projected almond crop in California.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture now expects about 2.8 billion pounds from the August-October harvest. The initial estimate in May was for a record 3.2 billion pounds.

Some growers have opted to strip nuts from branches so their trees can get by with less irrigation this summer, Monday's report said. Water is especially short in parts of the western and southern San Joaquin Valley.

Any upside? Growers with adequate water can expect higher prices per pound from almond buyers around the world. This includes the Modesto, Turlock, Oakdale and South San Joaquin irrigation districts.

The state accounts for about 80% of the global almond supply. Farms and processing plants employ several thousand people in and near Stanislaus County.

Even with Monday's revision, this year's harvest would be the second-largest ever, topped only by the 3.12 billion pounds in 2020. The Almond Board of California, based in Modesto, noted this in a news release.

"The report still forecasts a really large crop, and it's further proof that California is an ideal place to grow almonds, even in difficult times," said board chairman Kent Stenderup, a grower in Kern County.

The estimates are made each year by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The first is announced in May, based on a telephone survey of growers about how their almonds are developing. The second is in July, following visits to orchards to count and measure nuts.

The initial projection was based in part on favorable weather in February and March for the bees that pollinate the trees. Growers also reported little trouble with almond pests or diseases.

The winter had below-average rain

and snow. The outlook got even worse with the lack of spring storms.

"Due to low water allocations and record high temperatures in June, the crop did not develop as well as expected," Monday's report said. "Some growers have decided to save their trees by stripping nuts before harvest."

Many customers of the federal Central Valley Project have zero water this year. Some are getting 75% because of river rights predating its construction.

MID and TID are providing about 80% of their accustomed amounts. Growers can tap wells, if they have them, and stretch the supply with careful use.

OID and SSJID have not capped growers and in fact are selling surplus water to the West Side.

The record crop in 2020 had a downside – lower prices paid to growers. They got an average of \$1.83 per pound, below the cost of producing the crop.

The Almond Board reported strong shipments in recent months of the nuts remaining in storage from the 2020 harvest. They were running about 22% ahead of 2019 as of June.

"Shipment numbers show that the demand for California almonds continues to increase both in the U.S. and around the world," President and CEO Richard Waycott said.

".... With such strong demand, competition for the 2021 crop could lead to a much needed increase in the return to growers, which is currently below the cost of production due to the recent record crop."

The \$1.83 per pound last year was the lowest average price since the \$1.79 in 2010. This figure was in the profitable range of \$2.39 to \$2.53 from 2016 to 2019. It spiked as high as \$4 in 2014, but a sustained price at that level could drive away buyers.

The average price for the 2021 crop will not be announced until well into next year, after all of the almonds in storage are shipped.

Senate Bill 10 threatens California's initiative process

By: Antonio Diaz, Special to CalMatters

National news is full of stories about how legislators in red states are undermining our democracy by unraveling the integrity of the ballot initiative process. It turns out that legislators in mostly blue California may do the same thing if they pass Senate Bill 10.

Packaged as yet another silver bullet to California's housing crisis, SB 10 is aimed at increasing housing supply in areas that are already developed; however, loopholes could still allow building in undeveloped areas. It would allow up to 10 housing units to be constructed on parcels that meet certain conditions, regardless of existing zoning ordinances or general plan policies. But rather than deliver the kind of policy changes that vulnerable tenants and housing justice organizations agree are needed to address the affordability crisis and prevent families from becoming unhoused, the bill swerves into wholly undemocratic territory.

SB 10 does not include important inclusionary or other provisions to ensure that newly built homes will be priced affordably. The legislation also provides no funds to support housing construction, despite California's record \$75 billion surplus. It does not direct cities and counties to move faster to meet state-mandated regional housing goals. It does, however, allow housing developments to move forward without going through the appropriate environmental review process, raising concerns that this could open the door for homes to be built on toxic land or next to polluting industries.

Housing supply should benefit both local communities and the environment, but we must ensure that new housing is affordable to working-class residents, includes community input and protects public health — especially for communities already overburdened with pollution.

In addition to critical concerns about the affordability and safety of housing built under SB 10, the bill threatens our ability to have a say in housing and land use decisions at the local level. It allows city councils and boards of supervisors to override voter-adopted initiative measures in

exchange for higher-density housing, thus setting a troubling standard that could eventually render the initiative power meaningless. This would be a serious blow to the practice of democracy in California.

As the California Supreme Court has explained, the power to adopt local initiatives was added to the California Constitution in 1911 to "enable the people ... to reclaim legislative power" from special interests. There is no better example of special interests than deep-pocketed developers pressuring local officials to approve projects on specific parcels of land even when doing so is contrary to a city or county's long-term development plans.

Voters don't face such pressures. Indeed, voters often pursue ballot initiatives when their elected officials are politically unwilling to do the right thing. Allowing those same officials to vacate ballot measures cuts the heart out of the initiative process.

SB 10 sets a terrible precedent by chipping away at direct democracy under the guise of addressing the housing crisis. Today, housing is top of mind for California's legislators, and for good reason. But if an insubstantial bill can justify gutting direct democracy, what's next? We do not wish to empower city councils and boards of supervisors to unwind living-wage ordinances, tenant protections, fracking bans or other local laws established through the initiative process.

Under the precedent set by SB 10, the Legislature could water down the initiative process, one hot topic at a time, until there is very little substance left.

Building more affordable housing must be a priority, but SB 10 not only underdelivers as a bill to address the housing crisis, it has the potential to hollow out the initiative process and undercut the work of local tenant organizing.

Californians must urge legislators to amend SB 10 to ensure new housing units are safe and affordable, and eliminate provisions that undercut the democratic process. Otherwise, it should be defeated. Tell Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon to do everything in their power to stop SB 10, in its current form, from becoming law.

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The Memo: On voting, public has a more nuanced view than partisans

By: Niall Stange, The Hill

President Biden is warning of “election subversion.” Texas Democrats have fled the state rather than vote on a Republican-backed voting bill. And former President Trump maintains his steady drumbeat of fictions about fraud in the 2020 election.

The issue of voting rights is hot and getting hotter. Partisans on both the left and right contend American democracy is under existential threat.

But polling suggests the public at large takes a more nuanced view. While the loudest voices make blanket claims, a significant swath of the public answers questions about voting rights and ballot security with a resounding “it depends.”

The electorate at large does not buy dire Republican warnings that elections need to be more secure.

Most Americans think that making voting easier and more convenient should be the priority.

Yet, there are limits to that dynamic.

Voter ID laws, which many Democrats have opposed, are popular. That’s perhaps because many Americans don’t see an especially onerous burden on that score, given how many unexceptional tasks require some form of identification.

Other proposals at the most permissive end of the spectrum also fall flat with voters.

For example, an overwhelming majority of adults — an almost 3-to-1 margin — opposed the mailing of absentee ballots to all voters rather than only those who ask for them, according to a March poll from The Economist-YouGov.

The layered views lead some political insiders to wonder if the rhetoric coming from both right and left is leaving significant numbers of voters behind.

“This is definitely being driven by activists on both sides, whether the folks on the left who are using hyperbolic language or the folks on the right who are in many cases just reacting to the last election,” said Brendan Steinhauser, a GOP strategist in Texas. “We’re on solid ground to say that what people in the middle — independent-minded voters — think

depends on the details.”

Steinhauser’s state is in the national spotlight after more than 50 Democratic members of the state House left Texas for Washington on Monday. In doing so, they deprived their Republican counterparts of a quorum with which to pass legislation that would ban 24-hour voting and require new ID standards for voting by mail, among other measures.

Nationally, polling suggests there is genuine fear about voting restrictions, especially as Republicans push legislation across the nation.

Fourteen states enacted 22 new laws restricting access to the ballot between the start of the year and mid-May, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll released at the start of this month asked respondents whether it was more important to pass new laws making it easier for people to vote lawfully or harder for them to vote fraudulently.

Sixty-two percent opted for the first option and just 30 percent for the second.

That’s good news for Democrats.

Similarly, broad access to early voting is popular across a range of polls.

But the question of voter ID is very different. Seventy-six percent of Americans favor making it mandatory to show some form of government-issued photo ID in order to vote, the Pew Research Center noted in March — a figure that included 61 percent of Democratic-leaning voters as well as 93 percent of those who lean toward the GOP.

The Pew survey also found that there has been a drift toward more restrictive positions on some issues, driven by Republicans.

In 2018, 71 percent of Americans were in favor of people being able to vote absentee without offering a specific reason why they were doing so. In the next two years, that figure fell by almost 10 points among the general population and by 19 points among Republican-leaning voters.

Biden’s speech on Tuesday in Philadelphia was his response to a growing clamor from progressive activists to meet what they see as a defining moment.

Progressives have pushed hard for

the For the People Act, which would mandate federal minimum standards across a host of election-related issues.

However, the bill’s advocates have been thwarted so far by the blanket opposition of Republicans in the Senate, as well as two moderate Democrats: Sen. Joe Manchin (W.Va.) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.).

Many figures on the left are pushing Biden to throw his weight behind eliminating the Senate filibuster in order to enact more robust protections for voting. But he has not done so thus far and made no mention of the issue during his Tuesday speech.

He did highlight the fact that Attorney General Merrick Garland will be leading the Department of Justice to challenge a number of state-level laws that he holds to be unjust.

“There’s an unfolding assault taking place in America today,” Biden said. “An assault on democracy, an assault

on liberty, an assault on who we are.”

That wasn’t nearly enough for some progressives.

“On voting rights, President Joe Biden is failing to meet the moment,” Adam Jentleson of Battle Born Collective said in a statement soon after the speech.

Jentleson again called for reform of the legislative filibuster. Protecting voting rights, he said, “was always going to be a steep hill to climb but it is much steeper without active, personal engagement and leadership from the president.”

Yet, at the same time, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee (RNC) accused Biden and the Democrats of “theatrics” on the issue. RNC communications director Danielle Alvarez added, “Republicans are engaged in state-led efforts to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.”

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California Dreamin'



from the
**Mariposa
CFB**
Danette Toso

“All the leaves are brown, and the sky is grey.....” The iconic, hit song from The Mamas and the Papas comes to mind as I traverse the once lush agricultural fields of

California. In 1966 this popular group was singing about escaping the dreary, frigid climate of New York and dreaming of the glorious warm weather of California. What a difference a few decades make! California is currently more of a frightening nightmare than a beautiful dream for our agricultural community.

In today's California, the leaves are brown, and the sky is grey due to a dereliction of duty by the governance of our once beautiful state. Farmers in the valley have been forced to fallow fields at an alarming rate due to the lack of water storage facilities and the flushing of countless gallons of water into the ocean each year. The sky is grey with suffocating smoke each fire season due to the mismanagement of our forests. Farmers and ranchers are being fiercely regulated or forced out of business completely. It is shameful, utterly irresponsible, and completely avoidable.

The misuse of water in our state is absolutely astounding! In February 2019 alone, the ocean received enough water to meet the needs of 41.8 million people for an entire year. It was enough

water to give farmers desperately needed irrigation for their crops and help to recharge aquifers, as well as improve drinking water quality. Instead, this precious commodity is continuously released into the ocean, unable to be used by anyone. Source: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov>

California is in desperate need of water storage capability and competent water management practices. Of the 12 reservoirs in California, their average is an astounding 43.91% of capacity. As California Rep. Tom McClintock has said, “Droughts are naturally occurring, water shortages are man-made.” He also has warned for many years, “We live in one of the most water-rich regions of the country – yet we have not built a major reservoir in this state since 1979. Meanwhile, the population has nearly doubled. The sad, simple fact is that we will NEVER solve our water problems until we start building new dams once again.”

Mariposa County might not have many acres of row crops, but we have an abundance of rangeland with livestock, and wildlife which obviously will not last long without water. Our

ranch recently received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board informing us that our stock ponds could be next to go. The letter states in bold red letters: Notice of water unavailability for post-1914 water right holders and warning of impending water unavailability for pre-1914 and riparian claimants in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Watershed. It appears that the powers that be, just might be trying to drive agriculture out of California all together. It all seems so insane that it cannot be real...but it's very real, make no mistake about it!

It's time to wake up from this nightmare, stand up, get involved, get educated, and get vocal. This is not the time to set back and dream about the bygone “Golden Days” of California. With our perseverance, standing together, all is not lost, and our state can and will rebound. With community involvement in mind, I encourage everyone to talk to your family, friends, and neighbors and educate them of the importance of joining the Farm Bureau. Together, we can make a difference and support agriculture, one member at a time.

Lone wolf goes radio silent

By: **Carmel de Bertaut, BenitoLink Reporter**

July 13, 2021 - According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, radio contact with grey wolf OR-93, who entered San Benito County on March 27 or 28, has been lost and his status is unknown. His last collar transmission was from San Luis Obispo County on April 5.

It's unclear why the signal has been lost. It could be that the batteries have died or the collar has malfunctioned in some other way. The department has not picked up a mortality signal, which occurs when the collar device has not moved for eight hours.

Tracking data from the California and Oregon departments of fish and wildlife say OR-93, a male yearling wolf dispersed from the White River pack in northern Oregon, initially entered Modoc County on Jan. 30.

After briefly returning to Oregon,

OR-93 reentered Modoc County on Feb. 4. On Feb. 24, he entered Alpine County after passing through portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras counties.

On Feb. 25, he entered Mono County. In mid-March, he was in western Tuolumne County. By late March he was in Fresno County, and then entered San Benito County after crossing Highway 99 and Interstate 5. He then entered Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.

By April 5 he had traveled at least 935 air miles (1,075 land miles) in California, a minimum average of 16 air miles (18.4 land miles) per day.

In recent years, the California grey wolf population has increased with the Beckwourth Pack, a new pack found in Plumas County. The pack was confirmed in May 2021 when three wolves were photographed by trail camera. Tracks of two wolves had been

observed in the area in February. It's unknown if the pack is reproductive.

The grey wolf is protected under the California Endangered Species Act

and the hunting, pursuing, catching, capturing, killing of one, or attempting to do any of these things can result in jail time or a fine of up to \$100,000.



Photo of gray wolf OR-93 taken in Oregon after waking up from sedation. Photo courtesy of Austin Smith, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Obituaries

Clara Jensen

September 14, 1934 - May 6, 2021

Published by Merced Sun Star on May 19, 2021



L OS BANOS, California - Clara Jean (Claire) Lunderville Jensen was born to Laurence & Anne

Lunderville on September 14, 1934 in Clarksburg, California. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on May 6, 2021 at her home on Plow Camp Road in Los Banos after a long a courageous battle with

Alzheimer's Disease.

She married Jack Jensen in 1953 in Seattle, Washington while he was stationed at Fort Lawton, and began their life together in Army housing.

In December of 1954, they returned to Los Banos, and by 1959 they moved into their home on Plow Camp Road built by Jack and his cousin Allan Snyder. She would call Los Banos her home for 67 years.

Claire was a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her talents included being a homemaker, a bookkeeper for Jack's Bee Business and hobbies, and a wonderful cook. After a cake decorating class she started making her famous birthday cakes for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a self-taught master gardener loving her time tending to her yard and especially her roses.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jack and her grandson Derrick Jensen, her sisters Helene Williams & Joann Von Busch. She leaves behind her 3 children Mark Jensen, Kirsten (Jensen) Areias and her husband Dennis and Carol (Jensen) Williams and her husband Russell. She was also the proud Grandma to her grandchildren Sarah (Mike) van Loben Sels, Brannon (Courtney) Areias, Sam (Brittany) Areias, Will (Yesenia) Areias and Claire Yates. She was also blessed with 12 great-grandchildren: Emma, Jared and Sophie van Loben Sels; Alexa, Oliver (Schutz), Dottie and Finn Areias; Jensen and Harper Areias and Francisco, Claire and Abby Kirsten Areias.

She is also survived by her sister Barb (Tom) Lisenbee, and her brother Joseph Jacob Bieth.

Her passion was her flower garden,

but she also spent much of her later years helping start and continue the Manna Ministries at the United Methodist Church of Los Banos. She was committed to giving back to those less fortunate with a hot meal, a friendly smile and a friendly conversation, Claire never met a stranger.

The family would like to thank her caregivers Antonia Homen, Jackie Alcaraz, Tammy Nunes, and John & Lauren Latronica for their dedicated care and compassion, and to Hinds Hospice for their help in her final days.

Her celebration of life will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021 at the United Methodist Church in Los Banos at 10:00 a.m. followed a burial at the Los Banos Cemetery. Memorial Donations can be made to the United Methodist Church, 1031 Iowa Avenue, Los Banos, CA 93635.

Frances Dawn Maiorino

December 13, 1934 - June 11, 2021

Published by Merced Sun Star on Jun. 18, 2021.



A twater, California - Frances Dawn Maiorino was born on December 13, 1934 in Dos Palos California

to Cecil and Winnie DuBois. She peacefully passed away at home on June 11, 2021.

Dawn, as she was known by family and friends was a lifelong resident of Dos Palos, until she moved to Atwater, Ca with her husband Lewis during the last years of her life.

She attended local schools and was

a member of Sacred Heart Church. She served on the school board at Sacred Heart School and was a member of numerous community organizations including Hospital League, Dos Palos 4-H club, and PTA President.

After graduating from Dos Palos High School in 1953 Dawn attended Fresno State College and 4 C's Business School. She returned home to Dos Palos where she was employed as a Secretary at Kalgian Motor Company. She married the love of her life, Lewis Maiorino in 1956 and they started the family farm where they raised their three children.

Dawn had a passion for painting and was well known in the community for her beautiful oil paintings and water colors. It gave her great joy to create beautiful portraits and landscapes and present them to family and friends as special gifts.

Dawn was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother and will always be

remembered for her kind and generous heart.

She was preceded in death by her parents Cecil and Thelma "Winnie" DuBois and her husband of sixty-two years Lewis Maiorino.

She leaves behind her loving sons Mike and Brad Maiorino, a Daughter Jill Scoto and son in law Augie, grandchildren Ryan Burnthorne and

wife Shely, Michael Maiorino, Logan Maiorino and Madison Maiorino. Great grandchildren Corynn and Hunter Burnthorne and brother Ronald DuBois.

Services will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church in Dos Palos beginning at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be at Dos Palos District Cemetery.



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First Annual Farm Safety & Equipment Training Day with Fluetsch and Busby Insurance & Nationwide

By: Denelle Flake, Farm News Editor

On June 9th, Merced County Farm Bureau partnered with the Fluetsch and Busby Insurance and Nationwide to host the First Annual Farm Safety and Equipment Training Day. We provided free safety trainings for farmers and their employees, covering topics such as sexual harassment, heat illness, general equipment safety, rural road safety, and pesticide safety. We would like to thank all our presenters: Nationwide, Flory Industries, Farm

Employee Labor Services (FELS), the Merced County Ag Commissioner office, and Vicky Espinoza. We also had a variety of equipment on display thanks to our local tractor and equipment dealers: N&S Tractor, Holt Ag Solutions, Garton Tractor, Jackrabbit, and Flory Industries. We ended the day with lunch and a raffle, courtesy of Fluetsch and Busby Insurance. While our attendance capacities were limited this year, we hope to bring this event back for its second year at a greater capacity!



Flory Industries and Vicky Espinoza presenting on general equipment safety to farm employees



Holt Ag Solutions's display



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