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What Benefits Kern County from New Water Storage Projects?

By Scott Hamilton
President, Hamilton Resource Economics

Farmers have been seeking more water storage in California. In 2014, Proposition 1 dedicated \$2.7 billion for investments in water storage projects – a water storage investment program (WSIP). The California Water Commission (CWC), which administers WSIP chose eight projects in 2018 based on the public benefits they would provide. Those public benefits include flood protection, ecosystem improvements and water quality improvements. The costs for private benefits, such as water for irrigation, are not covered by Proposition 1 funds. The funds for those costs must come from other

sources. The eight projects selected cover the length of the state and are listed in Table 1. Four of them are conjunctive use projects, meaning surface water and groundwater resources are managed jointly to achieve the project benefits. Three projects involve the construction or enlargement of reservoirs. One reservoir, Temperance Flat Reservoir, a 1.26-million-acre-foot reservoir proposed on the San Joaquin River just upstream of Millerton Lake, was awarded WSIP funding, but proponents withdrew the application for a variety of reasons, including the inability to prove evidence of 75% of non-public benefit cost share.

In December of 2021, four of these projects (Pacheco Reservoir Expansion, Willow Springs Water Bank, Sites Reservoir, and the Kern Fan Project) were deemed feasible by the CWC, a key hurdle.

There is both good and bad news here. The good news is that the CWC has identified more than 2.5 million acre feet of new water storage projects in California with an increase in average yield of more than 400,000 acre feet per year. The first bad news comes in the cost of the projects. The capital costs of the surface reservoir projects are not quite double the costs of the conjunctive use projects. At around \$1,000 per acre-foot just for the capital costs, the surface reservoir projects appear unaffordable for most farmers. Even for the conjunctive use projects, the costs are high, exceeding \$500/af.

The other bad news is that these projects are unlikely to provide much water to Kern County farmers. The Harvest Water, Chino Basin and Pacheco Reservoir projects are not designed to provide water to the San Joaquin Valley. The cost of water from Sites Reservoir, in which Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water

Storage District and two other districts in Kern County are still

weighing options, is likely to exceed \$1,200/af by the time it gets to Wheeler Ridge. The remaining three projects (the Kern Fan Project, Los Vaqueros and Willow Creek) depend heavily on high flow water from the Delta which has been scarce since the biological opinions in 2008 restricted water project operations to protect endangered fish.

The take-away messages? Since the inception of the SWP, there has been an unwillingness by governments to subsidize water infrastructure to meet irrigation needs, despite such benefits as increased jobs and increased tax revenues. With that precedent in mind, it does not appear the surface reservoirs are an economically feasible answer to the water shortages in the San Joaquin Valley. It is anticipated that water districts will continue to expand recharge capacity to maximize use of high flow water from east side

See **WATER BENEFITS** on PAGE 17

Sustainable Kern River Coalition



Kern River bed. (Photo: SustainableKernRiver.org)

By Melissa A. Nagel
Feature Contributor, Valley Ag Voice

The fight for water in Kern County is a long-standing one that traces back to the mid-1800s when water from the Kern River was diverted for the first time. Fast-forward to today and not much has changed. At the core of the water issue is the debate to either let water flow freely through the Kern River in Bakersfield, or uphold the water rights that are already in place to ensure that water goes to the customers, businesses, and ag industries that need it most. The Sustainable Kern River Coalition was established recently to fight for the latter and bring awareness to this issue.

See **KERN RIVER** on PAGE 3

Profiles in Ag: Lindsey Mebane

By Audrey Hill
Feature Contributor, Valley Ag Voice



Lindsey Mebane out for a ride on her horse Ace in sunny East Bakersfield in December of 2019.

Growing up a fifth-generation cattle rancher on her family's cow calf operation in San Diego, Lindsey Mebane received the opportunity to get involved early. Mebane says that "whenever there were twin calves and the mom only wanted one, we took them in as bottle feds." This was a tradition that started with her older sister Alyson and one that would continue until Lindsey left for college. She started 4-H as early as she could at 9, and later joined her mother's FFA class in high school where she showed cattle and hogs and even competed in the written competitions.

To attend Cal Poly, SLO, Lindsey left home in San Diego and received her bachelor's in Agriculture Systems Management, her minor in Agriculture Business and concentration in Livestock Production. After graduation in 2010, Mebane found a position in Bakersfield for Quality Assurance/Quality Control Specialist for Tasteful Selections. At the time, Tasteful Selections was a small potato farm with headquarters in Bakersfield. She came to the Central Valley with some familiarity from moving cattle north from San Diego. "Really the only thing I knew about the area was that it was hot in the summer," commented Mebane. We had shipped our cattle to the saleyard for years, so it was always a treat to jump in the semi-truck with my dad to make the trip to Bakersfield. We stayed at a Super 8 motel, ate at Sizzler, and got to walk under the highway 99 to get to the local amusement park called Camelot."

Moving to the Central Valley started a new chapter of life. The company grew very fast after starting as a Quality Control Specialist, and with it, so did she. She now oversees all Food Safety inside the company and travels to farms across California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah to perform her inspections. She loves the travel and loves that her company is still tight knit, and family owned. Mebane also is highly involved in the Farm Bureau. She just finished up her term as 2021 Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair representing California in the National Farm Bureau.

Mainly the Young Farmers and Ranchers of the Farm Bureau are dedicated to educating and involving younger farmers but also the rest of our community about what agriculture looks like in California and how it operates. Community service and touring agriculture facilities play a major role in this. Mebane loves that she gets to represent the younger generation of agriculture, especially to the rest of our nation. This also opens

See **LINDSEY MEBANE** on PAGE 9

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FARM BUREAU NEWS

The United Voice of Kern County's Farming Community



President's Message Engagement is Vital

By Patty Poire
President, Kern
County Farm Bureau

Here we are, already in February 2022, and at the time that I am writing this monthly article, unfortunately the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has not provided to the Kern subbasin their review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). Their review letter is due to the Kern subbasin in late January which will provide details on where DWR sees deficiencies or lack of detailed information in the GSPs to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). I am looking to receive an "Incomplete" determination by DWR and not an "Inadequate." The action by DWR of an "Incomplete" begins the clock of 180 days to provide corrective actions or additional information to DWR. Whereas an "Inadequate" triggers the engagement of the State Water Board. If you have not seen or heard about the decision by DWR as you are reading this, I suggest that you contact the Kern County Farm Bureau or your water district manager to obtain a copy of the determination. Your engagement as a farmer and/or a landowner is going to be vital.

One great item that this year has started with already is the snow and rain that occurred in December and early January. As of January 3, 2022 "more precipitation has fallen on California during its current water year than in the full prior 12-month span," the National Weather Service says. The snowpack was measured at 78.5 inches of snow by the first snow survey of 2022, which is double the historic average for the date of the survey. Unfortunately, the State came out early in an unprecedented decision to announce 0% initial allocation for the State Water

Project. The push is going to continue to put pressure on the State Water Board to allow for storage and deliveries as the reservoirs fill. The Kern County Farm Bureau will continue to provide e-blast information on the status of the reservoirs. (See graphic below.)

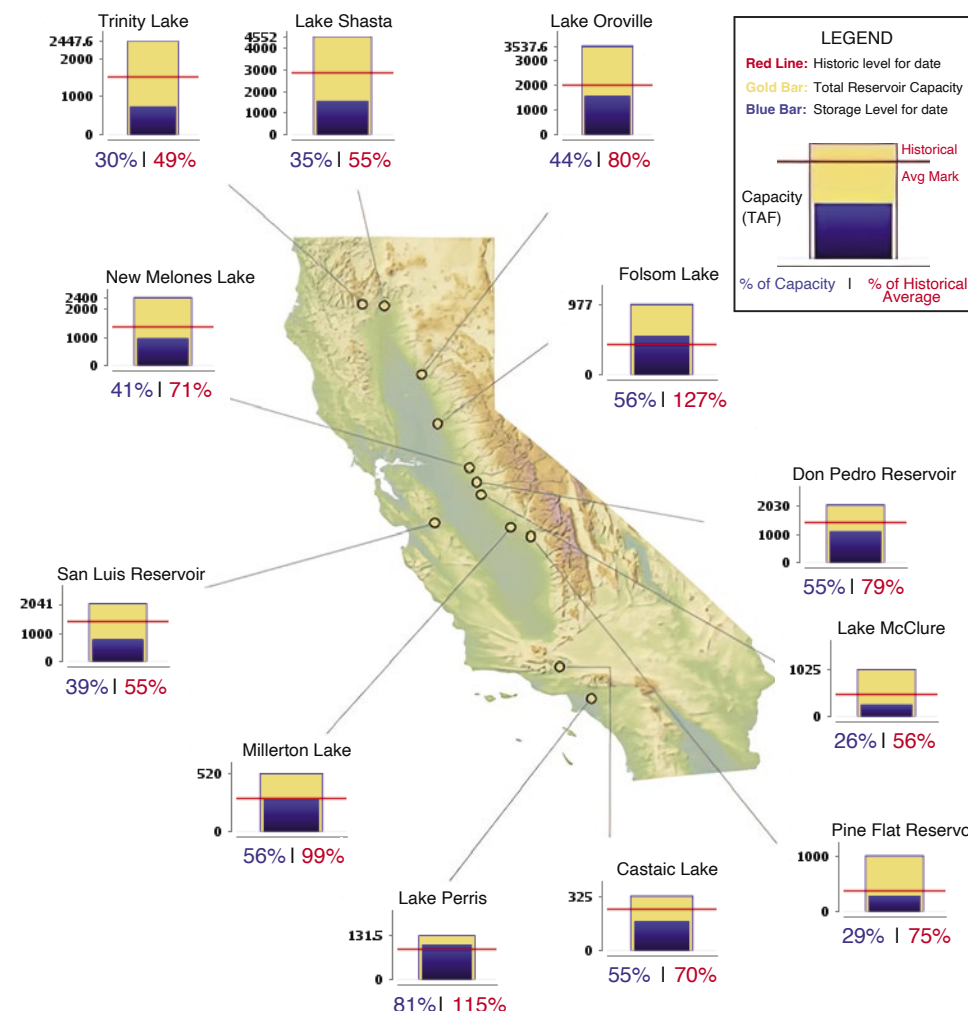
On January 20, the Kern County Farm Bureau held its annual Spray Safe program. I hope that you or some of your employees were able to participate. This year, Julie Henderson, the new Director of the Department of Pesticide attended. She spent the entire day here in Kern and participated in the event as well as met with several landowners to seek input on the development of a statewide notification system.

Unfortunately, the legislators are back in Sacramento. Things have not changed when it comes to legislators and their need to "control" via regulations. New legislation just began on January 1st, 2022, but legislators are already making additional adjustments to those new regulations as well as "inventing" new ones.

Through 2022 the continued engagement by your Kern County Farm Bureau will not waiver, but as I always say your engagement is vital. I hope to see you at the next Kern County Farm Bureau meeting.

RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

as of midnight, January 19, 2021



Executive Director's Report What Can You Get For a Nickel?



By Romeo Agbalog
Executive Director,
Kern County Farm
Bureau

In 1878 Frank W. Woolworth came up with a concept to create a merchandise store stocked with only five cent items.

After a rough start Woolworth finally experienced success and formally incorporated F. W. Woolworth & Company in February of 1905 about 117 years ago today. Woolworths' success led to the addition of ten cent merchandise and eventually an expansion of stores across the United States, including internationally with stores in Cuba, England, Germany, Mexico, and South America.

The equivalent of a nickel back in 1905 in terms of purchasing power today is about \$1.58. Between 1905 and now the dollar had an average inflation rate of 2.99% per year, producing a cumulative price increase of 3,058.50%, meaning today's prices are 31.58 times higher than average prices since 1905 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Simply put, a dollar today only buys 3.16% of what it could buy back then. Now the current year-over-year inflation rate stands at 6.81%.

With inflation having risen to levels not seen in about four decades, joined by high input costs, labor shortages, supply chain disruption, and water are top concerns for agriculture. Although, inflation impacts everyone, especially the middle class and those on fixed incomes. Inflation poses a huge threat to the middle class since price increases reduce purchasing power and push the things that the middle class could previously afford further out of their reach.

The current Administration has tried to downplay the impact of inflation and even at times shift the blame onto the private sector, like blaming meat producers for the increased cost of ground beef or oil companies for higher gasoline prices. However, inflation is the direct result of bad government policy and interference. When government erodes the purchasing power of money, the result essentially amounts to that of a tax hike, except without voter input or approval.

So, when do things get better? Remember the days of double-digit inflation, double-digit interest rates, and negative economic growth of the Carter era? Some may argue we are there again. First, it will take strong, focused, and principled political leadership to help get us back on track, until then however, things could get even worse. Yet I remain optimistic that brighter times may lay ahead, but this is just a "nickel for my thoughts" assessment.

Young Farmers & Ranchers



By Timothy Collins
Chair, KC Young
Farmers & Ranchers

The world is a busy place to begin with and being involved in ag makes our lives even busier. So, why become part of another

group with monthly meetings and events? I certainly have the tendency to think that once I finish this project in a couple weeks things will slow down, and I'll have free time to get involved—that is, until I finish the project a couple weeks later and find myself somehow in the middle of two more projects. There are also many working in or interested in the ag industry who are largely unfamiliar with the Young Farmers and Ranchers. Allow me to present the reasons for YF&R's existence and why involvement with the group is beneficial and enjoyable.

I'll start with networking. There are thousands of young people working in Kern County agriculture that have much in common but don't end up connecting and getting to know each other. YF&R is that connection. Like-minded people are meeting each other and building a sense of community. We all benefit from relationships with others in our same local industry, and it's reassuring to talk to people with similar interests and concerns. We are not alone in this ag world, and as can often be the case, it's not what you know but who you know.

See **YOUNG FARMERS** on PAGE 3

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YOUNG FARMERS *Continued from PAGE 2*

Along with building a community is giving back to our community. YF&R gives out grants to FFA and 4H students and helps build local school gardens with proceeds from our farmer's market each year. If you are looking to make an impact and get our youth involved in ag, YF&R is a great way to do it.

There are many leadership opportunities in high school and college, but after graduation there can be few outside of work. YF&R provides those opportunities for recent graduates and working professionals. Members can hold officer positions at the local and state level and learn leadership skills from attending state and even national YF&R conferences. The learning doesn't stop with leadership skills. Kern County agriculture is such a large and diverse industry that all those involved with YF&R have learned a great deal from the numerous local ag tours we have visited over the years. This knowledge gives us a better ability to advocate for the ag industry and educate the public which, even in Kern County, can

be largely unaware of where their food comes from.

All of this culminates in the chief objective for YF&R, which is to bring up the next generation of Farm Bureau members to serve the farmers and ranchers in Kern County—and to have fun in the process! There are now multiple Farm Bureau Directors that have their roots in YF&R and there will be more to come. Involvement in YF&R brings a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the industry that we all love to be a part of. One of the best ways for everyone to get involved with and support YF&R is our Clay Shoot Fundraiser which will be held Saturday, March 5. Find all the information at <https://kernyfr.square.site> or email us.

Please reach out to us if you would like to jump on our email list to receive information about upcoming events. We are also active on both Facebook and Instagram.

Email: KernYFR@KernCFB.com

IG: @Kern_YFR, FB: KernYoungFarmersAndRanchers

RENEGADE ROUND-UP

Bakersfield College Animal Science Institute Naming Honors Memory of Professor and “Pork All-American” Billy Barnes



By Cheryl Scott
BC Foundation
Executive Director

The memory of Billy Barnes, beloved Professor of Animal Science and former Ag Department Chair at Bakersfield

College, will live on among the BC campus community and beyond. The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees has voted to designate the name “Billy Barnes Animal Science Institute” to represent BC's animal science program, in recognition of a \$2 million gift commitment from friends and family of the local ag leader.

The naming will be accompanied by signage at the entrance to the Animal Science Labs in the new agriculture building, set to be complete in the fall of 2024.

Billy was a BC alum who ultimately became a critical part of Bakersfield College's Agriculture Department. He began his tenure with BC in 2007, when he came to work with his friend and “forever mentor,” Bill Kelly. Professor Kelly had previously been Billy's teacher at South High School. Billy had been interested in Future Farmers of America, and Bill Kelly teamed up with his colleague Jim Slater to buy Billy his first show pig in 1979.

That experience led to Billy's life-long passion and career.

After graduating from South High Class in 1983, he continued his education at Bakersfield College while working for Getty Oil. Billy then went on to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and later graduated from Fresno State University where he majored in Animal Science.

Billy became a pig farmer, raising show pigs and being named “Pork All-American” by the National Pork Producers Council. He came to be internationally known as a top swine judge. When he joined the BC agriculture team, Billy brought a tremendous amount of hands-on experience in both farming and livestock



(not to mention the prestige of having a high-ranking swine judge on the faculty!).

Billy was an inspiration at BC until his passing in March of 2021. Because of him, the Animal Sciences program grew to become the largest discipline within the Department of Agriculture. As department chair and as the animal science faculty lead, Billy guided the expansion of dual enrollment to the surrounding high schools, encouraging students to continue their animal science education at BC. He also drove a massive outreach campaign to the community through his participation at Kern County Fair and other livestock shows, as a producer and/or judge.

Billy Barnes was a friend to his industry, and he was a friend to BC and its students. As Bill Kelly has said, “Billy really cared about his students, and he worked hard to find them jobs and placements.”

The Bakersfield College Animal Science program will forever benefit from Professor Billy Barnes' commitment to making the department a state and national leader. Thanks to this generous \$2 million gift, the program will continue to grow and will remain a leader in animal science education.

Keeping up with industry standards is a top priority for our entire Agriculture Department. If you would like to help with the needs of other disciplines within the department, please call the BC Foundation at (661) 395-4800.

Kern River

Continued from PAGE 1

The Sustainable Kern River Coalition is apprised of concerned citizens, businesses, and agricultural industries here in Kern County who are taking a stand to make sure that the public is informed of the potential negative impacts that diverting water to once again fill the Kern River running through Bakersfield will have on everyone. The Coalition acknowledges that while it would be wonderful and aesthetically pleasing to see water flowing in Bakersfield's riverbeds as it used to years ago, it just is not feasible for our county. Doing so would pull from the water levels in Lake Isabella, affecting the wildlife and recreational industry, as well as increase the need for groundwater pumping, and put an even larger strain on communities who are already being affected by limited water availability.

In turn, the Sustainable Kern River Coalition suggests that we maintain a system similar to the one that is in place now. David Hampton, one of the Coalition's primary founders, states “We helped form the Sustainable Kern River Coalition because the fact is, there's not enough water to go around.” The current system allows water to flow freely through the Kern River in Bakersfield during “wet” years, or rather years where we experience favorable rainfall and a decrease in drought situations. On the flip side, the system would reserve water flow in “dry” years where Kern County is experiencing severe drought, much like we have currently been in for the past several years.

While the Coalition is still in the early stages of development, it has garnered major support from organizations such as the North Kern Water Storage District, Sierra South, Inc. of Kernville, DM Camp & Sons, the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce, as well as the cities of Shafter and Wasco. All members of the Coalition “...are committed to protecting and maintaining the rights and access to Kern River water that support the families, farmers, small businesses and disadvantaged communities who are the backbone of Kern County's economy.” (Sustainable Kern, 2021)



Photo: SustainableKernRiver.org

In simple terms, the Sustainable Kern River Coalition will aid in the protection of historical water rights and economic revenue generated by recreation and agriculture here in Kern County in direct relation to the Kern River. The goal is simple, to continue to maintain Kern's water supply responsibly and ensure that the water goes to the people, communities, businesses, and agriculture who need it the most first. As the Coalition continues to grow and garner support from the community, there has been some push back by activists on the other side of this issue. Some believe that it would be better to let the water flow and help to restore Bakersfield's image to what it was years ago. The Sustainable Kern River Coalition is not against that initiative, however, they realize that such aspirations must be managed for the good of the hard-working communities that Kern County is made up of.

If you would like to learn more about the Sustainable Kern River Coalition or are interested in joining, please visit sustainablekernriver.org for more information.

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The Pomegranate: Fruit of Myth and Legend



By Mike McCoy
Executive Director,
Kern County Museum

One of the oldest cultivated fruits in the world, and one of the most misunderstood, is making an amazing showing in California agriculture. In 1917, there were only 150 acres of pomegranates grown in California. Grown as an exotic curiosity and not a cash crop, pomegranate production rose to 3,000 acres in 1985. When health experts noted the beneficial effects of pomegranate juice, production rose to 30,000 acres by 2012. In Kern County the crop had a \$115 million farm gate value in 2021.

California is still lagging behind the Middle East and Asia, where pomegranates have been grown for thousands of years. Often seen as a dessert surprise or even an aphrodisiac, the ruby red fruit with the leathery skin has been celebrated in myth and legend as the fruit of the ancient gods. What separates the California product from its cousins in other countries is the superior size and quality. Hence half of the California pomegranate

production is for the export market. What is not hand selected, washed and waxed for the export market, is used for juice, jelly, and syrup. There is even a viable market for dried poms in the craft trade using them in floral arrangements.

Local grower Dee Slayman had been touting the health benefits of the ruby fruit for years from his 500-acre orchard in Kern County. The juice of the pomegranate's garnet-red seeds is high in potassium and vitamin C. Slayman described the juice as a "cholesterol cutter" and touted the positive effects online. He claimed the juice cut his own cholesterol by 40 points.

One of the biggest boosters for Western pomegranates has also been the Wonderful Company headquartered in Los Angeles. The four-billion-dollar company heavily markets its Pom Wonderful juice on an international scale and boasts two million pomegranate trees in Central California. They tout the juice's antioxidant properties and potassium. Each 16-ounce bottle holds the equivalent of four pomegranates and is also used in teas and soft drinks.

The Wonderful Company has been recognized for its high standards of production, including hand-picking the pomegranates and then using custom designed extraction methods. Their marketing and



"Persephone," by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1874

appearance on national television programs like Dr. Oz, has really moved the dial on the fruit's future and growth in the Central Valley. While still small compared to other orchard crops, the future appears to be bright for the ancient red fruit.

Thank you to the Wonderful Company and the University of California Extension for information.



Lindsey Mebane

Continued from PAGE 1

many traveling doors for her. She recently attended the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention in Atlanta, Georgia; and in February she will fly to Louisville, Kentucky for the 2022 Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference. "You get to meet so many people from so many walks of life," she says, and teaching other states about how it's even possible to farm in California is one of her favorite topics at these national events.

In 2015, she met her husband on a Young Farmers and Ranchers facility tour of his family operation. She says, "We knew each other's family names for years because they sold and still sell our calves through their saleyard." Mr. Tulloch also is a 5th generation cattle farmer and the two hit it off immediately. Now they both work here in the Central Valley, and when she's not working for Tasteful Selections or representing California's farmers to the nation, the two are working cattle. "Sometimes you don't eat dinner until 9 at night," Mebane reflected, "If a fence fails or there's some emergency, it has to go get fixed. It's a 24-hour job."

For Mebane, the bread and butter working in agriculture is, "the people and the legacies," she says. "It makes me so excited to support the new generation."

With the new year, Mebane looks to start a family and to increase advocacy for the next generation of farmers and ranchers, in addition to facilitating her potato company's community involvement.

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The
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Ranch Magnetism



By Austin Snedden
Ranching Contributor,
Valley Ag Voice

There are folks that have an unavoidable magnetism, or so I have heard. There are people that have a magnetic personality

that people are drawn towards, and it isn't always defined by exceptional looks or astounding intellect. Folks like former president Bill Clinton and people like the late actors Betty White and Andy Griffith were all attributed with having magnetic personalities that drew people in. I have never been accused of having any magnetism, in fact the closest I have gotten is people saying that I am polarizing. Regardless of my lack of personal experience when it comes to having a magnetic personality, I have experienced ranch magnetism that is absolutely undeniable.

Probably the strongest ranch magnetism is the draw that stock trailers have on nails and screws. I try to imagine how difficult it would be to stand up a three-inch nail in the perfect position on purpose so it would puncture a trailer tire rolling by, but somehow the magnetism of the ranch trailer can summon that nail from the nearest junk pile and command it to stand at a forty-five-degree angle as the tires approach. I could have the most experienced beach comber scanning an area with the most sophisticated metal detector, find nothing, and I could drag my trailer through the same spot minutes later ending up with two nails, a screw, and a fence staple in my tires. The magnetism of the tire is not confined to metals. On this ranch, we have had anything from coyote teeth to salt brush be drawn by the magnetic pull of the self-destructive trailer tires. All this time we have been checking tire pressure—maybe we needed to be checking polarity as well.

Horses and abrasions have an astounding and disturbing magnetism to each other. They have the most amazing way of finding something to cut themselves on. You could drive a herd of

five hundred cows through an active junkyard, including one with an operating car crusher, and not one would receive a scratch. But you turn ten horses into a wide-open field of 500 acres and at least two will find a way to lacerate themselves. These amazing athletes can jump ditches and run at top speed safely and effortlessly, then find the only piece of wire in a square mile to cut themselves on while grazing. It can only be explained by raw magnetism. The more valuable the horse, the stronger the magnetism is to abrasion. The horse that tries to buck you off every time and steers like a truck without power steering is almost entirely immune to the abrasion magnetism. In fact, that one can run through the junk yard with the cows completely unscathed.

The magnetic pull of the side view mirror on a pickup has a draw that no bull can resist. The only thing a bull enjoys more than denting a door panel is rubbing off a side view mirror. I am convinced that the magnetism of the side view mirror would exist regardless of its placement, but to further enhance it, the engineers that design pickups put the mirrors on the side of a four-wheel drive pickup at a perfect scratching height for a bull's back. A longtime friend that helps on the ranch, Bob, is known for his dry wit. Bob and I were at the corral, and we look over and see a bull attempting to fold the mirror of my truck forward towards the hood. We were not in a spot where we could go run the bull off quickly, so as the bull was pushing the mirror forward, I asked Bob, "Can truck mirrors fold in that way?" Bob responded, "Yes they can, but it means you have to get a new one."

Magnetism is simple. Positively charged items are attracted to negatively charged items. Understanding what makes a magnetic personality is somewhat more difficult, but nothing compares to the lack of understanding ranch magnetism. Trying to understand ranch magnetism is like trying to drive a nail into a ten-ply tire, unless on accident, it is almost impossible.



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Trees Are Chilling Out, Which Is Good News



By Kevin Hecteman
Assistant Editor,
Ag Alert

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Fruit and nut trees up and down the Central Valley are chilling out this winter—which is exactly what their farmers want to see.

Nick Gatzman, who grows and packs almonds in Manteca with his father-in-law, Dave Phippen, said the winter of 2021-2022 looks as though it will be a good one for cold weather.

“I think we’re going to have sufficient chill hours,” Gatzman said. “We’re pretty similar to the last five years, with the exception of last year.” At this point, 2020 had a couple hundred more hours, he added.

Indeed, according to the chilling-hour calculators at the University of California, Davis, Fruit and Nut Research Center, Manteca had seen 497 chill hours and 480 hours between Nov. 1 and Jan. 6. At the same time last year, the city had registered 734 hours. The previous four years registered 523 to 592 hours each.

Chill hours are times when temperatures are between 32 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit. This keeps the tree dormant for the winter. A warm winter with insuffi-

cient chill hours can result in a late or uneven bloom and, eventually, lower crop yields.

There may be no such worries this year, said Katherine Jarvis-Shean, a University of California Cooperative Extension orchard advisor in Yolo and Sacramento counties.

“We’re in a really great position with winter chill accumulation this winter,” Jarvis-Shean said. “We’re having the highest chill that we’ve had in the last seven years—even cooler than the 2016-2017 winter, which was our last pretty cold winter.”

Jarvis-Shean noted that almonds have largely surpassed their needed chill requirement, “but for cherries, pistachios, walnuts—we’re still in the middle of winter as far as their counting is concerned. So, everything looks good, but I would stay tuned.”

Phippen noted with optimism that his neighborhood has been foggy this winter, which is an added chilling benefit.

“The fog keeps the sunshine out of the orchard for a period in the morning, and so you get extra chill hours besides the evening,” Phippen said, explaining that the late-October atmospheric river storm was a turning point.

“We had a lot of fog following that, and I believe that’s right in the realm of the chill hours,” Phippen said.

In the Sutter County town of Meridian, walnut farmer



Dave Phippen looks over developing bud spurs in an almond orchard near Manteca. Phippen and his son-in-law, Nick Gatzman, said their trees have seen good chill hours so far this winter, which should set the trees up for a good bloom about a month down the road. (Photo by Kevin Hecteman)

Brian Fedora is happy with what he’s seen so far.

“I can definitely tell you that this is the coldest winter we’ve had in some time,” Fedora said. “Our walnut trees in the Sacramento Valley are very much asleep, logging those hours, and that’s a great thing.” Chandler and Howard walnut trees need about 1,015 hours of chill time, he added.

“I’m excited because we haven’t had good chill hours and good submoisture for a couple years,” Fedora said. “We also haven’t had great Chandler production. With these temperatures and this moisture, to me, if you’re going to predict, it should be a very, very good year for Chandlers.”

Cling-peach growers also are watching the weather.

“We’ve closed a lot of our deficit from where we were a year ago, but we still have a few more to go,” said Rich Hudgins, chief executive of the California Canning Peach Association. “Our goal is to hit 800 hours between Nov. 1 and the end of February.”

Hudgins tracks chill hours in Verona, Davis, Modesto and Parlier. As of Jan. 3, he said, all except Davis were running behind their 2020-2021 levels.

“You want the tree to be in a period of dormancy before bloom so that it’s able to generate a crop at its full potential for the coming year,” Hudgins said. Insufficient chill time leads to an uneven bloom, “and then your crop is less than it could have been as a result,” Hudgins said.

Cold weather is also a citrus grower’s friend, up to a point.

“I know we’ve had some colder temperatures, and a lot of people are concerned about subfreezing temperatures,” said Casey Creamer, president of California Citrus Mutual in Exeter. “We actually really like that. We’re always concerned about a hard freeze, but colder weather—between 28 and 32-33 (degrees)—is actually really good for the trees.”

Creamer said winter dormancy helps to “color up the crop and preserve the quality that’s there and allows us to have a really good product throughout the year.”

Citrus growers, especially in the Central Valley, are moving into peak-production season. Citrus is picked according to market demand, Creamer said, likening the presence of cold weather to the difference between storing fruit in the refrigerator and keeping it on the kitchen counter. When the quality is there, “we can pick to the market,” Creamer said. “Having that good, cold weather allows us to hold

the quality a little bit longer.”

The point of concern for citrus is when temperatures drop below 28 degrees for multiple hours, Creamer said. Wind machines are one means of fighting such cold.

“If there’s a good inversion—several degrees warmer weather above the trees—those wind machines do a real good job of grabbing that warmer air and pushing it through the grove,” Creamer said. Irrigating the trees helps as well, as the water can help keep the groves out of the danger zone, he added.

Creamer said Citrus Mutual maintains weather stations and a staff meteorologist to help growers make decisions.

For cling peach and nut growers, a point of concern is cold weather at bloom time, which is mid-February for almonds and mid-March for peaches.

“At bloom time, anything below freezing is a problem, but if we’re in the 40-degree range, that’s fine,” Hudgins said. “Before the blossoms begin to emerge from the jacket, it’s a nonissue.”

Fedora said the same for his walnut trees.

“Once the trees are dormant, we don’t worry too much,” Fedora said. “They can take the frost. In the springtime, once the tree begins to move sap into the limbs, that’s when we can’t take it. That sap will freeze, and that’s where you’ll get the frost damage.”

Then there’s warmer winter weather, which can cancel out chill hours. A UC Davis chill-portion calculator subtracts chill units for temperatures above 60 degrees, and neither adds nor subtracts chill units for each hour the temperature is between 54 and 60 degrees.

Jarvis-Shean said research points to chill portions as being a more accurate measurement.

“There have been some years recently when we’ve had warm spells in the middle of winter, which can subtract from chill accumulation within the tree,” Jarvis-Shean said. “We’ve had some surprises in the spring, if you’re only counting by chill hours, because the trees have behaved like they didn’t get enough chill even though the chill-hours way of counting said that they did.”

Phippen said he doesn’t want to see any “warm January afternoons” on the way to bloom season.

“If, today, it gets to 55 or 60 degrees, it’s exciting that tree again,” Phippen said. “That’s when you get bud swell and all that. Ideally, we’d like just to stay chilled all the way till bloom.”

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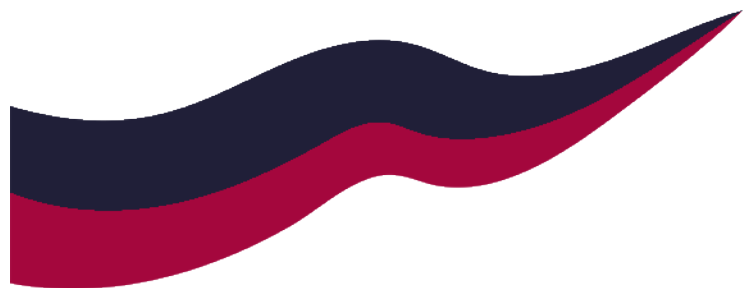


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2021-22 CA Navel and Mandarin Forecast Down from Initial Estimates

Press Release Provided by California Citrus Mutual

The California Citrus Mutual Marketing Committee (Committee) estimates that the total Navel



Navel orange crop will be down 20% from previous season. (Photo: Dwight Smith / Shutterstock.com)

orange crop for the 2021-22 season will be down 20% from the previous season's final utilized, or sold, production. The Committee also estimates that the Mandarin crop will be down as much as 45% from the 2020-2021 season.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's 2021-22 California Navel Orange Objective Measurement Report (<http://tmgurl.com/hm>), released on September 10, 2021, the initial forecast for the navel orange crop was 70.0 million cartons, down 14% from the previous year's total utilized production. Additionally, an estimated 4% of last season's crop was not utilized, meaning it was not picked or sold.

Now several weeks into 2021-22 season, the Committee anticipates, based on current picking estimates, will be 20% below the prior season's total utilized production and approximately 24% below the total crop size.

The drop in production is attributed to the previous season's heavy crop and extended season. Due to the larger sized crop and other market conditions, fruit remained on the tree far longer than is typical, which negatively affected the current year's crop size.

The Committee also estimates that the 2021-22 mandarin crop will be down 45% from the previous season's exceptionally large crop.

The current navel and mandarin crops are forecast to go through May and June, respectively. Consumers can expect favorable size structure and excellent eating quality due to the fruit's high sugar content.

"The 2021-22 season is shaping up to be far different than the previous season. Last season, we had a very heavy crop and there were a lot of growers whose fruit was never harvested. Shippers extended the season well into August in an effort to market and sell as much of the crop as possible, but ultimately about 4% was dropped to the ground," says CCM President/CEO Casey Creamer. "We expect this year's lighter crop to move more quickly through the market with its high sugar content and excellent eating quality."

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Holloway Commemorates 90th Anniversary by Discing a Giant 90 at its Lost Hills Mine

**By Brian Milne,
Holloway, Vice President of Marketing**

LOST HILLS, Calif. – Since 1932, Holloway has been a household name in Central California agriculture.

And over the years, Holloway has advertised Holloway gypsum and its soils-first services just about everywhere: on its semis, billboards, magazines, even employee belt buckles.

But for its 90th anniversary in 2022, Holloway wanted to do something bigger. Like really big:

Holloway wanted to put this Central California-based, family company on the global map, and put together a “huge” campaign that captures what the 90-year company is all about:

- improving soils
- here in its own backyard
- with a campaign that was so big it could be seen from, well, space?

So, Holloway’s team of soil experts – consisting of

members from its farm services, environmental and ag teams – decided to disc a giant 90 in the gypsum-laden soil behind the Holloway mine and landfill facility in Lost Hills, Calif.

A 90 that’s big enough to be seen from planes at 30,000 feet, and even space if you know anyone that’s orbiting the planet (you can technically spot it from an altitude of 100 km, the official start of space at the Kármán line).

The giant 90 – which spans more than 5.6 acres and four football fields — not only pays homage to Holloway’s 90 years but showcases some of

the many ag services (precision discing, redevelopment, soil sampling, etc.) today’s Holloway offers. And it also reminds us where it all started ... at Holloway’s Lost Hills mine, where Holloway’s Golden Gypsum was first discovered back in 1932.

The Holloway 90, measures more than 400’ x 600’, and was disced by Holloway Ag Operations Manager Alex Parsons, and marked and filmed via drone by Holloway Director of Engineering Jeremy Bowman and filmed on the ground by Vice President of Marketing Brian Milne.

“It’s like we always say, go big or go home,” Parsons said, looking back at the project. “We went big, and you can say the mine is our home. It was just a super fun deal to be a part of.”

Fun indeed. A great way to kick off Holloway’s

90th anniversary celebration for 2022, the first of many surprises the company has in store for the coming year.

Other surprises include Holloway 90th anniversary giveaways, classic photo galleries from Holloway and Central California agriculture over the decades, a customer appreciation event, 90 for 90 videos from long-time growers, and much more.

To follow Holloway’s year-long anniversary celebration, follow its social media channels or visit hollowayag.com/90years for more details.

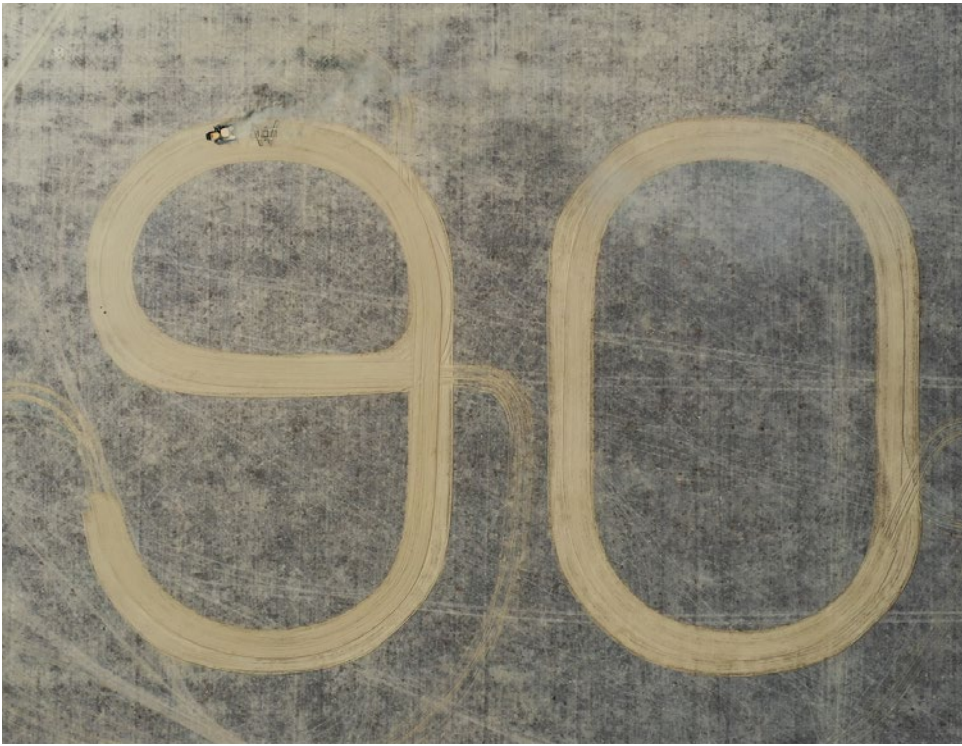


Photo by Jeremy Bowman



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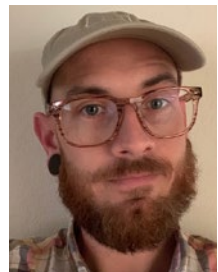
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Cannabinoids Proving To Benefit Health, Economy In 2022



**By Geoffrey Taylor, MA
Hemp Contributor,
Valley Ag Voice**

With unprecedented scientific research on both cannabis and hemp-derived cannabinoid occurring at universities across the United States and globally, the cannabis plant is showing itself to be highly impactful in both medical and economic ways. As continued political pressure in legislatures nationwide continues to spur change in the way cannabis is grown, sold, taxed, regulated and ultimately, researched at an academic level, new and exciting developments abound with each passing month.

The most commonly seen cannabinoids derived from either the hemp or cannabis plants are THC, or Tetrahydrocannabinol Delta-9 and CBD, or Cannabidiol, and each are subject to diverse regulations from a variety of agencies in California. Many cannabinoids have shown potential health benefits. However, each cannabinoid provides insight into the impact they have on not only health outcomes but on continued economic growth.

A recent study published by Oregon State University identified the potential use of two specific hemp-derived cannabinoids, CBDA, or Cannabidiolic Acid, and CBGA, or Cannabigerolic Acid, to be potentially useful in preventing the binding of Covid-19 spike proteins to cell walls. The study, conducted by Richard van Breemen, a researcher with Oregon State's Global Hemp Innovation Center, College of Pharmacy and Linus Pauling Institute, shows promise in cannabinoid research for medical applications.

"They are not controlled substances like THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, and have a good safety profile in humans," said van Breemen, "And our

research showed the hemp compounds were equally effective against variants of SARS-CoV-2, including variant B.1.1.7, which was first detected in the United Kingdom, and variant B.1.351, first detected in South Africa."

While this research shows immense promise for the use of cannabinoids in future medical treatments for common ailments, this very same line of research may explain the proverbial "runner's high" may be the result of the body's own internally produced endocannabinoids, compounds that resemble cannabis and hemp-derived cannabinoid compounds, resulting in the feeling of euphoria often experienced by athletes following high intensity exercises such as running.

According to Hilary Munsak, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at Wayne State University School of Medicine, "Many people do not realize that humans also create their own versions of these chemicals, called endocannabinoids." Munsak continues in noting that "these are tiny molecules made of lipids – or fats – that circulate in the brain and body; "endo" refers to those produced in the body rather than from a plant or in a lab."

As cannabinoids continue to take center stage in the medical and pharmaceutical contexts and are experiencing an unexpected surge of research, the economic impact of both hemp and cannabis-derived cannabinoids has been immense moving forward into 2022. The hemp marketplace in the United States is expected to grow some 16 percent from 2021 to 2027 to a potential market value of \$10.1 billion while the cannabis industry across the United States is currently estimated at over \$61 billion. With hemp being regulated under the USDA 2018 Farm Bill and approved state regulatory programs nationwide and cannabis being regulated by a hodgepodge of regulatory approaches by state with no timeline on Federal legalization or even decriminalization, we



Photo: Shutterstock.com

can look to continued growth trends in both industries not only stateside but globally.

"The cannabinoid marketplace has seen its challenges since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic with the overall hemp and cannabis marketplaces growing exponentially, and with the prospect of reform in California's cannabis regulations from Gov. Gavin Newsom, it does give us hope that the state will make much-needed changes to advance the growth and expansion of the industry," said Kylie Morgan, a licensed California cannabis cultivator, operating in California's Central Valley. "With the state providing over \$20 million in grants to struggling farmers and the idea that the regulations could change drastically, this shows there's some level of response from the state government to the disarray in the industry and drastic dip in prices for farmers recently."

As both hemp and cannabis continue to gain influence amongst Americans, some 12 percent of Americans regularly use cannabis and 14 percent of Americans currently using CBD or other hemp-derived cannabi-

noids, continued research is needed to provide additional pharmacological discoveries that may benefit, impact, or treat diverse conditions and health ailments. With many universities conducting research including schools like University of Colorado, Boulder; University of California, Davis; Oregon State University; and University of California, San Diego, amongst other academic institutions across the nation conducting their own research, one can see the sky is the limit for academic research on both hemp and cannabis.

While several nations such as Canada, Israel, Mexico, and Germany have legalized cannabis, the United States has yet to forge a strategic approach toward legalization of this plant, while providing robust regulatory standards surrounding hemp that limit production of hemp that exceeds 0.3 percent THC content across the nation. It's time to fast track legalization and regulation at the federal level to encourage researchers nationwide to make the next big cannabinoid discovery that can impact not only the economic bottom line of our nation, but the potential health and well-being of millions of Americans.

California Beef Council Announces New Producer Relations Manager



Press Release provided by the California Beef Council

The California Beef Council (CBC), the marketing order representing California's cattle ranchers and beef producers, has hired Makenzie Neves as Manager of Producer Education and Engagement. This position coordinates producer education, engagement, and communication efforts for the CBC.

A California native, Neves grew up on a dairy in the Central Valley. She is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, where she earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies, public relations and minored in global engagement and leadership. Neves recently graduated from Texas Tech University with her master's degree in agricultural communications.

"As a third-generation agriculturalist, I'm thrilled to join the California Beef Council," Neves said. "I grew up admiring these producers, and I'm looking

forward to working with them and continuing strong relationships between the CBC and California's beef producers." Neves also plans to find new, innovative ways to reach more producers.

"We are excited to add Makenzie to our staff as our point-person for producer education and engagement. Her background in the dairy industry will add a new dimension to the position as we move forward into 2022," said Bill Dale, Executive Director of the CBC.

For more information, contact Makenzie Neves (Makenzie@calbeef.org) or visit CalBeef.org.

About the California Beef Council

The California Beef Council (CBC) was established in 1954 to serve as the promotion, research, and education arm of the California beef industry, and is mandated by the California Food and Agricultural Code. The CBC's mission is to position the California beef industry for sustained beef demand growth through promotion, research, and education.

About the Beef Checkoff

The Beef Checkoff Program was established as part of the 1985 Farm Bill. The checkoff assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. States may retain up to 50 cents on the dollar and forward the other 50 cents per head to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the national checkoff program, subject to USDA approval.

Changes to Clean Water Rule Will Hurt Family Farms

Press Release Provided by the American Farm Bureau Federation

Member farmers from the American Farm Bureau Federation will participate in a roundtable on Thursday, Jan. 6, about the impact of the proposal to repeal and replace the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). The event is hosted by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy. Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse and Colorado Farm Bureau Vice President James Henderson will join several other farmers attending the roundtable to explain why this rule is so consequential for agriculture.

The Biden administration recently proposed a "step 1" Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule. Despite claims to the opposite from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers, a new WOTUS rule will have a large impact on small businesses and family farms. The significant nexus test, particularly, will greatly expand federal jurisdiction onto private lands and make it difficult for farmers and ranchers to decipher where their property is impacted.

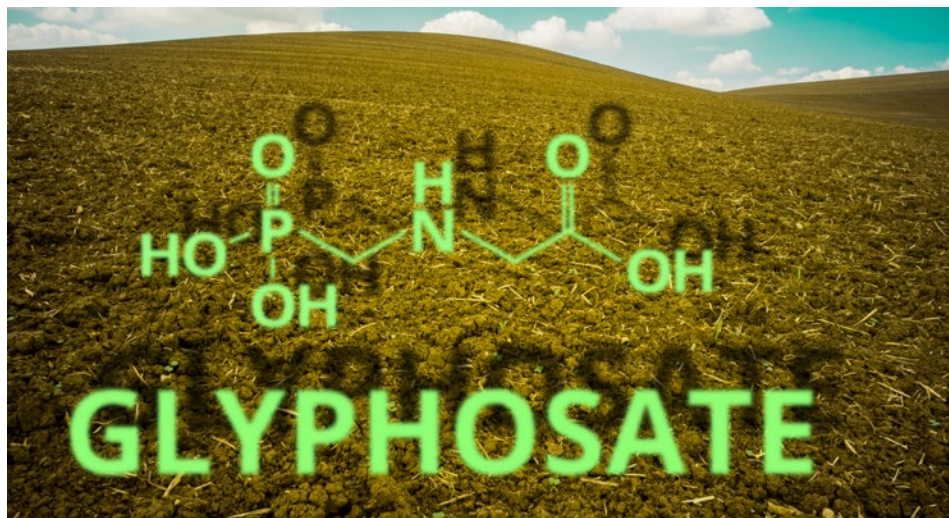
"Farmers are dedicated to protecting the resources they're entrusted with while raising the food our country relies on," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We support responsible rules that protect

the environment, but we shouldn't need a team of lawyers to interpret those rules just to farm our land. The NWPR brought clarity to water regulations, yet farmers and ranchers are again caught in the middle of changing regulations. We urge EPA to return to commonsense protections for the nation's waterways. Our goal is simple – clean water and clear rules."

Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse said, "There are three basic elements everyone in agriculture needs to feed and clothe our nation: healthy soils, ample sunshine and clean water. We take the stewardship of our land and water very seriously. The rules that enforce the Clean Water Act must be clear, concise and honor the law's intent. Congress charged the federal government with protecting interstate navigable waters and the states to protect all others. The resources and landscapes across this country are incredibly diverse and it's imperative that the states maintain their role in working at the ground level with farmers and ranchers to ensure clean water."

Colorado Farm Bureau Vice President James Henderson said, "EPA's proposal would again extend federal rules to the driest parts of the West. The rules would force ranchers like me to hire lawyers to seek approval for everyday tasks in areas where water runs only a handful of times every decade."

AFBF applauds SBA for scheduling roundtables to hear from families who will be directly affected by a change in water regulations. The SBA virtual roundtable examining impacts on agriculture takes place on Jan. 6 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Eastern. RSVP for the roundtable at: <http://tmgurl.com/Z0>.



Glyphosate molecule. (Photo: Photomann7 / Shutterstock.com)

Agriculture and Green Industry Groups Reaffirm Glyphosate Safety & Public Benefits Following Court Oral Arguments

Press Release Provided By the American Farm Bureau

Groups representing agricultural growers, retailers, landscaping, and golf course professionals responded with strong support for continued access to glyphosate following Monday's oral arguments in litigation regarding the registration of glyphosate. The 10 groups, cited below, are all parties in the case supporting glyphosate's continued registration. Glyphosate remains one of the safest, most effective tools growers, landscapers, golf course professionals and other users have to manage economically-damaging weeds and maintain important conservation practices.

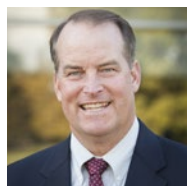
The groups remind the Court that nearly every pesticide regulatory body in the world that has studied glyphosate—including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency itself—has found that the herbicide is non-carcinogenic and can be used safely. As one of the most widely-studied chemistries in the world, the body of scientific literature on glyphosate is robust and in strong consensus regarding its safety. The groups strongly agree with EPA's finding that, when used according to the label, glyphosate does not pose a risk of concern to human health.

Glyphosate is an essential tool for agricultural, landscaping, recreational, and other professionals around

the world that must contend with weeds. In agriculture, weeds left unchecked can rob up to half of a farmer's crop yield. In landscaping and recreational purposes, weeds can destroy important infrastructure and ruin greenspaces. Further, many important conservation practices are supported by glyphosate, such as reductions in field tillage, which cuts greenhouse gas emissions, conserves water, and improves soil health. In addition, creating wildlife habitat and watershed buffers can be enhanced by having access to safe and effective herbicides like glyphosate. The groups look forward to continuing their support for continued access to glyphosate as the case progresses.

Signing onto this statement in support of continued, safe use of glyphosate as a land management tool are:

- American Soybean Association
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Sugarbeet Growers Association
- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
- National Association of Landscape Professionals
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Cotton Council
- National Sorghum Producers



California Farm Bureau President Comments on Gov. Newsom's Budget Plan

Reprinted with Permission from California Farm Bureau Federation

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson offered the following comments on January 10th, on the \$286.4 billion budget plan announced by Gov. Gavin Newsom:

"California's farmers are facing unprecedented challenges beyond their control. The Farm Bureau represents over 30,000 of these farmers in every corner of the state – including over 20,000 small farms. We need water, inputs, and markets to feed people and provide the jobs that are the backbone of the California economy.

"Gov. Newsom's budget is a good framework for this year's budget discussions in that it proposes to fund more water storage and conveyance, opportunity for California-grown products in schools, funds for both

implementation of and research on climate smart ag practices and begins to relieve the massive burden on employers on costs associated with COVID-19.

"At a time when food prices are soaring and inflation and shortages are no longer speculative, it is critical that we shore up the farm economy. As they say, though, the devil is the details, and we need to ensure that the farmers who are supposed to benefit from these programs have a voice in the enactment of them.

"Despite many years of programs and slogans to 'save the farm,' we continue to see less and less every year – and almost all those lost are small farms. As the one California group that has more small, diverse, family-owned farms than anybody else, we look forward to partnering on solutions that can help reverse these trends."

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Kern County Water Agency Declares Water Supply Emergency

Press Release Provided by the Kern County Water Agency

On December 15th, the Kern County Water Agency (Agency) declared a Water Supply Emergency in response to the severe shortage of water supplies for Kern County. This follows the December 1, 2021 announcement by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the initial 2022 State Water Project (SWP) water supply allocation is 0 percent. This announcement by DWR is unprecedented, with the previous lowest initial allocation being 5 percent in 2010 and 2014.

With this allocation, the Agency will receive no SWP water in 2022, entering what could be the third consecutive year of critically dry weather, leaving the County's water supplies at all-time lows. In addition to dry conditions in northern California, locally the 2021 Kern River water supplies were the second driest on record, leaving one of the smallest carryover balances in Isabella Reservoir since its existence.

"This declaration should make all aware that these are extraordinary times for Kern County. Given these dry conditions, coordination and cooperation among local, State, and federal agencies will be required to maximize and optimize California's very limited water resources." Said Royce Fast, Agency Board of Directors (Board) President.

Agricultural water users throughout the region were already on high alert following the past two dry years. During this severe shortage in surface water supply, Kern County farmers and others will continue to rely on the groundwater basin to make up the shortage. The Agency Member Units will be forced to continue recovering water from the approximately 1.6 million acre-feet currently stored in the Kern Fan banking projects and to pay the costs to recover these groundwater supplies in addition to the \$155 million paid for SWP water not received in 2022.

"To get through these extreme dry conditions, local farmers and others will look to water stored in groundwater banks in previous wet years. Unfortunately, groundwater reserves have been depleted in recent years with dry hydrology and the effects of regulatory restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Groundwater banks must be replenished consistently to be a viable resource. Ultimately, water shortages have a direct impact on Kern County's economic health," added Fast.

Agency staff is working with local water districts to find ways to minimize the impacts of a third dry year, but those possibilities are stretched thin. Dramatically improved hydrologic conditions in the coming months could improve water supply conditions.

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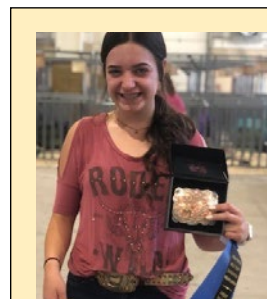
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Sophia Camou

Sophia, age 14, has been showing for 5 years. Sophia has shown market goats, sheep, and Pygmy goats.

Daily chores... feeding, cleaning pens, grooming, organizing tack.

Sophia won Champion Intermediate Showman at the highly competitive National Pygmy Goat Association Convention in Colorado 2021. "Showing has taught me the importance of hard work and self-discipline."



Gabriella Camou

Gabriella, age 16, showing for 7 years with Four Aces 4-H and Garces FFA. Gabby has shown beef, sheep, horses, poultry, market goats and Pygmy goats.

Gabriella wins FFA Chapter Farmer Award in May 2021

Daily chores include feeding, cleaning, record keeping, administering medications/vaccines, grooming, clipping.

"I've learned patience and a strong work ethic are important when raising livestock. As well as a determination to succeed, and a greater appreciation for the ag industry."

"I've learned how to help other showman who have less experience than me. I appreciate those who taught me everything that I know. It's hard when you are new to a project. I have learned a lot along the way, and I love to pass my knowledge to others who are just starting out."

Press Release Provided By the World Ag Expo



Spaces are marked, pavilions are built, and World Ag Expo® is ready to be "Back in AgTion" February 8-10 in Tulare, CA. Tickets are on sale now at <https://bit.ly/WAE22Tickets>.

Show officials note confidence in the event with 94% of spaces sold as of January 3 and domestic and international ticket sales trending at 2020 levels.

"We're ready to host a live event for an essential industry," said Jerry Sinift, International Agri-Center® CEO. "We made the right call in 2021 to move to a digital show, but ag never stopped and it's important to get back to safe gatherings for ag professionals. Driving innovations and solutions happen when we meet and learn from each other."

More than 95 special events, seminars, and demonstrations are scheduled for the three-day show. The schedule of events is available at <https://bit.ly/WAE22SOE> with highlights including livestock demonstrations in the new WW Livestock Systems Demonstration Pavilion, Prayer Breakfast, Ag Leadership breakfast, Toyota Tundra Giveaway drawing, and more.

The Toyota Tundra Giveaway is back in 2022 and the drawing will be held live in the Toyota Ride & Drive space next to Gate 2. Tickets are available now and all proceeds benefit Valley Children's Healthcare and the Guilds Center for Community Health. See more information at <https://www.worldagexpo.com/attendees/toyota-giveaway/>.

Outdoor experiences have been in high demand with exhibitors to demonstrate new products and provide upgraded interactions with attendees. Ride & Drives will continue to be located at the East

and West ends of the grounds with Fendt making its debut on the northeast side. Demo spaces have been added on the South side of the grounds for two electric tractor companies to show off their innovative vehicles.

Seminars will be hosted by Fresno State, Women in Ag for Mentoring and Empowerment, the FBI, and a variety of exhibitors. Tracks cover Dairy & Livestock, Demonstrations, Orchard & Vineyard Management, Professional Development, and more.

World Ag Expo® is focused on keeping all guests safe and will be following state COVID requirements. The International Agri-Center® has established the following standards:

- Attendees, exhibitors, vendors, concessionaires, staff, volunteers, media, and any other persons attending the event must be in good health while on the grounds. If you are exhibiting symptoms including but not limited to fever, chills, or shortness of breath, please do not attend the show.
- Masks will not be required outdoors but will be available at all gates and entries to buildings and pavilions. [California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines through January 15, 2022]
- Masks will be required in vehicles for Park & Ride and Ag Tours.
- Hand sanitizing and hand washing stations will be available throughout the grounds.
- Vaccination status and test results will not be checked.

These standards are subject to change. Questions can be directed to info@farmshow.org. To sign up for email updates, go to <https://bit.ly/WAEEmailList>.

White House Launches Action Plan To Restore Competition In The U.S. Cattle Industry

Press Release Provided by the US Cattlemen's Association

On Monday January 3rd, the Biden-Harris Administration published its Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain. The four core strategies that make up the Action Plan seek to strengthen the bottom line of independent producers and processors, while also providing more choices and affordable prices for U.S. consumers.

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) participated in several stakeholder meetings and public comment opportunities last year, which helped White House officials formulate this Action Plan. USCA also assisted Congressional leaders like Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Deb Fischer (R-NE), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), John Thune (R-SD), Mike Rounds (R-SD) and others, in drafting provisions that are included within

this Action Plan.

USCA President Brooke Miller issued the following statement:

"Today's announcement puts into motion what our members have, for years, urged action on – empowering the independent producer and processor to create a more robust and resilient food system.

"USCA commends the Biden-Harris Administration for its persistence in working to restore competition throughout the U.S. economy. We are hopeful that the Action Plan unveiled today will help bring transparency and true price discovery to the cattle marketplace, bring back truth in labeling through the closure of the Product of the U.S.A. loophole, and invest in a stronger – and more American – meat industry. We look forward to working with the Administration to implement the provisions outlined in this Action Plan."

Western Growers Awarded \$750,000 CDFA Grant to Develop Next-Gen Ag Workers Curriculum

Press Release Provided by Western Growers

Western Growers received a \$750,000 grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's 2021 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (HR 133) to develop and implement a curriculum to provide California college students with best-in-class agtech training.

Besides the 2,750 students that will be assisted by the program, the grant will allow the specialized training of 330 Next Gen Ag Workforce professors within four years of launch. Curriculum development will begin immediately and be fully implemented by June 2025.

"Western Growers is excited to work with CDFA and California's two-year and four-year colleges and universities to build strong cross-disciplinary programs to help the next generation of farmworkers," said Walt Duflock, WG's Vice President of Innovation. "This grant gives us a chance to create new programs statewide to develop the key skills students need to work in agtech innovation – from engineering to agronomy to biology to computer science. This collaboration between WG members, partners and California educators will ensure growers and agtech companies get access to the most highly-skilled graduates in the nation."

A preview of the Next-Gen Ag Workers Curriculum will be given at three upcoming events that are part of Western Growers AgTechX Ed initiative, a statewide

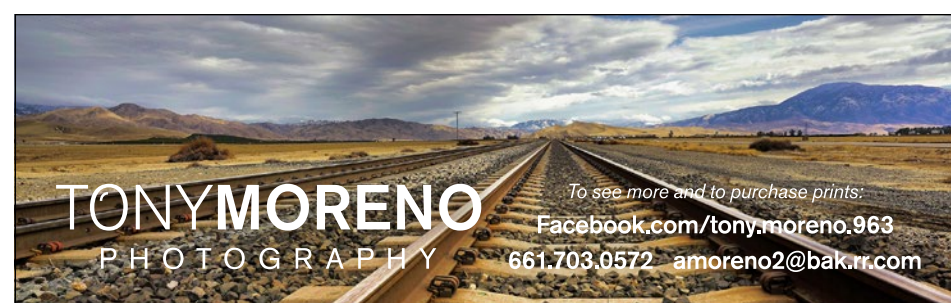
effort developed alongside CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. The next event will be held Jan. 26, 2022, at Imperial Valley College, and will feature panels on Industry Issues and Skill Identification; Education and Workforce Development Strategies; a roundtable with agriculture CEOs and a fireside chat with Ross.

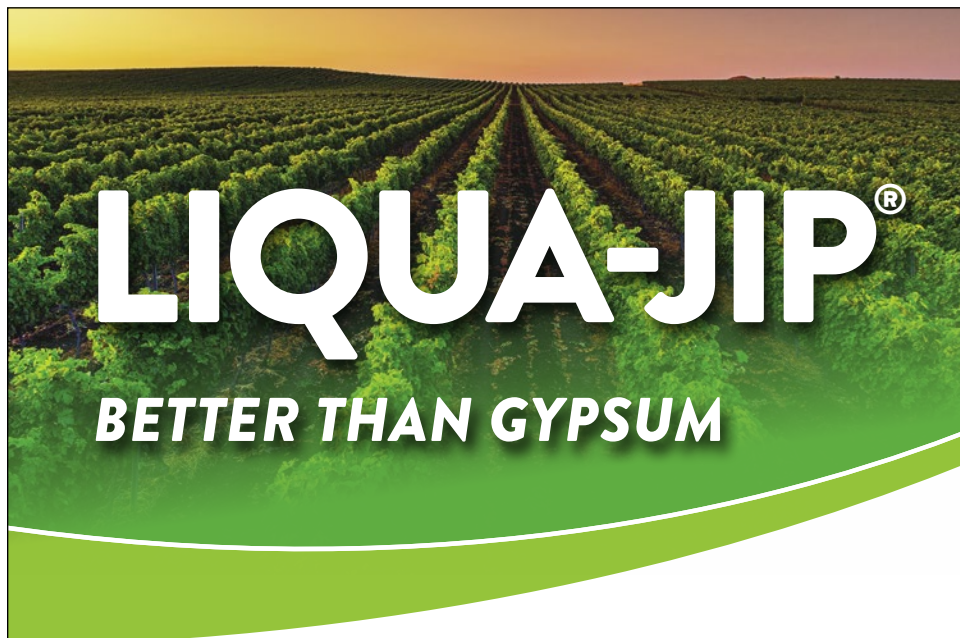
Additional AgTechX Ed summits in 2022 will be held at Hartnell College and Woodlands College. The first week-long Next Gen Ag Worker Summit is being planned for the summer of 2022 at Santa Clara University. For more information, please visit AgtechWorkforce.com.

Funding for the Development of Next-Gen Ag Workers Curriculum and Scale Strategy was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant 21SCBPCA1110. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

About Western Growers:

Founded in 1926, Western Growers represents local and regional family farmers growing fresh produce in California, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Western Growers' members and their workers provide over half the nation's fresh fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts, including half of America's fresh organic produce. Connect and learn more about Western Growers on Twitter and Facebook.





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Agriculture Faces Host of New State Laws in California

By Kevin Hecteman Assistant Editor Ag Alert

Reprinted with Permission from the California Farm Bureau Federation

Farmers and ranchers will find themselves subject to new laws in 2022 that will raise wages, redefine animals' living arrangements and allow ranchers better access to livestock in evacuation zones.

Effective Jan. 1, California's minimum wage rises to \$15 per hour for employers with 26 or more employees at any time in a pay period. Those employing 25 or fewer people at all times in a pay period will see the minimum wage rise to \$14 per hour in 2022 and to \$15 in 2023.

Employers of 26 or more people will also owe overtime pay to agricultural employees after working eight hours in a workday or 40 hours in a workweek. Those employees will be owed time and a half for work after eight and up to 12 hours in a day, and double time after 12 hours.

For the first time, employers of 25 or fewer people will be subject to the law phasing in lower overtime thresholds for agricultural employees. Those smaller employers will owe them overtime pay after 9½ hours worked in a workday or 55 hours in a workweek. The overtime limits will ratchet down over the next few years for smaller employers until they reach eight hours in a workday or 40 in a workweek, plus double time after 12 hours in a workday, on Jan. 1, 2025.

The overtime changes are the result of Assembly Bill 1066, authored by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, and enacted in 2016.

The state also is making changes to cannabis regulation. The California Department of Food and Agriculture had been sharing responsibility for regulating cannabis with the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Department of Public Health. A new Department of Cannabis Control will now be in charge.

This change will affect agriculture's relationship with marijuana growers, said Taylor Roschen, a California Farm Bureau policy advocate. When CDFA had a role, she said, "we were able to share the challenges of the ag sector and its relationship with cannabis with an audience that understood the ag components of it," such as "pesticide use, or right to farm, or water availability and weed control."

"It's going to be interesting to see as things transition over to a new agency that doesn't really have agriculture as part of its charge, whether or not they'll be welcoming the questions about how conventional agriculture and cannabis work together and conflict," Roschen said.

Livestock producers in California will see more limits on animal housing as a result of Proposition 12, which passed with nearly 63% of the vote in 2018.

As of Jan. 1, Proposition 12 will require breeding pigs and their offspring to have at least 24 square feet of

space per pig. Egg-laying hens must be in cage-free housing, whether indoors or out, that meets guidelines set by the United Egg Producers in 2017. The guidelines define cage-free housing as 1 to 1½ square feet of usable floor space per hen and allowing hens to move around.

The proposition also bans the sale of veal from calves, pork from breeding pigs, and eggs from hens whose housing doesn't meet the proposition's minimum standards. A coalition of restaurant groups and chambers of commerce have sued, asking for a delay in enforcement due to a lack of rulemaking by the state.

Farm Bureau policy advocate Katie Little submitted comments to CDFA concerning the proposition's effects on students in 4-H, FFA and similar educational programs. Little noted the proposition states it "shall not apply ... during rodeo exhibitions, state or county fair exhibitions, 4-H programs and similar exhibitions."

Little said agricultural groups had reached out with concerns about buyers of such animals having to abide by Proposition 12.

"We have provided comments to urge the clarification, and ultimate exemption, of Prop. 12 for 4-H and similar agricultural education programs," Little said. "These programs are a gateway for many into the agricultural industry. But, if processors are unable to process these custom animals, this niche market could ultimately fade away."

Under a Farm Bureau-sponsored bill, livestock producers will have expanded access to mobile slaughter operations. AB 888 by Assemblyman Marc Levine, D-Marin, allows mobile slaughter operators to handle sheep, goats, pigs and cattle on private ranches. Meat processed in such fashion cannot be sold commercially under the law.

Little said she's interested in hearing from ranchers on how the law is working and whether changes are needed.

"We want to make sure that we keep those costs down, and so we'll work through the regulatory process to make sure that that stays accessible," Little said.

Farmers and ranchers who need to check on livestock during evacuations prompted by wildfires and other disasters will have an easier time doing so thanks to AB 1103 by Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, R-Bieber. The law sets up an Ag Pass program allowing ranchers to get through road closures to look after their animals and evacuate them if necessary.

Those engaged in prescribed burns intended to reduce fuel loads will have some liability protection with the enactment of Senate Bill 332 by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa. The law provides that "burn bosses" will not be liable for fire-suppression costs arising from prescribed burns that get away, provided that the burn's objective is wildland fuel reduction or ecological maintenance and restoration, and gross negligence is not involved.

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Image of DWR staff conducting the first media snow survey of the 2022 season in Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevada on December 30, 2021.

Early Winter Storms Provide Much-Needed Sierra Snowpack

Press Release provided by the Department of Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today conducted the first snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. Early winter storms this month provided a strong start to the season and some drought relief, but California remains in a drought.

Today's manual survey recorded 78.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 20 inches, which is 202 percent of average for this location on this date. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. Statewide the snowpack is 160 percent of average for this date.

"We could not have asked for a better December in terms of Sierra snow and rain," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "But Californians need to be aware that even these big storms may not refill our major reservoirs during the next few months. We need more storms and average temperatures this winter and spring, and we can't be sure it's coming. So, it's important that we continue to do our part to keep conserving – we will need that water this summer."

Californians only need to look to last winter and the state's disappointing snowpack runoff due to high temperatures, dry soil and evaporation as a reminder that changes to our climate mean it will take more than an average year to recover from drought.

"California continues to experience evidence of climate change with bigger swings between wet and dry years and even extreme variability within a season. A wet start to the year doesn't mean this year will end up above average once it's all said and done," said Sean de Guzman, Manager of DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit.

December is the first of the three typically wettest months of California's water year. Significant January and February precipitation would be required to generate enough runoff to make up for the previ-

ous two winters that were California's fifth- and second-driest water years on record.

California has experienced wet Decembers before only to have storms disappear for the remainder of the season. In 2013, the first snow survey provided promising results after a wet December, similar to this year. However, the following January and February were exceptionally dry, and the year ended as the driest on record, contributing to a record-breaking drought.

On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs and the snowpack is an important factor in determining how DWR manages the state's water resources. Its natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir."

As spring sets in, the snowpack begins to melt. Water that is not absorbed into the ground, called "runoff," trickles into mountain streams, which feed rivers and eventually aqueducts and reservoirs, where it can be stored for use throughout the dry season. Climate change is affecting California's snowpack, as more precipitation falls as rain and less as snow. Excessively dry soils and dry, warm spring temperatures are also reducing yearly runoff.

Due to these climate-induced changes, DWR is investing in partnerships and implementing emerging and proven technologies to improve forecasts of precipitation, seasonal snowpack, and runoff to support more efficient water management now and to help estimate the impacts of climate change on future flood and drought conditions. Forecast improvements and monitoring enhancements increase the reliability of data used to inform water managers about flood risks, allowing opportunities to create more storage in reservoirs ahead of big storms while also ensuring water supply reliability in periods of dry or drought conditions.

DWR conducts five media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month from January through April and, if necessary, May.

Farm, Ranch and Transitional Use Properties



FARMLAND	PRICED REDUCED	\$17,000±/AC	ALMONDS AND OPEN GROUND	\$28,724 ±/AC
20± acres, Kern Delta Water Dist, Kern Island Utility water, south Bakersfield			156.56± acres, 1 well, 3.5AF Semi-Tropic WSD contract water, Young producing orchard, Open ground for new planting.	
ALMONDS	PRICED REDUCED	\$26,000±/AC	FARMLAND	\$13,000±/AC
111.42± acres, 1 well, 1 domestic well and 3.14 AF Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD contract water, Grade 1 Excellent Soils			156.96± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 well, Productive soils, and Perfect for permanent crops.	
FARMLAND		\$21,500±/AC	DRYLAND	PRICED REDUCED
117.82± acres, located in Kings County WD/1 Well grade 1 - Excellent Soils, Hanford			\$2,250±/AC	
TABLE GRAPES		\$36,500±/AC	WINE GRAPES	\$18,378±/AC
119.92± acres, Earlimart area, Delano Earlimart Irrigation District, 1 Well, Quality Varieties, Productive Soils			161.06± acres, Wasco area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 Well, High-Density planting, Quality varieties, Productive Soils	
WALNUTS		\$32,000±/AC	ALMONDS	\$17,500±/AC
149.33±/acres, Lindmore ID and Wells, Productive Soils, Lindsay, CA			320± acres, Wasco Area, Semi Tropic non-contract water, 1 well, Grade 1 Excellent Soils , Almonds in full production.	
TABLE GRAPES		\$36,500±/AC	ALMONDS AND FARMLAND	\$21,790±/AC
150.27± acres, Porterville area, Lower Tule River Irrigation District, 1 Well, Quality Varieties, Excellent Soils			995.11± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD Contract and non-contract water, 5 wells, Productive Soils, and Almonds in full production.	

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Water Benefits

Continued from PAGE 1 rivers. Those activities might reduce water shortages by 250,000-acre-feet per year or so, but that is only about one tenth of what is needed to achieve sustainability without fallowing land. It is appearing that sizable investments in new

water storage are not necessary until the water is available to fill them. Either the supply of water from the Delta needs to increase without harming fish or large acreages need to come out of production. These are both difficult options.

The author can be reached at Scott@ResourceEconomics.net

	Sites	Harvest Water	Kern Fan	Chino Basin	Los Vaqueros Expansion	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	Willow Springs	Total
Project Type	Surface Reservoir	Conjunctive Use	Conjunctive Use	Conjunctive Use	Surface Reservoir	Surface Reservoir	Conjunctive Use	
Location (county)	Glenn & Colusa	Sacramento	Kern	San Bernardino	Contra Costa	Santa Clara	Kern & Los Angeles	
Cost (\$ mill)	\$3,930	\$444	\$171	\$385	\$795	\$2,500	\$343	\$8,568
CWC Contribution (\$ mill)	\$836	\$288	\$88	\$212	\$470	\$497	\$126	\$2,517
Water Source	Sacramento River	Recycled Water	SWP, CVP	Recycled Water	Delta	Pacheco Creek	SWP	
Capacity	1.3 to 1.5	n.a.	100,000 af	n.a.	Expansion by 115,000 af	Expansion by 135,000 af	500,000 af	More than 2.4 maf
Yield (af/yr)	240,000	50,000	16,667	15,000	51,300	6,667	34,000	413,633
Capital Cost (\$/af of yield)	\$16,375	\$8,880	\$10,260	\$25,667	\$15,497	\$375,000	\$10,088	\$20,714
Annual Capital Cost (30 yr, 4 %)	\$947	\$514	\$593	\$1,484	\$896	\$21,686	\$583	\$1,198

Table 1. Summary of water storage projects selected by the California Water Commission for funding. Numbers are estimates or projections based on available information from publicly available sources. The cost information only relates to capital costs. That does not include operational and maintenance costs (O&M costs) such as the costs to buy the water and convey it to the project site, nor conveyance losses, such as the losses incurred if water has to be conveyed through the Delta which can reduce the quantity by 20% to 30%. Therefore, the actual costs for the water projects will be higher than the numbers provided in Table 1. The last line of the table is a calculation of the capital costs on an annual basis assuming a 30-year repayment at a 4% interest rate. Those are not the costs the projects will actually pay, but they are provided as a means of comparing capital costs between projects. These figures do not account for funds contributed by the CWC. If the public benefits are obtained without reducing project yield, these costs will be overstated.



Figure 1. Current schedules for water storage projects seeking funding under Proposition 1.



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How Do We Know Scripture to be Inerrant?

By Joshua Stevens
Faith Contributor, Valley Ag Voice

In many churches’ core doctrines, one may find a section titled “Authority of Scripture” or “Inerrancy of Scripture,” but when people throw terms like inerrancy around, what do we mean by it and how should it apply to daily life?

To define the terms being used, “The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact” (Grudem, 1994). Now, from this description several objections will arise

The first and most obvious question would be why only the original manuscripts and not all of those copied? Surely, it is within God’s power to preserve His written word seamlessly and perfectly throughout time, is it not? The simplest explanation would be God makes no claim that the copies of Scripture would be perfectly

preserved. For example, 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17 says, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (Crossway Bibles, 2001). So, if God is the ultimate author of all Scripture and God cannot lie, (ref., Heb. 6:18, 2 Sam 7:28) then those original written words must be true.

Some may say the question remains, why would God allow His word to be corrupted after those originals went out? In response, we could ask what “corrupted” means. As of 2018, we have over 5,800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament with the earliest being dated back to 130 A.D. (McDowell, 2018). In an interview, Dr. Daniel Wallace, Executive Director at the center for study of New Testament manuscripts, said, “You can’t just look at the number of the variants you have to look at the nature of the variants, and the best estimates are that at least 99.8 percent of them affect nothing” (Wallace, 2019). He goes on to say in the same interview, “No essential doctrine is jeopardized by any of these textual variants.” So, even without the

original manuscripts and with human error causing disagreements among the copies of those originals, the essence of the original text is preserved.

Now, then, another problem arises. If we know that the text we have today is nearly the same as the original, then what do we do about the mistakes? A common objection to the Bible being the word of God is the premise that there are contradictions within text. The first example given by “American Atheists” is a supposed contradiction found in the Bible regarding the Sabbath. (Biblical Contradictions, n.d.) They cite two verses: Exodus 20:8 which says, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” and Romans 14:5, “One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.” (Crossway Bibles, 2001). For most readers the way to explain this “contradiction” is simple, the book of Exodus was being written to the Jews before Christ—a time in which they were living under the *old covenant* and once Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins, we were put under a *new covenant*. And as such, we’re no longer bound by the law (Heb. 8), but even if this wasn’t the case, the book of Exodus was written to Jews, and the book of Romans was written to gentiles. (To this, those gentiles in Rome would not fall under the old covenant in the first place.) While this may be a simple example, others are more challenging, and in the face of these challenges we have sources as old as Augustine and as recent as *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, not to mention scholars like William Lane Craig, James White, and ministries like “Capturing Christianity” dedicated to guiding and working through more difficult texts and issues.

So then why does any of this matter? Regardless of whether scripture is inerrant Jesus rose from the dead right? It’s true, but as Wayne Grudem puts it, “Once we become convinced that God has spoken falsely to

us in some minor matters in Scripture, then we realize that God is capable of speaking falsely to us. This will have a detrimental effect on our ability to take God at His word and trust him completely or obey him fully in the rest of scripture.” (Grudem, 1994)

For Christians Scripture remains not just a book of wisdom or stories but it is the very chain that links together that eternal Church which will never be overcome. It provides us insight into our Savior, an opportunity to grow closer to and know our Creator better, and all of this because we know it to be inspired by God, guided by the Spirit, for our benefit.

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Terzi, Italy. February 2020. Statue of Saint Valentine in the basilica dedicated to the patron saint of lovers. Valentine’s day. (Photo: Stefania Valvola / Shutterstock.com)

Valentine’s Day

By Andrea Wright

The roots of Valentine’s Day date back to the year 496, when Pope Gelasius proclaimed that February 14th would be the feast day of St. Valentine of Rome. Valentine’s Day is also known as Saint Valentine’s Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The Romans had a festival called Lupercalia, which was an order of Roman priests that took place in the middle of February which was the start of their springtime. It honored one or two early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The name Valentine comes from the Latin *Valentinus*, which derives from *Valens* meaning, “To be strong, powerful, and mighty.” During that time, Valentine’s Day was not associated with flowers, chocolates, and gifts.

Officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Valentine is known to be a real person, who died around A.D. 270. One account Valentine was a priest who was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14th, near Rome by Emperor Claudius II for marrying Roman soldiers and Christian couples that were in love. Valentine, the priest defied the emperor by secretly performing marriage ceremonies for Roman soldiers. Emperor Claudius II had a ban on marriage and wanted to recruit lots of men in his army and thought that marriage would be an obstacle. As the legend goes, Valentine was imprisoned in the home of a noble and then sent to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with love. He said that he was blessed by Jesus Christ. While in jail he befriended his jailer, who became so impressed with Valentine’s wisdom that

he asked Valentine to help his daughter, Julia, with her lessons. Julia was blind and needed someone to read to her. Valentine and Julia became friends and he read to her when she came to visit him in jail. Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: “From your Valentine.” Believers say that God miraculously cured Julia of her blindness so that she could personally read Valentine’s note. Either way, this was an act of treason against the decree and angered the emperor, who beheaded Valentine on February 14th. His beheading occurred around the same time as the celebration of Lupercalia, which caused the two to become associated with one another.

Another legend was a priest named Valentine who owned a beautiful garden where the children would come to play. One day, the priest was imprisoned for life. The priest could not forget the children, so he sent a white dove with a message to the children. He told the children that he loved them and sent the key to the garden so the children could continue to play there.

The celebration of Valentine’s Day has increased in popularity throughout the 19th century. Now today, there are approximately over 1 billion Valentine’s cards handed out. Once the Industrial Revolution’s printing press came into being the card industry took off. According to Wikipedia.com, Esther A. Howland, from Worchester Massachusetts, (known as “Mother of the Valentine”) began selling the first mass-produced cards (paper-laced valentines) in America in the 1840s and to the Hallmark Card Company in 1913.

On Valentine’s Day, the white dove represents the symbol of love because they mate for life. Doves have become a universal symbol of peace. Believing that peace and love need to be spread around and celebrated every day, we need to be compassionate and show kindness. The white dove is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit as per Christianity. From Learnreligions.com it states that St. Valentine is the patron saint of love. He is also the patron saint of beekeepers and protects those who are beekeepers.

There are many verses in the bible about love. The best way to celebrate Valentine’s is to remember the love of God. Love is best seen by Jesus on the cross. Love is more than feelings; it is action—feelings come and go.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends [...].”

Corinthians 13:13

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

We may not be certain about the origins and history of Valentine’s Day, but this day is purely for the celebration of love and has its roots in a spiritual connection. So, on Valentine’s Day express your love for your family, friends, farmers, and ranchers.

“

I DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING
MY LENDER UP TO SPEED
ON THE NUANCES OF MY
FARM—WE GOT STRAIGHT
TO WORK FINDING

*the right solution
for my business.*

”

KELLI EVANS

Almond Farmer | Live Oak, CA
Farm Credit West Customer

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