



THE LOCAL VOICE FOR OUR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND DAIRY PRODUCERS SINCE 2013

VALLEYAGVOICE.COM

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 3 • MARCH 2023

# The Delta Reform Act is in Need of Reform

**By Scott Hamilton,**  
**President, Hamilton Resource Economics**

As Valley farmers and water managers come to terms with the harsh reality of trying to achieve groundwater sustainability, frustrations are mounting because of regulations to protect the health of the Delta and the native species which inhabit it.

At the highest level, state legislators tried to “fix” the Delta, or at least to develop a plan to fix the Delta, with the Delta Reform Act of 2009. It

declared that state policy toward the Delta must henceforth serve two “coequal goals.” Starting with a) providing a more reliable water supply for California and b) protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The legislature saw “adequate and secure funding” as an inherent need within the coequal goals.

The Delta Stewardship Council is the organization charged with developing and implementing the Delta Plan. In developing the plan, they held nearly 100 public meetings and received thousands

of comments. The Delta Plan includes 73 recommendations and 14 policies. Some of the recommendations reflect common sense. For example, the Delta Plan calls for aquifers to be used like bank accounts—to be filled up in wet times so that they may be drawn from in dry times. The need for environmentally friendly conveyance through the Delta is identified. Additionally, there is a call for extensive habitat restoration in the Delta, and there are recommendations to address the problems of introduced species and contaminants.

But amongst all that is good are some puzzling contradictions.

While the Delta Plan affirms the equal status of ecosystem health and water supply reliability, the legislature confounded the solution with the following pronouncement: “The policy of the state of California is to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California’s future water supply needs.” Noteworthy, that policy statement was developed before the Sustainable Groundwater Management

**See DELTA REFORM ACT on PAGE 4**

## Why Are Eggs So Expensive?

**By Audrey Hill,**  
**Feature Contributor, Valley Ag Voice**

A few days ago, I walked into Trader Joe’s and was met with a storm of people and an empty egg section. An employee rushed by and told the 4-5 people and me bustling around to come back Tuesday and be early because the eggs were flying off the shelves at \$2.75 a dozen. How did this happen? Not but a year ago, eggs were expensive at \$3. Prices at the grocery store have been steadily increasing, but eggs are soaring above the rest at 32.2% of what they were in late 2021 (ers.usda.gov, Food Price Outlook, 2023). Is this purely the

result of the Bird Flu sweeping the country, or is something else adding pressure to our pockets?

National reports from the CDC say that only three states are clean of Bird flu in domestic poultry, and 58 million birds have died as of Feb 8, 2023. Previously, the largest outbreak of Bird Flu in 2015 killed around 50 million birds and reached only half the number of states, so this is undoubtedly the largest Bird Flu outbreak the U.S. has seen. The Valley Ag Voice article from August 2022 about the Avian flu explains in detail the depopulation and the full halt a poultry farm endures if infected with Avian Influenza. In short, every bird on the property must be killed, burned, and all equipment and facilities must be deep cleaned. Certainly, Avian Influenza has the potential to

inflate the price of poultry products. Still, there is reason to believe that there are other influences on the current market.

The death of 58 million birds and a halt in production is a loss, no matter what. However, it may not be the only cause of the 30% inflation of eggs. According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service Poultry and Egg Production census of 2017, the number of poultry by inventory was 2.25 billion birds. Assuming the egg industry has not grown since 2017 (highly unlikely given the number of people staying home starting with the pandemic), the 58 million birds that have died between February 2022 and 2023 make up 2.5% of the domestic poultry in the U.S. Egg-laying

**See EXPENSIVE EGGS on PAGE 5**



(Photo by Anatolii / Adobe Stock)

### Valley Ag Voice LLC

1412 17th Street, Suite 407  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PRSR-STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 88  
Buena Park, CA

## Why It’s Critical to Sample Irrigation Water Early in the Season

**Water sampling has helped growers identify Chloride, Sodium issues in the spring.**

**By Brian Milne, Vice President, Director of Marketing & Communications The Holloway Group**

Spring is here, and following a rash of winter storms, some California growers have run into water quality issues as they begin to run their irrigation systems.

Early-season water sampling by the Holloway Agronomy Team in recent years has shown compromised water sources in multiple counties, both from wells and district sources, due to flooding, prolonged drought, buildup and aging wells. This makes it imperative that growers get their irrigation water tested early in the season.



**See SAMPLE IRRIGATION WATER EARLY on PG 13**





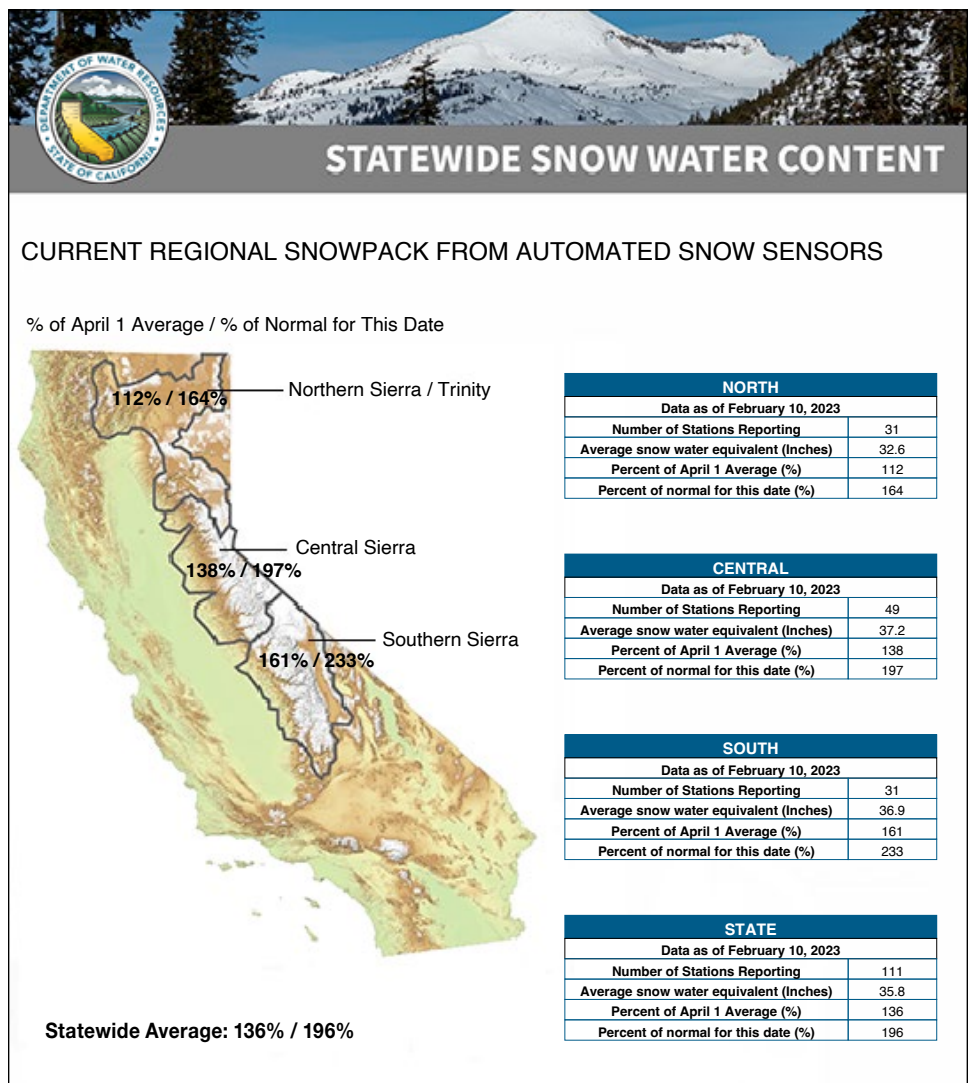
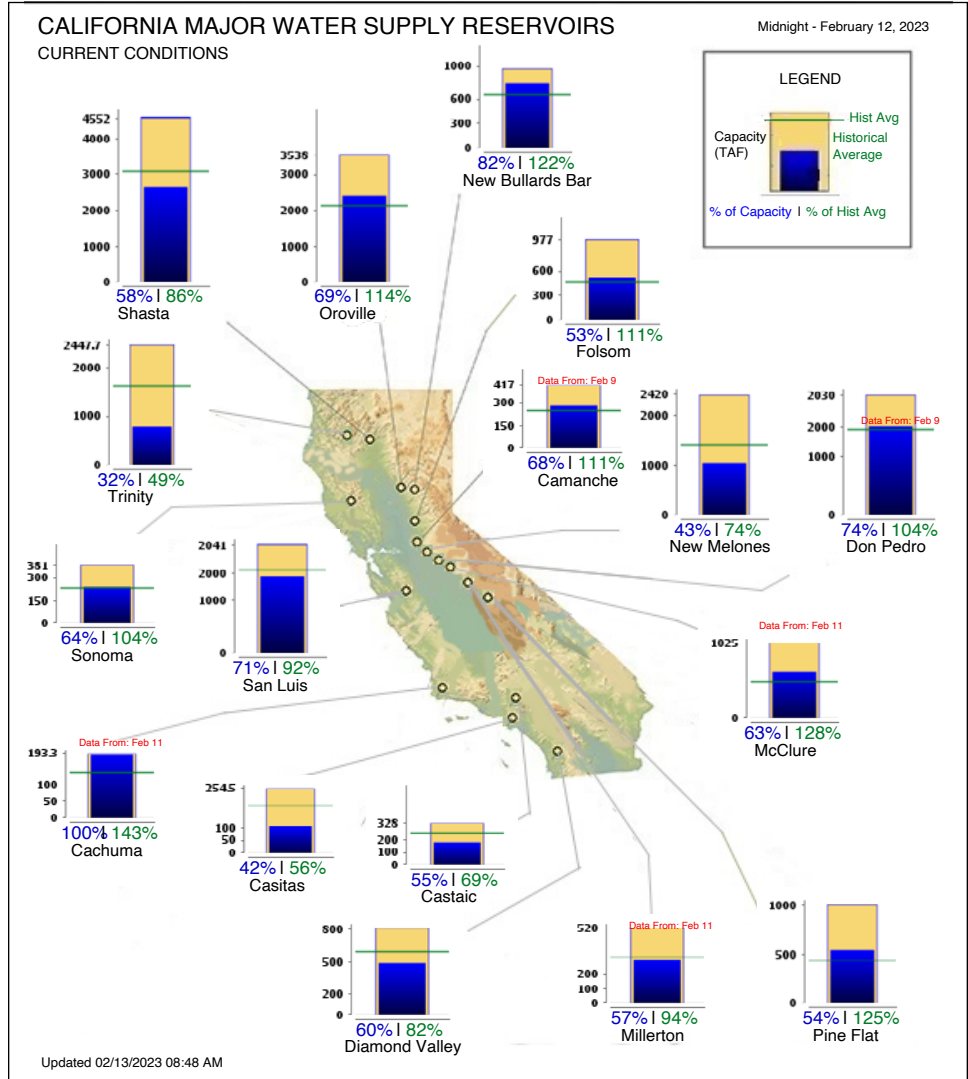
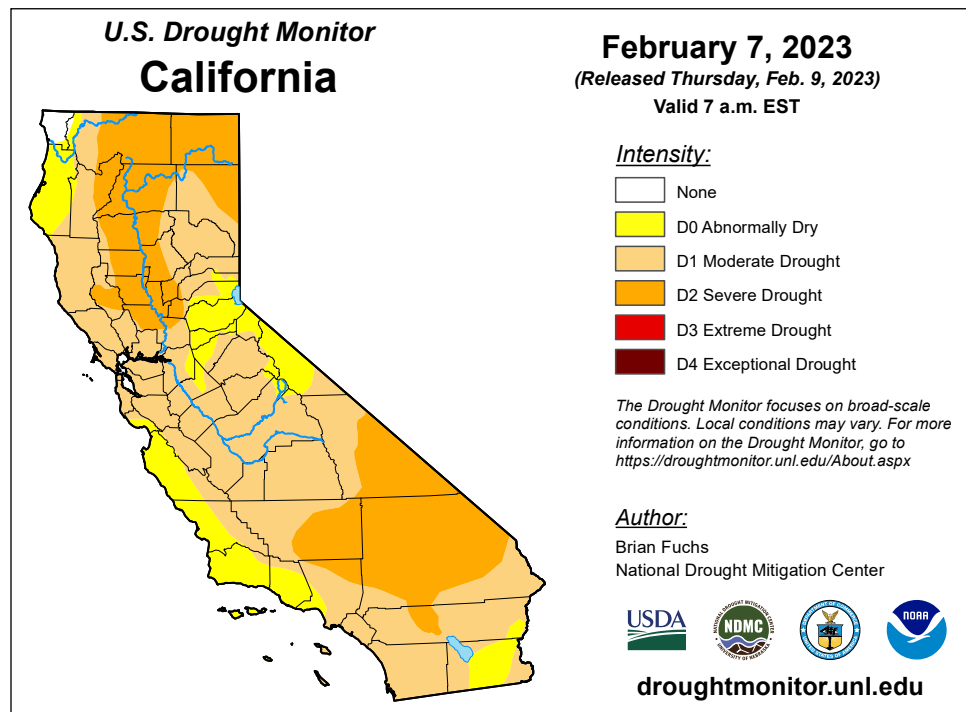
# FARM BUREAU NEWS



## President's Message

Let me begin this article with an update on State Water Project (SWP) water allocations. When I was writing my February article (note that it was written in January), the SWP allocation was at 5%, and there had been at least nine atmospheric river events with more forecasted. The state had just completed its first snowpack survey at Phillips Station, reflecting 177 percent of the average had already fallen with more predicted. Since then, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted its second snowpack survey on February 1st, which recorded 85.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 33.5 inches, which is 193 percent of the average for the Phillips Station location. By the way, DWR conducts five media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April, and, if necessary,

May. So, when you are reading this, there was a snow survey conducted on March 1st, and the Kern County Farm Bureau e-blasts out the information to keep you in the know. However, before the snow survey conducted on February 1st, DWR came out on January 26th to announce an increase in the allocation to 30% or 1.27 million acre-feet of water to be delivered to 29 public water agencies that serve not only agriculture but 27 million Californians. DWR went on to say that the increased allocation is the direct result of nine atmospheric river events that occurred in early January, but unfortunately, working under the old biological opinions and having to do “the first flush,” more than one million acre-feet went out to the ocean. If considering the new biological opinions (which actually started under the Obama administration), how much more water could have been stored? These are the answers that the agricultural industry should be asking, and why aren’t those biological opinions



## VALLEY AG VOICE

Published monthly by Valley Ag Voice LLC  
1412 17th Street, Suite 407, Bakersfield, CA 93301

**ADVERTISING** Dave Plivelich  
661-204-8160 • [Ads@ValleyAgVoice.com](mailto:Ads@ValleyAgVoice.com)

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION** The Marcom Group

**PRINTING** S&S Printing

**CONTENT SUBMISSION & OTHER INQUIRIES,**

**CONTACT US AT** [Info@ValleyAgVoice.com](mailto:Info@ValleyAgVoice.com)



### KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Romeo Agbalog, Executive Director  
661-397-9635 • [RAgbalog@KernCFB.com](mailto:RAgbalog@KernCFB.com)

Articles or commentaries are not direct opinions of  
Kern County Farm Bureau

being considered? Is it because the biological opinions were completed under the Trump administration? Also, note that the staff Obama put together to do the work on the biological opinions stayed the same, meaning the idea of not using those opinions should not be because of a political party. There is no place for political games when it comes down to feeding the nation and having jobs for people. Food scarcity doesn't know political choices; it goes after everyone.

Today is February 13th, and the current reservoir conditions here reflect most reservoirs are at historic levels.

The snowpack and snow water content show the state at 196% normal.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) held several media briefings, and a continued

See **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** on PAGE 4

Statewide Snow Water Content as of February 10, 2023 provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys. (Graphic: DWR)



# Young Farmers & Ranchers



**By Timothy Collins**  
Chair, Kern County  
Young Farmers  
& Ranchers

Kern County Young Farmers & Ranchers' annual January tradition is to have our Friday night Basque Crawl as the first meeting of the year. This year was no different and we enjoyed a dinner with the setup, tri-tip, fried chicken, and of course, pickled tongue. We had a great turnout, and I met many new members who were excited to be a part of the group. Nothing feels quite so much like Kern County as a family-style Basque dinner with a group of young farmers and ranchers. Part of that feeling is finding mutual friends with new members I met that night and running into old friends at the bar. Kern County may be nearing a population of one million, but on a Friday night at Woolgrowers it sure seems small. Without many family connections or history here, being involved in groups like YF&R has helped me become a part of this close community and has made me a part of Kern County agriculture.

Kern County YF&R sponsored the Ag Night Cal State Bakersfield basketball game again

this year. CSUB Ag Night promotes ag in the community by getting ag sponsors and then giving out free tickets for the game to local 4-H and FFA members and their families. For me, that means giving tickets out to my own students, most of whom have never been to a CSUB basketball game. A group of us from YF&R attended, and once again, Bakersfield felt small as we sat right in front of Mike Poncetta, whom I worked for on the farm in my first job out of high school 11 years ago, and his wife Romi who now teaches ag at the same campus as I do.

Over the years YF&R has given out thousands of dollars in Ag Grants to 4-H and FFA students, and we will continue that tradition. This year we are excited to be adding a YF&R college scholarship as well. The application is available on kernagfoundation.org with many other great local scholarships so go check them out and apply! Through fundraisers like our Third Annual Clay Shoot this month on the 11th, YF&R is growing, and we can do more for the community and offer more to our members. Thank you to everyone who is supporting us, and if you have not done so already, you may still have time to sign up or sponsor our clay shoot!

**Email:** [KernYFR@KernCFB.com](mailto:KernYFR@KernCFB.com)

**Instagram:** [@Kern\\_YFR](https://www.instagram.com/@Kern_YFR)

**Facebook:** [KernYoungFarmersAndRanchers](https://www.facebook.com/KernYoungFarmersAndRanchers)



Left to right: YF&R members Russell Todd, Christine Johnson, Katelyn Filkins, Tim Collins, and Katie Verhoeff.

## The Cattleman's Corner OPINION: Still Waiting for Country of Origin Labels on Beef



**By Austin Snedden**  
Ranching Contributor,  
Valley Ag Voice

It seems absurd that we are still talking about this, but lobbying power has still thwarted what consumers and producers want. In

2015 Congress repealed mandatory country of origin labeling (MCOOL) for beef. Like all unpopular congressional actions, it was repealed as part of an omnibus bill to avoid scrutiny. As a result, U.S. cattle producers have yet to see demand and prices match those of 2014. As we

erly labeling the origin of beef was an unfair trade practice. The export market has been successfully touted to producers as the holy grail of our industry, ignoring the fact that export premiums have a hard time finding their way back to producers and ignoring the fact that giving up a small sliver of our domestic market outweighs the gains of our entire export market. Packers lobby NCBA and NCBA lobby congress with producer dollars.

Elimination of MCOOL was damaging enough, but to add salt to the wounds of domestic cattle producers, current USDA rules allow imported beef to be labeled "Product of USA". The motives of why a small contingent of corporate interests would oppose MCOOL and support current labeling practices is



Photo: Adobe Stock

approach a period that may involve contraction in our entire economy, we are more critical than ever to have origin labels on our beef so that consumers can decide where they want their dollars to go.

How did we get to this point where the loudest voice speaking on behalf of cattle producers actively opposes MCOOL? The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is the loudest trade group in the cattle industry. Despite having less than 5% of cattle producers as members, the NCBA's voice is amplified through the mandatory union dues that all producers are forced to pay through the Beef Checkoff. The NCBA speaks boldly on behalf of corporate packers, but because of the occasional cowboy hat and shiny boots, congress thinks they are speaking on behalf of cattle producers. Although only a tiny percentage of total producers, NCBA had to convince their members to oppose this America first policy. It was sold to members that labeling beef for our consumers would result in decreased exports due to retaliation. Multinational importers and packers even ginned up a WTO complaint on behalf of Canada and Mexico, claiming that prop-

clear and understandable; import cheaper inferior beef and imply if not outright misrepresent it as a U.S. product. U.S. cattle producers have built a brand for quality and safety in our product; multinational interests are usurping that brand.

Here is where we sit; most consumers want country of origin labels. Consumers want to know more and more about where their food comes from. A majority of domestic cattle producers are in favor of MCOOL. In regards to WTO meddling in our domestic affairs, they can be tamped down, just as they have with every other product and industry that has had the spine to stand up and label their product. Keep in mind that MCOOL is not a tariff, quota, or trade ban but just an accurate label. From all other foods to all your gadgets to all kids' toys, MCOOL has a precedent; we need advocates with the fortitude to get it done. Not only does MCOOL promote consumer confidence and accurately represent domestic producers, but recent pandemic supply chain issues have shown us the importance of domestic production. You don't have to be a cattle producer to have a stake in this; every beef consumer has an interest. It may be time again for us to call our members of Congress.



# Thank a Farmer



*Congressman Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House speaks at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA.*

*Reprinted with Permission from Congressman Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House*

On Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Speaker of the House and Representative of California's 20th Congressional District, Kevin McCarthy, attended the World Ag Expo in Tulare, California.

Throughout his visit, he offered keynote remarks, fired the ceremonial cannon to open the Expo, hosted a media availability with fellow Members of Congress, and participated in a Farm Bill Listening Session to hear about the priorities of local agricultural producers.

Speaker McCarthy shared the following sentiments:

"When I look around the World Ag Expo, I see hardworking Americans – I see my neighbors, I see people who meticulously till the ground, tend their orchards, and make art.

"But in order to ensure that we are not destroying this art, we must not only increase water storage to capture more water during wet years so that this critical resource doesn't run off into the ocean, but we must also end government-imposed manmade droughts.

"We must put people above fish so that our communities get the water they contract and pay for.

"And we must support our farmers at the highest levels of government by advancing a Farm Bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues and local stakeholders to develop the best legislation that works for farmers in the Central Valley, California, and the United States.

"I am proud to be a Speaker from the Central Valley, and I am committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to empower our agricultural producers who feed the world."



## Delta Reform Act

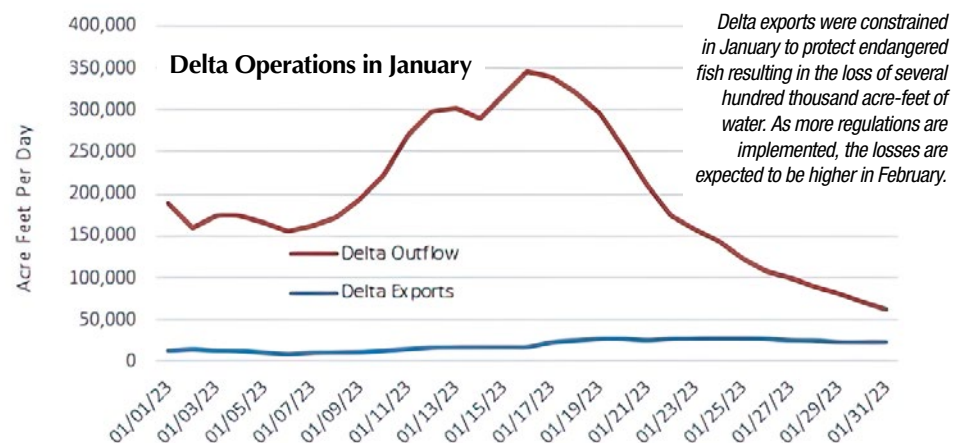
*Continued from PAGE 1*

Act was passed in 2014. Nevertheless, the proclamation needs an understanding of reality. Different estimates are set regarding the magnitude of the water shortage in the Valley, but informed estimates project a shortage of around 2 million acre-feet per year. Likely, up to 10% of that shortage can consist of capturing additional flood flows from rivers that feed the Valley but do not feed the Delta. And while efforts will continue to conserve and recycle water, the low-hanging fruit in the Valley was harvested long ago. Two choices remain: export more water from the Delta or reduce agricultural production in the Valley. Not surprisingly, the second option has very severe social and economic consequences. The task of improving water supply is at odds with being less reliant on the Delta.

The Delta Plan also recognized the need to get much better at capturing and storing the surplus water in the wettest years – but most of the high-flow water from the Central Valley flows out the Delta. So, again, there is a dichotomy in the goals. Delta water management in January highlights the current idiocy in Delta operations. Slightly over 600,000 acre-feet were exported from the Delta in January, while ten times that amount flowed out to the ocean. Certainly, there are environmental benefits to reasonable Delta outflow, but the Public Policy

Institute of California indicated that were likely no detectable environmental benefits to incremental increases in flows when Delta outflows were high. While water users are required to conserve water, the value of incremental flows for environmental needs has received little scientific attention.

The coequal goal is not so equal. The state uses millions of dollars of public money on habitat restoration in the Delta – but no state money is spent on increasing the water supply from the Delta. Rather, deliveries from the State Water Projects have declined from an average of 65% of contract amounts in the ten years before the formation of the Delta Stewardship Council to 40% in the years since – a difference of one million acre-feet per year – but with no observed benefit to the endangered fish. The dilemma of improving the water supply without drawing on Delta water has exacerbated water shortages in the state. The Delta Reform Act was a blunt instrument that needs refinement – the principle of being less reliant on the Delta should only apply to dry years when the Delta ecosystem is most delicate. If the California water crisis is to be solved, it will require taking more water from the Delta in wet years in an environmentally friendly way. In wet years there is plenty of water for the environment and exports. The state leadership needs to recognize that and require changes in the following five-year review of the Delta Plan, which is slated for 2023.



## President's Message

*Continued from PAGE 2*

statement was "we are still in a drought." I have also watched several State Water Board meetings, and they also use the same statement, "we are still in a drought." If the concept is to state that we are still in a drought, then they can manage water like we are still in a drought. Still trying to figure out how having that mindset would assist them in considering having a goal of trying to send 100% of allocations. 2006 was the last time 100% allocation was achieved, and in 2017, one of the wettest years on record, the allocation was 85%. Based on that is 100% allocation no longer being considered or even a goal to achieve? This idea of not considering 100% allocations has just

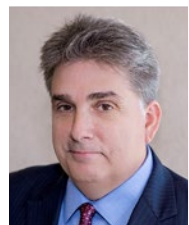
made the sustainable groundwater management act (SGMA) more complicated, and the need to consider reducing the demand for water means less agricultural activities. By the way to add to the idea that we are still in a drought, the Governor today signed another Executive Order extending the emergency drought orders.

Speaking of SGMA, in March, the Department of Water Resources will be releasing its decision on the groundwater sustainable plans (GSPs) for the Kern Subbasin. As soon as it is released, the Kern County Farm Bureau will e-blast it out, and as I always say, if you are not at the table, you are on the menu! Be engaged.

**Stay up-to-date with current reservoir conditions here:**  
<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/resapp/RescondMain>



# COMMENTARY: Despite deficit, state must invest to protect farming



**By Christopher Reardon,  
Director of Government  
Affairs for the California  
Farm Bureau Federation**

*Reprinted with permission from the  
California Farm Bureau Federation*

As California lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom embark on their annual budget dance, the state finds itself facing a projected \$22.5 billion deficit. State budget watchers suggest the deficit will continue to climb before the annual budget revision process in May.

Only a year ago, California boasted a budget surplus of \$100 billion. The Newsom administration had pots of money to distribute, with no worries about making painful budget cuts that could now affect a wide variety of services. Recently, the California Legislative Analyst Office reported, “The current economic environment poses a substantial risk to state revenues.”

It remains to be seen what things will look like as the budget process winds through the Legislature, but you can be sure there will be program cuts and projects put on hold—particularly if the deficit keeps growing. And yet, amid times of extreme competition for state resources, California must seriously consider new investments in infrastructure—starting with a 21st century water system constructed for the changing nature of our climate.

Historically, California has acted to protect its future, even during times of budget stress. But after three years of devastating drought, followed by a sudden



*Dust blows over an idled field in the Klamath Basin in 2022. Prime aglands were fallowed statewide as California cut water deliveries, failed to deliver on infrastructure and explored new policies that could harm farm production. (Photo: Christopher Reardon)*

deluge of storms, California can’t afford to hide and wait. We’re told that future weather patterns will most likely careen between atmospheric rivers and long, dry conditions. Our cities and critical agriculture sector need protections from both extremes.

Since 2021, Newsom and lawmakers have committed to spend nearly \$8.7 billion on issues directly related to drought and flood control. Newsom’s budget proposal would cut that amount by \$194 million. A separate budget cut would strip away \$40 million in funding intended for flood-plain projects. Those projects would allow for rivers to flood in strategic places during winter storms or Sierra snowmelt, therefore reducing risks for downstream populations while also providing for beneficial ecosystems.

The good news is that Newsom administration officials now acknowledge that recent storms and flooding impacts have elevated policymakers’ understanding of the importance of flood investments. The

hope here is that the governor and Legislature will reconsider and invest in and fast track groundwater recharge efforts, maximize stormwater capture, support reservoir repair and expansion and modernize water conveyance systems.

There are other considerations that need to be reviewed as we look at this year’s budget, starting with food security and ensuring healthy choices at affordable prices for all Californians. Food prices spiked by nearly 10% last year amid the highest inflationary surge in 40 years.

Yet California farmers continued to fallow large swaths of prime agricultural lands due to water shortages as California failed to deliver on needed infrastructure to manage its most precious resource. How do you explain that to rural farming communities facing uncertain futures with double-digit unemployment rates? In short, we must ensure that we can move water to support the people working

to grow the food we all consume.

Additionally, we need to ensure tools for pest management continue to be safe, affordable and accessible to farmers. The Department of Pesticide Regulation has been engaging in discussions on increasing the mill assessment, a fee on the sale of all registered pesticides, without adequately explaining the need for including such an increase in the state budget. This seems to reflect a view that somehow California’s pesticide regulatory program doesn’t work. In fact, our state has the most comprehensive pesticide regulations in the world, including rigorous oversight by state and local agencies.

Finally, it seems that the economic impact of agriculture in this state is too often taken for granted. Our farmers and ranchers and agricultural businesses produced more than \$55 billion in revenue in 2020. California agriculture employs more than 400,000 people and grows more than 400 commodity crops, producing more than one-third of U.S. vegetables and two-thirds of America’s fruits and nuts. We are also the nation’s top dairy and wine producer, while exporting \$22 billion in agricultural products around the world.

So, as you may imagine, agriculture has a lot at stake in the state budget process. California Farm Bureau’s government affairs team will be actively participating in discussions in Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees, in the May budget revise and subsequent budget conference committee sessions later this spring.

California has a long history of making historic investments during times of economic uncertainty, ever mindful of safeguarding our communities—urban and rural—for the years ahead. In this year’s challenging budget process, we must continue working to build needed infrastructure to protect our water resources so our farmers may grow the food and fiber to meet the demands of the future.

## Expensive Eggs

*Continued from PAGE 1*

birds only make up a fraction of the overall poultry industry, however, the bird flu statistics by the CDC and CDFA report total poultry numbers. Although no statistics show the virus has hit poultry industries the hardest, it’s likely that the losses to the virus are not the only contributors to the price increase of eggs.

Many are concerned that the inflation of eggs results from price gouging by distributors. The Attorney General of Texas, Ken Paxton’s website lists a press release titled “AG Paxton Files Lawsuit to Halt Price Gouging by Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.” Cal-Maine is the largest egg provider in the nation; just some of their products include Egglands Best, Land-O-Lakes, Grain 4, and Farmhouse Eggs. Although the Texas attorney general released this report in 2020, similar headlines have recently been released by Farm Action: “Cracking Down on Egg Industry’s Excuses: It’s Price Gouging” (Jan 25, 2023). Furthermore, “There have been no positive tests for HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) at any of Cal-Maine Foods’ owned or contracted production facilities as of Dec 28, 2022.” Businesswire.com reports this in Cal-Maine Foods Reports Record Results for Second Quarter Fiscal 2023. This page also reports “record sales” for Cal-Maine are due to the

reduced supply brought on by the virus, coupled with strong consumer demand. Although the infection cannot be why producers like Cal-Maine have had to raise prices, Cal-Maine is filling the supply gap while also increasing the security and cleanliness of their facilities. Although this doesn’t merit a massive jump in price, there is still more that could.

It’s important to bring attention to the increased cost of production inputs because of the higher cost of eggs. Fuel and poultry feed costs have skyrocketed, making up a significant portion of input costs. Distribution has also become increasingly strained for this highly perishable good. Some even believe that the significant consumer switch to cage-free eggs has caused egg producers to invest large amounts in infrastructure change. Although large egg producers may still be able to report “Record Results for Second Quarter Fiscal 2023”, these costs have certainly hit smaller producers hard, not to mention the largest outbreak of HPAI in the U.S. on record.

There is still a lot of doubt about why the cost of eggs has skyrocketed compared to the rest of grocery goods. There is no doubt, however, that input and infrastructure costs have increased for both small and large producers. The increased demand and decreased supply brought on by the virus could be the reason for the significant jump in cost at the grocery store.

# There’s a new outlaw in town.



Tune in on Bakersfield’s newest country station  
for ag news and the best country from 90’s to now.



# Organic Dairy Woes Show System ‘Vulnerabilities’

By Ching Lee, Assistant Editor Ag Alert

Reprinted with permission from California Farm Bureau Federation

With their pastures starting to grow and new government assistance programs being rolled out, California organic dairy farmers are beginning to see a glimmer of relief.

Skyrocketing production costs, especially for organic feed, have pummeled organic dairies during the past two years, forcing some to sell their cows and leave the business.

Their plight got the attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which last month offered up to \$100 million in financial aid through the newly created Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program.

Perhaps more importantly, their economic hardships spotlighted some of the unique challenges that organic dairies face and gave way to “a political willingness” to help them, said Laetitia Benador, senior policy research specialist for Santa Cruz-based California Certified Organic Farmers.

“What these crises do is they really reveal the vulnerabilities in the system,” she said.

USDA’s assistance program, the funds of which are expected to be released in late spring or early summer, is intended to target small to medium-sized organic dairies. Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, payments go up to \$40,000 and are capped at the first 5 million pounds of milk production. USDA said the amount is meant to cover up to 75% of a farm’s projected marketing costs in 2023.

Even before their current problems, organic dairy

farmers have been struggling with thin margins for several years, Benador said. The state’s multiyear drought brought greater financial challenges as the availability of organic feed dwindled, with grain and hay costs climbing 30% to 60%.

Because of reduced irrigation water from the city of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County dairy farmer Doug Beretta was forced to fallow nearly 40 acres of silage crops used to feed his cows. The drought also cut his pasture season short.

Grazing ended in August last year when Beretta’s cows usually can stay on grass until the end of September. That meant having to buy more hay. Unable to afford the steep prices, he said, he was forced to sell more than 80 animals because he knew he would run short on feed.

Milking fewer cows reduced milk flow. The drought also affected the quality of the alfalfa hay he purchased, Beretta said, and that further cut milk production. “You could see it in the milk tank,” he said.

Due to water shortages, there was less hay being grown. Some organic hay farmers switched to growing conventional hay, recognizing that they could get more yield, said Dayna Ghirardelli, executive director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

Competition for supply grew fierce among livestock owners—organic and conventional. She noted how the hay shortage forced some conventional livestock owners to buy organic hay “because hay in and of itself was hard to get.” This further shortened the supply of organic hay.

To maintain their certification, organic dairies do not have the flexibility of using conventionally grown feeds.

Organic dairy farmers also have little control over the grain feed they purchase, much of which comes from offshore, Benador said. That’s because the U.S. does not produce enough organic grains and has had to rely on imports from India and the Black Sea region.

The Ukraine-Russia war hampered shipping of organic grains from Eastern Europe, and a trade dispute with India further reduced grain supplies, with costs rising by about 50%, she noted.

two-county region. One of them went out of business, and others have had to reduce their herd size, leaving the creamery “at times a little bit short” on milk.

But he said he considers himself lucky because he has mostly been able to get enough milk for his products, even though organic milk is now in shorter supply statewide. He noted at 10 organic dairies have shut down in recent years, with about 100 remaining in the state at the beginning of 2022.



Photo provided by California Farm Bureau Federation

Because he operates in Humboldt County, dairy farmer Zach Cahill said he has “the luxury of being able to turn on the pump” to irrigate his pastures and grow his own silage crop, unlike many producers in Sonoma and Marin counties that don’t have access to wells.

What’s affected his business is the soaring cost of freight to move feed to the dairy and milk out to the creamery, he said. His milk goes to Rumiano Cheese Co. in Glenn County, and his alfalfa hay comes from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Cahill estimates about a third of his feed cost is in transportation “because we’re behind the redwood curtain.” Total production costs have risen by at least 30% to 40%, while farmgate prices have increased 5% to 10%, he said.

“At that rate, it’s just been unsustainable,” Cahill said. “People have been bleeding cash flow for two years now and essentially milking away equity on their farms.”

Cahill, who serves as president of the Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, said organic dairy farmers are not the only ones feeling financial pain, as processors—buyers of their milk—also have faced increased costs, and “there’s a genuine concern that cash is going to flow out of this industry.”

As founder and CEO of Straus Family Creamery in Sonoma County, Albert Straus has felt the pain on both sides, as he also operates an organic dairy in Marin County. Besides producing his own milk, the creamery sources from 11 other dairies in the

In addition to price increases he’s paid to his supplying dairies, Straus said federal and state grants will now provide additional relief. More importantly, recent rains and warming temperatures will help forage growth, allowing dairies to rely more on pasture and less on purchased feed.

“I think we’re starting to stabilize them a little bit,” he said. “Springtime is the time that they can start making a profit hopefully and pay back old bills and debt.”

Longer term, there has been discussion of creating a federal safety net program tailored for organic dairies. Producers say existing risk management tools do not address their unique needs and failed to trigger payments that would have helped them.

“Ultimately, there should be a solution that is market based, where the price that the dairy farmer gets is a stable and consistent price that reacts to the fluctuations in the supply and the market,” Straus said.

Benador said she thinks the state’s new organic transition program and USDA’s organic transition initiative will both support an increase in domestic organic feed production, “and that will contribute to the long-term resilience of the organic livestock sector.”

Improving the availability of certified organic meat processing facilities also will help, she said, as dairies sell their cows for beef. Being able to earn an organic price premium at slaughter remains an important strategy for dairies to diversify their income streams, she said.



## THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS EXPERTS.

We specialize in helping our clients cut through the red tape of government!

### Land Use Consulting Government Relations & Public Affairs

We will help you with all of your Government Affairs needs. From violation notices to advocating on issues that impact your business.



Consulting-CommonSense.com • 661.203.1838



# U.S. Keeps Tariffs on Spanish Ripe Olives After WTO Ruling

By Ching Lee, Assistant Editor Ag Alert

*Reprinted with permission from California Farm Bureau Federation*

The U.S. will continue to impose countervailing duties on imports of Spanish ripe olives after it lowered rates of the tariffs to satisfy findings by a World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel.

California table olive growers have applauded the move. For years, they have contended that Spain's highly subsidized olives are sold into the U.S. at artificially low prices, flooding the U.S. market and undercutting domestic producers.

The U.S. International Trade Commission agreed with them, and in 2018, the Commerce Department began imposing antidumping and countervailing duties as high as 20% and 27%, respectively, on imports of Spanish ripe olives. The European Union challenged the measures by taking the case to the WTO.

In its November 2021 ruling, the WTO dispute panel sided with the U.S. on some

points and the EU on others. Though the panel found some of the U.S. measures to be "inconsistent" with certain provisions of WTO regulations, it allowed the U.S. to maintain some countervailing duties on Spanish olives. The panel recommended the U.S. bring its measures in line with WTO tariff and trade rules.

The Commerce Department made changes last month by scaling back rates of the countervailing tariffs on Spanish olives. The new implementation "fully addresses and resolves all WTO concerns," the Olive Growers Council of California said in a statement.

"We're really happy to see the (U.S. Trade Representative) and the government decided to continue to uphold these safeguards, which have made a huge impact for the table olive industry in California especially," said Elizabeth Carranza, the council's director of trade and technical affairs.

Spain, the world's top olive producer, maintains that the U.S. measures are unjustified and has called on the Biden administration to remove them. Since imposition of the levies in 2018, Spanish olive exports to the U.S.

have dropped by nearly 60%, according to the EU. Prior to the duties, Spain exported nearly 67 million euros worth of olives to the U.S., or about \$72 million.

Even with the prior tariffs, Glenn County grower Michael Silveira pointed out that Spain's olive industry had continued to benefit from EU subsidies and "is still dumping its ripe olives in the U.S. market."

"If it weren't for the U.S. government's ongoing antidumping and countervailing duty orders on Spanish olives, American table olive production and hundreds of family farmers and allied American jobs would be in serious jeopardy," said Silveira, who serves as chairman of the Olive Growers Council.

Carranza said she does not expect the new U.S. levies will eliminate Spanish olives coming into the U.S. completely, "but it is helping mitigate the issue that existed before the duties and tariffs were in place."

The "real win," she said, is that no commodity group, until now, has been able to "effectively pierce the European veil" that has shielded EU farm subsidies from external scrutiny. Being successful in implementing protections

for U.S. table olives—still a relatively small industry that's mainly in California—"is a huge deal," Carranza added.

But she acknowledged growing table olives remains a challenge for California farmers, whose fruit is still primarily harvested by hand and who face "significant" labor costs.

Bearing acreage for table olives in the state continues to decline, with 2022 acreage at 12,000, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That's a loss of 800 bearing acres since 2021. Acreage stood at 25,000 about 10 years ago and 40,000 in the 1980s.

Carranza said the U.S. trade actions have given California growers "hope that it would be worth it to pursue a future in the table olive industry."

She noted some growers have transitioned their orchards to high-density plantings that allow for mechanical harvesting, which the industry has been pushing during the past few years as production costs continue to soar. But it will take several years for the new trees to begin producing fruit, she added.

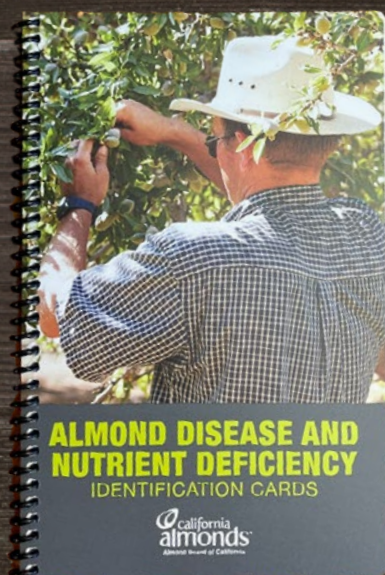
"Like any commodity, it's not something that's going to happen overnight," Carranza said.

Meanwhile, growers continue to fund research on ways to harvest traditional olive orchards mechanically, such as through pruning techniques and different equipment. So far, there hasn't been "an end-all-be-all solution for that," Carranza noted.

## New Almond ID Tool



Properly identify diseases and nutrient deficiencies in almond trees



The Almond Disease and Nutrient Deficiency Identification cards are meant to aid Pest Control Advisors and growers in their day-to-day operation. Effective Integrated Pest Management always starts with an accurate identification of the pest to then deploy the right set of tools.

Request your ID tools today by scanning this code:





# UC ANR Expands Expertise for Climate Change, Economic Development With New Hires

By Pamela Kan-Rice

*Press release provided by the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources*

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources continued bringing scientists and their practical knowledge to counties across the state throughout the fall and winter. With increased funding from Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature, UC ANR recently hired UC Cooperative Extension advisors, specialists and academic coordinators who bring expertise in drought, wildfire, food systems, urban and small-scale farms, livestock, 4-H youth development, pest management, wildlife, nutrition and environmental horticulture.

In addition to providing research and extension in traditional subjects, the new hires include scientists who will address water justice policy, climate-smart agriculture, food safety, organic crop production, waste management and economic development for urban and rural communities.

UC Cooperative Extension advisors work directly with community members to apply research-based information to improve the lives and livelihoods of Californians.

To see a list of UC Cooperative Extension advisors who have joined in the past few months, visit [https://ucanr.edu/About/DirectorySearch/Recent\\_Hires](https://ucanr.edu/About/DirectorySearch/Recent_Hires).

The most recently hired advisors are:



## **Audoin Joins Central Sierra as UCCE Livestock Advisor**

Flavie Audoin (pronounced Flah-vee Oh-dwan) joined UCCE Central Sierra on Jan. 17 as a livestock and natural resources area advisor serving Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties.

For the last six years, Audoin has been studying the seasonal grazing behavior, diet selection, and meat characteristics of range-fed Raramuri Criollo cattle in southeastern Arizona. Audoin worked directly with Deb and Dennis Moroney, who introduced Criollo cattle in southeastern Arizona about 10 years ago. This experience in the United States provided Audoin with knowledge and skills in rangelands, livestock production (cattle and sheep), direct marketing and science communication. In addition to working on her research, she has also been able to improve her skills as a ranch hand – branding, gathering cattle horseback in rough country, using low-stress livestock handling methods, sheep shearing, fixing fences and water lines, and marketing meat directly to consumers.

Before starting her Ph.D., Audoin was an advisor to beef producers in France and worked for nine years at France's leading brand of packaged meats and meat products while studying.

Born and raised in France, Audoin earned a bachelor's degree in life sciences at Notre Dame de Bonnes Nouvelles, Beaupréau, and technical degree in agronomy with a major in crop and animal production at IUT Angers-Cholet,

Angers, then completed an engineering degree in agronomy (equivalent to a masters' degree in the U.S.) with a major in breeding and systems of production at VetAgro Sup, Clermont-Ferrand. She completed a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Arizona, where her research focused on ecology, management and restoration of rangelands, with a minor in animal science. She also received a graduate certificate in science communication from the University of Arizona.

Audoin is based in Calaveras and can be reached at [faudoin@ucanr.edu](mailto:faudoin@ucanr.edu) and (209) 454-8472.



## **Ikendi Named Academic Coordinator for Climate-Smart Agriculture**

Samuel Ikendi joined UC ANR on Dec. 12 as an academic coordinator for climate-smart agriculture.

As an academic coordinator, Ikendi will work with farmers and ranchers, state and federal agencies, campus-based academics and Cooperative Extension academics across the state to implement climate-smart agriculture education through workshops and training. He will develop outreach materials such as curricula and fact sheets.

Before joining UC ANR, Ikendi worked at Iowa State University as a postdoctoral research associate on a project to establish core concepts to improve graduate plant-breeding education, curriculum development, and monitoring. He also worked for the Center for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and Iowa State University's Uganda Program in Uganda, where he developed performance tracking indicators, conducted the annual evaluation, and developed privacy data protection documents. As an intern with ISU Extension and Outreach, he assisted the county outreach coordinators with delivering research-based educational programming to promote positive youth development.

Ikendi earned a Ph.D. in agricultural extension education and dual master's degrees in community and regional planning and sustainable agriculture from Iowa State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management from Makerere University, Kampala in Uganda.

Ikendi is based at UC Merced and can be reached at [sikendi@ucanr.edu](mailto:sikendi@ucanr.edu).



## **Reidy Named Statewide Postfire Academic Coordinator**

Katie Reidy joined UC ANR on Dec. 5 as the statewide postfire academic coordinator. She will be overseeing a postfire forest resilience education program for private forest landowners. Reidy will coordinate weekly educational workshops held on Zoom with lessons catered to specific ecosystems, and collaboration with local agencies to promote post-fire education. The goal is to help fire-affected communities begin the process of reversing the ecological, economic and environmental impacts of fire.

Reidy grew up in Chicago and received an undergraduate degree from University of North Carolina,

Asheville. In 2016, she became an environmental educator at Yosemite National Park. In 2020, she moved to Plumas County and worked for the Feather River Resource Conservation District and began to understand the complexities of natural resource management and the implications of fire on the local landscapes. This compelled her to earn a master's degree in environmental studies with a certificate in science communications and environmental education at the University of Idaho.

After personal experience with catastrophic fire, she is eager and ready to connect and assist communities as the postfire academic coordinator, to combine her passion for ecology and forestry management with outreach and education.

Reidy is based at the UCCE Central Sierra office in Placerville and can be reached at [kkreidy@ucanr.edu](mailto:kkreidy@ucanr.edu).



## **Hartmann Named UCCE Community Health and Nutrition Advisor**

Janessa Hartmann joined UC ANR on Nov. 1 as the UCCE community health and nutrition advisor for Shasta, Trinity and Tehama counties to promote education and advance policy, systems and environmental changes that benefit local communities.

Having lived and worked in Shasta County for over a decade, Hartmann is committed to improving the region's health and wellness. She will be developing an integrated and equitable health and nutrition program, applying the latest research and data to address needs identified by the community – especially those of vulnerable populations such as older foster youth.

In addition to focusing on positive youth development, Hartmann also aims to improve food security by expanding access to affordable and healthy food.

"I hope to support community partners in health and nutrition across our region, and amplify existing effective programs," she said. "I also look forward to working alongside the awesome CalFresh Healthy Living, University of California nutrition education program."

Although Hartmann began her career in the environmental remediation field, she later worked on food sovereignty and security issues in central Mexico as a Peace Corps volunteer. In 2016, she became the CalFresh Healthy Living, UC program supervisor for Shasta, Trinity and Tehama counties. Subsequently, Hartmann joined Shasta County Public Health, where, during the height of the pandemic, she served as director of the COVID-19 Child Care, School and Higher Education Unit.

Hartmann earned her B.S. in environmental science from Georgia College and State University, an M.S. in environmental science and engineering from Colorado School of Mines and another M.S. in nutritional science from California State University, Chico.

Based at the UCCE Shasta County office in Redding, Hartmann can be reached at [jlhartmann@ucanr.edu](mailto:jlhartmann@ucanr.edu).



## **Jha Joins UC ANR To Address Climate Adaptation**

Prakash Kumar Jha joined UC ANR as an assistant project scientist on Nov. 1 and is responsible for developing decision support tools that help growers understand and minimize climate risks, specifically CalAgroClimate.

Prior to coming to California, he worked as a post-doctoral fellow for over five years in Italy, Spain and Colombia. Jha is eager to understand what California's climate will look like in the next five to 10 years. Currently, he is working with climate prediction systems to determine future weather conditions, which growers can use to prepare for situations like low versus high chill hours, shortage of irrigation water and high temperature stress in plants.

Jha recognizes that areas currently used for agriculture might not be suitable for some crops a couple of years from now. For example, Jha is identifying which geographical areas growers should invest in while considering factors such as regulations limiting water use. His work will help growers consider the long-term implications of the decisions they make today.

Before earning a Ph.D. in science management of climate change from the University of Venice Ca' Foscari, Italy, he completed two master's degrees – one in climate change adaptation from the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, and another in sociology from Tribhuvan University in Nepal.

Originally from Nepal, Jha is excited about the diversity of crops the California offers. "I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge, especially in tomatoes, cottons, almonds and pistachios," he said.

Jha is based at the UC Merced-Sierra Nevada Research Institute and can be reached at [prajha@ucanr.edu](mailto:prajha@ucanr.edu).



## **Khodadadi Named UCCE Plant Pathology Specialist**

Fatemeh Khodadadi joined UC Riverside in October as an assistant professor of extension in the Department of Plant Pathology. She brings expertise in fungal and bacterial diseases of fruit and nut trees and an increasing interest in subtropical plant diseases caused by a variety of plant pathogens.

Khodadadi's research focuses on plant pathogens and disease management strategies for subtropical trees, especially citrus and avocado. She studies identification, characterization and development of molecular methods to detect fungal, bacterial and viral diseases affecting citrus and avocado, including but not limited to avocado branch canker and dieback caused by *Botryosphaeria* species, phytophthora root rot, sweet orange scab caused by *Elsinöe australis*, avocado sunblotch viroid and other problematic pathogens on citrus and avocado in California. She also studies the citrus and avocado defense responses to pathogens and the efficacy of fungicides and bactericides.

See UC ANR NEW HIRES on PAGE 9



# UC ANR New Hires

Continued from PAGE 8

Before joining UC Cooperative Extension, she held postdoctoral fellowships at Cornell University and Virginia Tech conducting research in bacteriology, mycology, genomics, plant pathology and plant disease management focusing on *Colletotrichum* species (bitter rot of apple), *Erwinia amylovora* (fire blight), and *Diplocarpon coronaria* (apple leaf and fruit blotch).

She identified, described and characterized for the first time a new *Colletotrichum* species that causes apple bitter rot and belongs to the *C. gloeosporioides* species complex. Her team named it *C. noveboracense*.

Khodadadi earned her M.S. and Ph.D. at Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Iran. For her M.S., she studied aflatoxin-producing fungi contaminating pistachio. In her Ph.D. research, partly conducted at UC Davis, she studied the interaction between walnut and bacterial blight disease caused by *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *juglandis* (Xaj).

Khodadadi is based in the UC Riverside Department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology and can be reached at [fatemeh.khodadadi@ucr.edu](mailto:fatemeh.khodadadi@ucr.edu). She will be posting about her research at <https://subtropicalplantpathology.com/category/blog-posts/>.



## Dompka To Help Spark Economy In Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties

Alec Dompka began with UC ANR on Oct. 20 as a rural communities economic development advisor. He will serve as technical support for economic development projects in Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity counties.

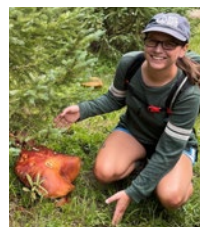
Dompka said he aims to help local communities by working with government entities and private businesses to coordinate and facilitate beneficial projects.

"In this position, I hope to engage with people in the counties to tie them more closely with planning their economic development," Dompka said. "I hope to show that economic development in rural communities can be locally led and directed, inclusive and effective."

By applying technical knowledge and science-based expertise to these projects, Dompka said he also hopes to "generate research that pushes forward our understanding of what economic development looks like for rural communities."

Born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, Dompka earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina State, double-majoring in political science and economics. He also holds an M.A. in agricultural and natural resources economics from NC State.

Dompka is based at the Del Norte County UC Cooperative Extension office in Crescent City and can be reached at (707) 464-4711 or [adompka@ucanr.edu](mailto:adompka@ucanr.edu). Follow him on Twitter @Alec\_rural\_dev.



## Pearsons Named IPM Advisor for Monterey County

Kirsten Pearsons began working as a UC Cooperative Extension integrated pest management entomology advisor for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties on Nov. 7. This is a new role for Pearsons, who joined UC ANR

in March as a small farms advisor in San Luis Obispo County.

Pearsons focuses on insect-related concerns on the Central Coast, such as impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV), a disease transmitted to lettuce by thrips, and identifying possible solutions. In collaboration with USDA scientists and her UC colleagues, Pearsons is researching the biology and ecology of the thrips populations that vector INSV to identify existing tools and new strategies that can help growers manage thrips and INSV.

Though her research focuses on lettuce and cole crops, Pearsons also supports berry growers and other specialty crop producers in the region with large-scale producers and agricultural pest control advisers as current clients.

Pearsons earned a bachelor's in environmental toxicology from UC Davis and a Ph.D. in entomology from Pennsylvania State University, studying how pest management strategies adopted in field crop systems affect non-target soil invertebrates.

During her undergraduate studies at UC Davis, Pearsons was curious to know what alternatives existed for broad-spectrum pesticides.

"Funny enough, I took my first entomology class just to get a basic idea of insect biology, because a lot of what I was learning in my toxicology courses had to do with insecticides," she said. "The staff and the other students in the entomology department were so awesome that it didn't take much for me to completely fall for the subject."

Prior to UC ANR, Pearsons worked for the Rodale Institute, an organic research institute in Pennsylvania.

Pearsons is based out of the UCCE Monterey Bay County office and can be reached at [kapearsons@ucanr.edu](mailto:kapearsons@ucanr.edu).



## Nguyen Named UCCE Food Safety and Organic Production Advisor

Cuong "Jimmy" Nguyen joined UC Cooperative Extension on Nov. 1 as an assistant food safety and organic production area advisor for Imperial and Riverside counties.

"Organic produce has a shorter shelf life and is more susceptible to outbreaks, recalls and food-borne illness due to the lack of chemical sanitizers and fungicides," Nguyen said. "Therefore, my future research agenda will continue the focus on improving the quality and safety of organic produce commodities by developing alternatives to chemical fumigations/fungicides, as well as organic pest management without the use of chemical sanitizer or pesticide."

While earning his Ph.D. in food science at UC Davis, Nguyen developed two novel sanitizing platforms for surface decontamination and liquid systems disinfection. The two systems involve the newly discovered synergistic disinfection effect between natural antimicrobials and UV-A light treatment or ultrasound treatment.

"I am also interested in rapid detection methods using bacteriophage targeting foodborne microbes, and microscopic detection of bacterial microcolonies for early screening and prevention of foodborne outbreaks," he said.

Nguyen earned a master's degree at Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan, where he studied sensory and food safety quality of meat, and a bachelor's degree in agriculture at Nong Lam University in Vietnam, where he studied postharvest technologies for food and vegetable commodities.

## Farm, Ranch and Transitional Use Properties



<b>TABLE GRAPES</b> <b>\$27,500±/AC &amp; \$28,500±/AC</b> 119.92± & 150.27± acres, Delano Earlimart Irrigation District, Lower Tule River Irrigation District, Quality Varieties, Productive Soils.	<b>DRY LAND</b> <b>\$2,105±/AC</b> 290.41± acres, Taft Area, Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD Non-Contract, West Kern WD Residential service, Recreational and Rural home site, Rental Income.
<b>WALNUTS PRICED REDUCED \$22,099±/AC</b> 149.33± acres, Lindmore ID and Wells, Productive Soils, Lindsay, CA.	<b>ALMONDS PRICED REDUCED \$23,516±/AC</b> 295.46± acres, Arvin Area, Arvin Edison WSD Contract Water, 2 Wells, Excellent Soils, Almonds in Full Production.
<b>ALMONDS PRICED REDUCED \$31,997±/AC</b> 155.73± acres, Wasco Area, 2 SOURCES OF SEMI-TROPIC WSD CONTRACT WATER, 1 Well, Solar, Class 1 soils, Almonds in full production.	<b>NEW LISTING WALNUTS, TABLE GRAPES, PISTACHIOS \$31,790±/AC</b> 345.95± acres, Selma Area, North Fork GSA, Excellent Soils, Quality Well Water, Diversified Portfolio, Solar System.
<b>FARMLAND PRICED REDUCED \$12,000±/AC</b> 156.96± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 well, Productive soils, and Perfect for permanent crops.	<b>ALMONDS PRICED REDUCED \$18,457±/AC</b> 394.47± acres, Wasco Area, Semi Tropic non-contract water, 3 wells, 863.4±KW Solar System, Productive Soils, Almonds in full production.
<b>DRY LAND PRICED REDUCED \$2,250±/AC</b> 160 acres, mostly grade 1 soils, Near Valley Acres.	<b>TABLE GRAPES PRICED REDUCED \$32,000±/AC</b> 406.65± acres, Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Quality Varieties, Excellent Soils.
<b>WINE GRAPES \$18,378±/AC</b> 161.06± acres, Wasco area, Semi-Tropic WSD non-contract water, 1 Well, High-Density planting, Quality varieties, Productive Soils.	<b>ALMONDS AND FARMLAND \$21,790±/AC</b> 995.11± acres, Wasco Area, Semi-Tropic WSD Contract and non-contract water, 5 wells, Productive Soils, and Almonds in full production.
<b>NEW LISTING PISTACHIOS \$51,898±/AC</b> 237.31± acres, Wasco Area, Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Pistachios in Full Production, Productive Soils.	

When it is time to sell your farm there is only 1 decision!  
Pearson Realty a Tradition in Trust Since 1919



**ROBB M. STEWART, AFM**  
[rstewart@pearsonrealty.com](mailto:rstewart@pearsonrealty.com)  
661.303.2930



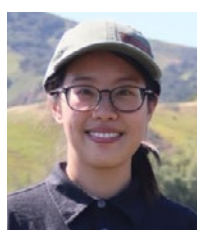
**4900 California Ave 210B,**  
**Bakersfield, CA 93309**  
**www.pearsonrealty.com**



**KAMERON M. STEWART**  
[kstewart@pearsonrealty.com](mailto:kstewart@pearsonrealty.com)  
661.809.1817

He is fluent in English, Japanese and Vietnamese.

Nguyen is based in Holtville and can be reached at (442) 265-7700 and [cgnguyen@ucanr.edu](mailto:cgnguyen@ucanr.edu).



## Wang Named UCCE Plant Pathology Advisor

Yu-Chen Wang joined UC Cooperative Extension Oct. 3 as a plant pathology advisor for Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties.

"Vegetable and berry are the major crops I work on currently," said Wang, who will be working with a wide range of crops and different cropping systems on the Central Coast. "So far, I have been contacted by a wide range of growers – including (those who grow) lettuce, broccoli, pepper, celery, bean, apple, strawberry and blackberry – about their disease problems. I am passionate about providing insight to help the community on their disease problems."

"The lettuce industry here is suffering from impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) vectored by Western flower thrip along with soilborne diseases," she said. Lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley lost an estimated \$50 million to \$100 million last year and a lettuce supply shortage occurred. Working alongside fellow advisors, UC specialists and industry partners, Wang will be seeking long-term solutions for the industry.

Prior to becoming a UCCE advisor, Wang worked at AVRDC-World Vegetable Center, for a vegetable seed company, and at UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center on research and development.

Wang, a native of Taipei, Taiwan, earned her B.S. and M.S. in horticultural and crop science at National Taiwan University. She earned a second M.S. in

plant protection from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

"The idea of farmers feeding the world and awareness of crop loss by pests motivated me to pursue a career in agriculture and plant protection," she said. "During my M.S. at Cal Poly, I worked closely with the California strawberry growers on industry-oriented research. I look forward to extending my study to vegetable and berry crops and serving the farming community."

Wang is based in Watsonville and can be reached at [yckwang@ucanr.edu](mailto:yckwang@ucanr.edu) and (831) 201-9689.



## Hooper Named UCCE Urban Community Resiliency Advisor

Ashley Hooper joined UC ANR on Sept. 1 as the UC Cooperative Extension urban community resiliency advisor in Los Angeles County, a brand-new position. In her role, Hooper is tasked with working with communities who have historically been disadvantaged due to inequitable systems and/or policies.

In collaboration with the community, Hooper will lead efforts focused on building resilience and adaptive capacity. This could look like increasing the community's access to capital, green space, transportation, nutritious food or education.

She already has leveraged data, collected by different organizations, to conduct a content analysis of needs assessments across dimensions of community resilience, such as access to parks and healthcare. Then, as next steps, she will prioritize interviews and field observations.

See UC ANR NEW HIRES on PAGE 10



## UC ANR New Hires

*Continued from PAGE 9*

During her master's program, Hooper worked as a research assistant for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, where she led interviews with community members facing or trying to counter various inequities like limited access to broadband, housing and health care. For her Ph.D. dissertation, she focused on identifying barriers to and opportunities for resilient food systems in Los Angeles County.

After attending the California Economic Summit in October, Hooper shared her excitement for the prospect of using the arts in building community resilience.

"I went to a creative-economy working group session, and I was reminded of how much the arts and cultural community has to offer in the process of building adaptive capacity in communities," she said.

Hooper earned a Ph.D. in urban and environmental planning and policy from UC Irvine. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in water resources with a concentration in policy and management from the University of New Mexico.

Hooper is based out of the UCCE office in Los Angeles County and can be reached at [asmhooper@ucanr.edu](mailto:asmhooper@ucanr.edu).



### **Solins Joins UC ANR As New Environmental Horticulture Advisor**

Joanna Solins joined UC ANR on Oct. 3 as a UC Cooperative Extension environmental horticulture advisor for Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties.

Solins will focus on research and outreach related to urban plants, landscaping and climate change, while building relationships with county and munic-

ipal governments, nonprofits, landscape and tree care professionals, nursery growers and utilities, among others. She also will support the UC Master Gardener coordinators in her assigned counties, collaborating to extend knowledge and resources to community members.

"My core goals are to improve the climate suitability and ecological performance of urban landscaping and promote the equitable distribution of benefits from urban plants," Solins said.

After attaining a bachelor's degree in environmental studies at Vassar College, Solins began her career leading outreach education programs for the New England Aquarium and writing for educational publishers. She also worked in communications at the Coral Reef Alliance in San Francisco before starting graduate school at UC Davis, which culminated in a master's in geography and Ph.D. in ecology.

Solins' research at UC Davis combined field studies and geographic information system analysis to investigate plant communities, tree canopy and soils along urban creeks in the Sacramento area. She also carried out postdoctoral research on green stormwater infrastructure, urban forest composition, and the water demand of urban vegetation across California, and contributed to projects examining residential landscaping and urban heat in Sacramento.

Solins is based in Sacramento and can be reached at [jsolins@ucanr.edu](mailto:jsolins@ucanr.edu) or (916) 875-2409.



### **Mar Named UCCE Organic Materials Management Advisor**

Stephanie Mar joined UC Cooperative Extension on Oct. 3 as the assistant organic materials management advisor serving Los Angeles, Orange

and San Diego counties. Mar is responsible for investigating ways to divert organic wastes from landfills to alternative end markets, such as circular food economies, composting and wastewater reclamation.

"To me, waste doesn't have an end life, just a next life," said Mar. "A lot of people don't know what happens to their waste after the garbage truck comes or they flush a toilet, so a part of my job is to understand what we are wasting and what happens to it."

Mar attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a master's degree in public health focused on environmental science and engineering, and a master's degree in city and regional planning focused on land use and environmental planning. She also has a bachelor's degree in public health from UC Berkeley.

Much of Mar's professional experience, like her time working for the City of Berkeley, is centered on community outreach and policy development, two strengths that she believes will serve her well in this new role.

Previously, Mar worked as a public health analyst for UC San Francisco and as a social research analyst with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services too. Both of which strengthened her understanding of policy and program development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

"Research gives us a lot of information, but then there's a need for translation from what we know to what it actually means," she said. "There are a lot of people doing different things [to manage their waste], so there's a need for coordination and dispersal of information."

Mar's background in policy development is something she'll rely on to operationalize the research being done by herself and her colleagues.

Behavioral change is one of Mar's anticipated challenges in this role. Even if research and policy efforts

yield successful results, encouraging the community to adapt can be an uphill battle.

"Sorting trash, for example, is more of a mental burden than a physical one," she explained. "We know what the research says and what we need to do, it's just about developing the market to make it happen."

Mar is based out of Irvine at the South Coast Research and Extension Center and can be reached at [samar@ucanr.edu](mailto:samar@ucanr.edu).



### **Dobbin Named UCCE Water Justice Policy and Planning Specialist**

Kristin Dobbin has joined UC ANR and the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley as a UC

Cooperative Extension specialist focused on water justice policy and planning.

Originally from Utah, Dobbin comes to Rausser College from UC Los Angeles' Luskin Center for Innovation, where she was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow. Dobbin pairs her love for rural communities, community natural resource management and environmental justice organizing with a strong belief that research can and should play an important role in advancing policy. She hopes to leverage her new position, the first of its kind for UC, to uplift community water managers and impacted residents as leaders and experts in conversations surrounding water management and access.

"It's a dream and a responsibility to be assuming a role that so perfectly weds research and impact," Dobbin tweeted about her new UC Cooperative Extension water justice policy and planning specialist role.

Dobbin earned her Ph.D. in ecology with an emphasis

*See UC ANR NEW HIRES on PAGE 11*

# It's Just Your Size.

Carry cargo, passengers, or somewhere in-between.

**SPRINTER**  
Reliable. Hard working. **Full-sized.**



**METRIS**  
Reliable. Hard working. **Mid-sized.**



Schedule a Test Drive  
**(661) 836-3737**

\* Excludes all options, taxes, title, registration, transportation charge and dealer prep fee. Options shown. Not all options are available in the U.S. For a full offering and pricing information, visit your local Mercedes-Benz Vans dealership. Starting at prices represent gas engine Sprinter models. Delayed availability

**Mercedes-Benz**  
of Bakersfield  
Bakersfield Automall (661) 836-3737





UC ANR New Hires

Continued from PAGE 10

in environmental policy and human ecology from UC Davis and B.A. in environmental analysis from Pitzer College in Claremont. Prior to graduate school, she worked for the Community Water Center – a grassroots environmental justice organization that advances community-driven solutions for water justice in the Central Valley.

Dobbin is based at UC Berkeley and can be reached at [kdbobbin@berkeley.edu](mailto:kdbobbin@berkeley.edu) and on Twitter [@kdbobbin](https://twitter.com/kdbobbin).



Shive Named UCCE Forest and Fuels Management Specialist

Kristen Shive has joined UC ANR and the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley as a UC

Cooperative Extension specialist focused on forest and fuels management.

Bringing more than 20 years of experience in conservation, forest and fire management, and ecology, her work broadly focuses on restoring fire to fire-adapted ecosystems, prioritizing areas for restoration, and understanding shifting fire regimes. Prior to joining UC ANR, Shive led the forest program science team for The Nature Conservancy’s California Chapter and was the director of science for Save the Redwoods League. She also has worked for the National Park Service in Alaska, California, and Wyoming, most recently as the fire ecologist for Yosemite National Park.

She earned her master’s degree in forestry from Northern Arizona University and a Ph.D. in ecosystem science from UC Berkeley.

Shive is based at UC Berkeley and can be reached at [kshive@berkeley.edu](mailto:kshive@berkeley.edu) and (630) 917-5170 and on Twitter [@klshive](https://twitter.com/klshive).



Rodriguez Joins 4-H As Advisor in Northern California

Matt Rodriguez joined UC Cooperative Extension on

Sept. 5 as a 4-H youth development advisor for Nevada, Placer, Sutter and Yuba counties. As a 4-H advisor, Rodriguez implements extension education and applied research programs grounded in positive youth development theory. He also provides expertise to enhance volunteer engagement in 4-H youth development programs.

Rodriguez earned his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland’s School of Public Health in the Department of Family Science. His dissertation, “Influence of Latinx Fathers’ Behaviors, Cognitions, Affect, and Family Congruence on Youth Energy Balance-Related Health Outcomes,” investigated Latinx father involvement in the context of youth energy balance-related behaviors. During his doctoral training, Rodriguez also supported several USDA-funded research initiatives involving Latinx fathers and youth. His recent publication, “Predictors Associated with Fathers’ Successful Completion of the FOCUS Program,” investigated a sample of fathers in Texas who participated in a child welfare parenting intervention.

Rodriguez currently co-chairs the Men in Families focus group at the National Council on Family Relations. He was also recently elected as Section Counselor for the American Public Health Association’s Health Informatics Information Technology section.

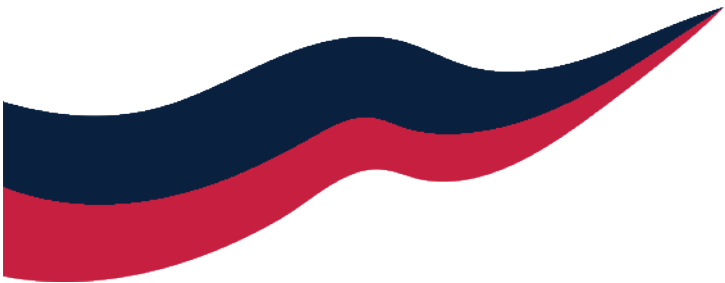
Prior to his doctoral studies, Rodriguez was a professional web developer for several large nonprofits in the Midwest. Growing up in a multi-cultural family with ancestry deriving from Puerto Rico, Japan, Nigeria and England, he embraces the importance of cultural diversity and competency in his family science research.

Rodriguez is based in Auburn and can be reached at (530) 889-7391 and [mrro@ucanr.edu](mailto:mrro@ucanr.edu) and on social media [@MattR\\_Rodriguez](https://twitter.com/MattR_Rodriguez).

*UC Agriculture and Natural Resources brings the power of UC to all 58 California counties. Through research and Cooperative Extension in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, economic and youth development, our mission is to improve the lives of all Californians. Learn more at [ucanr.edu](http://ucanr.edu) and support our work at [donate.ucanr.edu](http://donate.ucanr.edu).*



VALLEY PACIFIC



Delivered Fuels | Lubricants | CFN Cardlock

We proudly sell products from these brands and more!



We Fuel California

Family Owned & Locally Managed Since 1947

9521 Enos Lane Bakersfield, CA 93314  
(661)746-7737 | [www.ValleyPacific.com](http://www.ValleyPacific.com)



SERVING CALIFORNIA GROWERS SINCE 1992



DUST CONTROL

MAG CHLORIDE  
OIL BASED PRODUCTS  
SC250 - SC800 - SS1H  
PENNZSUPPRESS  
LIGNOSULFONATE  
TERRALIG FS

Contact American Ag Today  
661-833-8311 | [Office@AmericanAgInc.com](mailto:Office@AmericanAgInc.com)  
[AmericanAgInc.com](http://AmericanAgInc.com)



# Customer Demand for Cling Peaches Exceeds Production



**By Christine Souza,  
Assistant Editor Ag Alert**

*Reprinted with permission from  
the California Farm Bureau  
Federation*

California cling-peach sector leaders report that times are good for processed fruit. But taking a lesson from past years of crop oversupply and low prices, they caution growers to secure a contract before planting more acres.

“Our industry is in the best overall position that it has been in for many years,” Rich Hudgins, president and CEO of the California Canning Peach Association, told growers who gathered for the organization’s 101st annual meeting in Sacramento on Jan. 24.

“With customer demands currently exceeding our 2022 production, our canners are making a reasonable profit in the marketplace, while peach growers received a fair price for 2022 crop,” Hudgins said.

A key challenge is to avoid the overplanting and over-contracting mistakes that occurred in 2016 and 2017, which resulted in several years of over-supply, he said.

Sutter County farmer Ranjit Davit, who was re-elected as California Canning Peach Association board chairman, said a goal of the cling peach sector is to remain in a balance.

“In the coffee shops, you hear growers say they are



*Photo credit: California Farm Bureau Federation*

pulling walnut orchards, and ‘let’s plant peaches,’ and you hear pear growers say they want to be peach farmers,” Davit said, recalling that farmers and processors have watched the sector consolidate acres and number of processors. “As we move forward to accommodate our processors’ efforts to increase supply to keep up on current market demand by contracting for new plantings, we must be sure as growers and processors that we don’t oversupply our marketing position.”

California cling peach growers produced 204,440 tons of peaches for canned and frozen fruit markets in 2022, down 9% from 2021. The contract price to growers from processors, including Pacific Coast Producers and Del Monte, was \$603 per ton, up from \$518

per ton in 2021, according to the association.

Considering impacts from spring frosts and hailstorms, the association said it reached out to processors to change terms of sale to meet 2022-23 market demand. There were 13,700 bearing acres in 2022.

Matt Strong, president and CEO of Pacific Coast Producers, said during his keynote address that there is an undersupply of cling peaches due to a shortage of bearing acres and low yields due to weather challenges.

Strong said PCP, the world’s largest fruit canner, has contracted new plantings in 2023. He anticipates having 130,000 tons of cling peaches this year. Any gap in supply would be filled with exports, primarily from China and Greece. “Going forward, we (at PCP) are targeting a total production of

about 140,000 tons. We are not signing up any new acres,” Strong said.

Estimated statewide crop size for cling peaches this year is 206,000 tons for a three-year average yield and 223,600 tons for a 10-year average yield, according to the association.

Strong said he is optimistic about the future of the canned peach industry.

“COVID provided a nice recovery for our retail markets and current economic conditions will provide tailwinds in the near future,” he said. “Additionally, we must work hard every day to bring consumers into the canned food aisle so they can experience the flavor, nutrition and value of our products.”

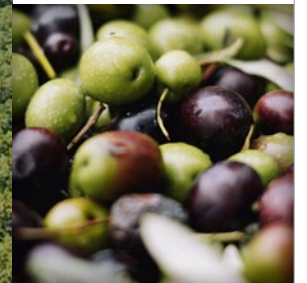
A potential positive for cling peaches is the “Buy American” legislation enacted in California last year, which requires California schools to purchase domestic food products unless the price for the foreign sourced product is more than 25% less than domestic product pricing or if the item was not produced in sufficient quantity domestically. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2024.

“There are many reasons to be optimistic about the coming year,” Hudgins said. “Our state has some of the most fertile soil in the country and it now appears that our water situation has improved compared to last year.”

He said potential wildcards are weather, labor availability and impact of imports on the domestic market.

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

**We’re large enough to serve and small enough to care.**



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





# CAU Career Day Uncovers the Modern Aerial Applicator

**Jon Slikker Jr., Aerial Applicator, Vince Dusters**

The California Aeronautical University (CAU) held its annual career day for its flight students and prospective students from all around the San Joaquin Valley and Bakersfield, California. Over 700 students explored a large assortment of possible aviation career paths including associated career



Dan Gudgel and Jon Slikker Jr. (Photo credit Jon Slikker Jr.)

paths that support aviation. Inspiring possible future aviators to the world of crop dusting, the California Agricultural Aircraft Association with support from the National Agricultural Aviation Association played a significant role in highlighting

the Agricultural Aviation field. Local (Bakersfield) operator Jon Slikker Jr. and Master meteorologist /ag pilot Dan Gudgel highlighted the industry by answering questions and giving tours of the aircraft flown in the modern era.

Aerial Application was able to stand out to the students because of the “large” aircraft Air Tractor 502A provided by Vince Dusters. Many students were surprised that such a large aircraft was used in aerial applications. Many also commented that the avionics and GPS systems appeared complex and modern. The common misconception when thinking about crop dusting is that we still use Stearman round motor airplanes with no instruments and the aircraft are simple and dirty. We highlighted the opposite. Aerial application is more than simply flying an airplane through a field, dispensing crop protection products to protect the field from devastation. Aerial applications require precision, thoughtfulness, and a background in agriculture. The combination of modern airplanes and equipment aid pilots in making super precise applications starts at the beginning of pilots’ training.

The complexity of the knowledge described to do the job combined with the modern aircraft showed students that the industry is worthy of a second look.



Dan Gudgel speaks with students at CAU Career Day. (Photo credit Jon Slikker Jr.)

## Sample Irrigation Water Early

*Continued from PAGE 1*

According to Holloway Director of Agronomy Steve Lenander, “both well and district sources need to be tested to ensure that toxic levels of Sodium (Na) and Chloride (Cl) do not exist” before growers start pouring on the water this spring.

Lenander added that Chloride is an anion that can be leached with water early in the season as long as the soil remains open and penetrates well.

On the other hand, Sodium is a cation and will attach to soil particles and become toxic to the crop. Fortunately, Sodium can be displaced with a heavier cation in calcium.

In both instances, Lenander points out, a customized gypsum application can offset the ill-effects of poor water quality and also improve penetration and soil health.

“Water is our No. 1 input,” Lenander concluded.

“Now is the time to get out there and get water samples, to ensure the water you’re putting on isn’t going to hurt the crop. If we can discover an issue today, it’s going to prevent a lot of headaches later in the season.”

This spring, our agronomist team recommends testing all irrigation water sources for the common issues found in your region’s specific water supplies.

And the sooner the better given the narrow window for early-season sampling and associated applications. As the crop develops and the weather warms, tree limbs get heavier and start to droop, which makes running application equipment a lot harder on the crop, equipment and operators.

Contact Holloway at [HollowayAg.com](http://HollowayAg.com) for more information on soil, water and tissue sampling programs.

## LIQUA-JIP®

### 8% Calcium

LIQUA-JIP is designed to provide a safe, 100% soluble form of Calcium ion that can be injected into the irrigation water. LIQUA-JIP increases the Calcium Ion concentration in the soil solution making Calcium more available for plant uptake.



## Maintaining Soil Cation Balance

- LIQUA-JIP is a free form of liquid Calcium, derived from Calcium Amino and complexed with proprietary Organic Acids
- The solubility of calcium in LIQUA-JIP is >100 times that of other forms of gypsum
- Improves soil texture, soil flocculation and helps with water penetration
- Helps strengthen root systems contributing to increased plant vigor and higher yields
- Provides high concentrations of Calcium, essential for adding solidity to nut crops
- The lining found in LIQUA-JIP has been shown to suppress nematodes in the soil
- Calcium in LIQUA-JIP is complexed and chelated
- LIQUA-JIP helps displace sodium ions; aiding in the leaching of excess salts away from roots
- Applied through various irrigation systems with no concerns of clogging filters, emitters or nozzles
- No settling of product as LIQUA-JIP stays in solution
- When applied through irrigation, Liqua-Jip will replace dry gypsum applications, thereby reducing application costs and compaction issues
- In season rescue treatment during periods of drought when conventional gypsum is still sitting on the soil surface

## CALL TO START SAVING TODAY!

Sales:

**Mark Armstrong**

(661) 319-3690

[mark@westernnutrientscorp.com](mailto:mark@westernnutrientscorp.com)

Or consult one of our distributors:

**San Joaquin Nutrients**

Sales:

**Wes Miller**

(661) 428-3132

[wes@sjnutrients.com](mailto:wes@sjnutrients.com)

We guarantee quality and the ability to ship the best products in their class at competitive prices world wide.



**661-327-9604**

[Info@WesternNutrientsCorp.com](mailto:Info@WesternNutrientsCorp.com)  
[WesternNutrientsCorp.com](http://WesternNutrientsCorp.com)



# Almond Board Announces Exceptional 2023 Almond Leadership Class

**The outstanding 14th class of professionals begins a year-long immersion to become the next great leaders of the California almond industry.**

*Press Release provided by the Almond Board of California*

The Almond Board of California (ABC) is proud to announce the Almond Leadership Program class of 2023, a group of 18 exceptional professionals expected to help lead the industry into the future.

This next generation of leaders was chosen from nearly 50 highly qualified applicants. They come from diverse backgrounds across the full range of the industry, and include growers and processors, sales and real estate representatives, consultants, pest control advisors and more.

The Almond Leadership Program (ALP) began in 2009 and has graduated more than 200 industry members. Dozens now serve on ABC workgroups, committees and even the Board of Directors.

“The industry is seeing the enormous benefits from more than a decade of the leadership program, and while we seem to say this every year, this 2023 class is simply outstanding,” said Rebecca Bailey, the ABC specialist who oversees ALP. “This program helps great people become great leaders. It’s clear that these talented,



passionate people will continue to be great assets and advocates for our industry for years.”

Members of this 14th class – while still working at their jobs – will be immersed in every aspect of the industry, including ABC activities in global marketing, production, nutrition research, food

safety and more. They’ll sharpen their communication skills and build lasting relationships with industry leaders, ABC staff and each other.

“I’m honored to be joining a group of industry leaders who will be taking both the almond industry and the agriculture community into the future,” said 2023 participant Diane Power, a sixth generation California farmer and sales associate in Modesto with Pearson Realty. “I look forward to all the experiences and opportunities we will have to learn about the almond industry, and to the many relationships we will form through this year.”

Class members will be guided by volunteer mentors – many of them ALP graduates – who will help them develop the skills, knowledge and perspective to improve their industry and their communities.

“We all play unique roles in the almond industry,” said 2023 class member Megan Chicoine, the general manager of U.S. operational support for Manulife Investment Management in Redding. “As young emerging leaders, we

have the ability to make significant impacts by actively participating in our industry.”

The leadership program will also offer class members thorough looks at the impacts on the industry of social, economic and environmental issues and the regulatory climate. In addition, participants will take on a yearlong, self-directed project focused on improving the California almond industry. Some past projects have led to important breakthroughs for the industry.

Leadership class members kicked off their training with a two-day orientation a week ago at the ABC offices in Modesto, which included one-on-one talks with their mentors.

“The one thing everyone has in common is they love agriculture,” said mentor Chandler Wilson, a technical sales rep for NutriAg USA. “We all want to be better. The mentors believe in the program, and many have been through it. We’re eager to give back to the industry and these new leaders. We’ll share our experiences in and out of ALP, and together, we’ll all learn and grow as individuals and professionals through the whole process.”

Once again, class members will raise money for California FFA, pledging to raise more than \$25,000 in scholarships for high school students interested in pursuing agriculture in college. Through the years, ALP has raised more than \$225,000 for FFA.

The 2023 Almond Leadership class members are Alana Ambrosino, Ripon Manufacturing Company, Inc.; James Broadus, BASF Agricultural Solutions; Destiny Camden, BeeHero Inc; Chris Chavez, of; Megan Chicoine, Manulife Investment Management; Lincoln Denlinger, Salida Ag; Lauren Dutra, Ceres Imaging; Brian Ganyo, Bayer Crop Science; Robert Gray, Burchell Nursery; Darryl Hadlich, WiseConn Engineering; Thomas Martin, TRÉCÉ Inc.; Erick Mendonca, Miller Chemical; Chris Miller, Blue Diamond Growers; Vance Millwee, Treehouse California Almonds, LLC; Mitchell Moreda, RPAC LLC; Diane Power, Pearson Realty; Matthew Reamer, South Valley Farms; and Tylor Wilbourn, BeeHero Inc.

Bayer Crop Science has sponsored ALP for a number of years and is the sponsor of the 2023 class.



**LEAVE YOUR MARK  
ON EVERYTHING.\*  
MARCOMBRANDING.COM**

We can put your mark on anything under the sun. Mousepads to mugs and tats to floor mats, we’ve got your swag.

**We get it. Done.<sup>SM</sup>**  
(\*Even if your name isn’t Mark.)



## C & H FENCE & PATIO

[candhfence.com](http://candhfence.com)

1967

56<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

2023

Lic: #397784

- Electric Gate Operators
- Swimming Pool Fencing
- Ornamental Iron
- Security Doors
- Commercial / Residential / Farm
- Construction Fence Rentals

AFA

BBB

**Oldest and most  
experienced fence  
company in the  
Southern San  
Joaquin Valley!**

**Thank you for 56 years of serving you!**

**BAKERSFIELD**

**661-327-4786**

**VISALIA**

**559-651-0772**

**DELANO**

**661-725-3600**





# California Unveils Plan to Sustainably Manage Pests and Eliminate High-risk Pesticides by 2050

*Press Release provided by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation*

On January 26th, the state joined leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds to unveil a roadmap of ambitious goals and actions to accelerate California's systemwide transition to sustainable pest management and eliminate prioritized high-risk pesticides by 2050 to better protect the health of our communities and environment, while supporting agriculture, food systems and community well-being.

The Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap for California – released by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture – charts a course for the state's transition to sustainable pest management in agricultural and urban settings.

The roadmap was developed over nearly two years by a diverse, cross-sector group of stakeholders representing conventional and organic agriculture, urban environments, community and environmental groups, tribes, researchers, and government.

"For decades, California has used pesticides to protect our crops, our cities, our homes, and our businesses from pests," said Yana Garcia, California's Secretary for Environmental Protection. "Exposure to harmful pesticides carries risks – to our health and to our environment – and these risks are disproportionately borne by communities already overburdened by pollution. If we truly want to build a healthy and safe California for all, we must phase out and replace the highest-risk pesticides, and the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap is a bold, new plan to get us there."

Sustainable pest management is a holistic, systemwide approach that builds on the practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by incorporating essential elements of human health and social equity, environmental protection, and economic vitality. IPM uses the least toxic, effective method to solve pest problems. While IPM has been practiced to varying degrees for decades, it hasn't been adopted at scale, across the board, in agriculture or in urban or wildland settings, which is why the holistic, system-

wide approach recommended through the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap is a necessary evolution.

"The Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap recognizes how the management of pest pressures is strongly interconnected with resilient farms and ecosystems, and the health of farmworkers and communities," said Cdfa Secretary, Karen Ross. "We have a lot of work ahead to implement the approaches outlined in the roadmap. However, the implementation of these recommendations will ensure an abundant and healthful food supply, protect our natural resources, and create healthy, resilient communities."

The Sustainable Pest Management Work Group was formed in response to both a recommendation from the state's Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Work Group, and the Governor's, CalEPA's and DPR's recognition of the need to accelerate a holistic, systemwide approach to safer, more sustainable pest management. The Work Group was comprised of 25 members representing diverse interests to address sustainable pest management in agricultural settings, and an additional eight members formed an urban subgroup to address urban pest pressures specifically.

"Successfully transitioning to sustainable pest management requires collective action," said DPR Director Julie Henderson. "The critical actions outlined in the roadmap include prioritizing prevention, coordinating state-level leadership, investing in building knowledge about sustainable pest management, improving the state's registration and evaluation process to bring more sustainable alternatives to market and enhancing monitoring and statewide data collection to better inform actions."

DPR opened a public comment period on the prioritization and implementation of next steps outlined in the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap. The comment period opened today and will close at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2023. Comments can be sent to [alternatives@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:alternatives@cdpr.ca.gov) or by mail to 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812. Comments received will be considered as part of the state-level coordination on implementing the recommendations in the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap.

## Statement of Western Growers on Gov. Gavin Newsom's Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap

*Press Release provided by Western Growers*

With the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom's Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap designed to identify, prioritize and implement stringent pesticide reductions in California by 2050, Western Growers advocates for science-backed procedures to dictate how this plan is rolled out.

Matthew Allen, WG's Vice President of State Government Affairs, said: "The California

Department of Pesticide Regulation must move quickly to register effective and efficient alternatives prior to imposing new use restrictions on existing pesticides. The Department must continue to use the best available scientific data and methods in evaluating pesticides and they, frankly, have a duty to remind the public that California already has the most comprehensive regulatory system in place that protects the health and safety of applicators, bystanders and surrounding communities.



### Free Mulch!

Farm ♦ Business ♦ Home ♦ Garden

### Mulch Can Help So Much!

- 💧 Reduces Erosion
- 💧 Reduces Overexposure
- 💧 Reduces Water Evaporation
- 💧 Reduces Overwatering
- 💧 Reduces Wilting



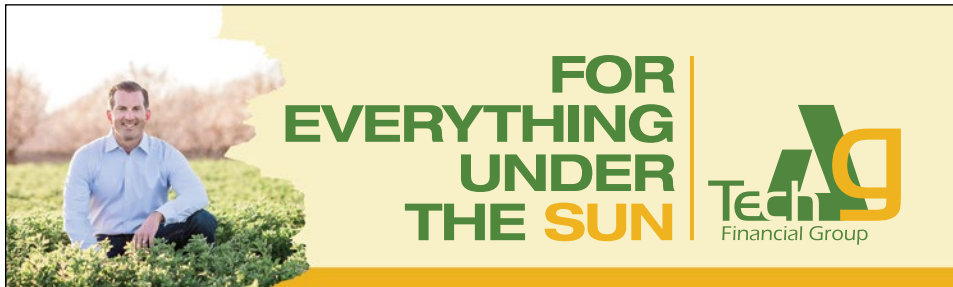
### Bakersfield Compost Facility

661-835-8873 ♦ 2601 S Mt Vernon Ave

### Available In Bulk

Tuesday – Saturday ♦ 7 AM – 3:30 PM





## MORGAN HOUCHIN

TechAg Financial Group, Inc.  
3430 Unicorn Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308

CA Broker DRE No. 01865336

Mob: 661-477-3669 | Off: 661-695-6500 | eFax: 661-384-6168  
MHouchin@TechAg.com | TechAgFinancial.com

## NEWLY PRICED



568.36 +/- Acres of Producing & Young Pistachios in  
Semitropic Water Storage District with Multiple Water Sources  
Asking Price: \$16,900,000.00 (\$29,734.68 per acre)



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT US ONLINE AT [TECHAGFINANCIAL.COM](https://www.techagfinancial.com)

follow @techagfinancial



Podcast available on



# California Sends \$15 Million to Central Valley Communities to Support Flood Control, Water Supply Reliability and Groundwater Recharge



Standing water is seen in this farmer's field in the Dunnigan area of Yolo County, which saw a dramatic amount of rainfall and rising water in early January 2023.

Press Release provided by the California Department of Water Resources

With California experiencing extreme storm events like those seen in January amid extreme drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) today awarded \$15 million to support projects in the San Joaquin Valley through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program.

The awards will provide critical funding support to implement innovative, multi-benefit projects for climate and water supply resilience as California is faced with extreme weather driven by climate change. This includes using stormwater capture to recharge the state's critically strained groundwater basins.

"While the recent storms in California helped ease drought impacts in parts of California, many rural areas that rely on groundwater like in Fresno and Kern counties are still experiencing water supply shortages," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "Today's funding will help improve water supply reliability and water quality in these communities while supporting groundwater recharge that reduces flood risk and enhances stormwater management."

These grant awards help move the state towards its goal addressed in the Governor's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future of investing in projects across California to funnel flood flows into groundwater recharge projects and stormwater capture infrastructure.

A full list of projects can be viewed here. Some of the awarded projects will achieve benefits including:

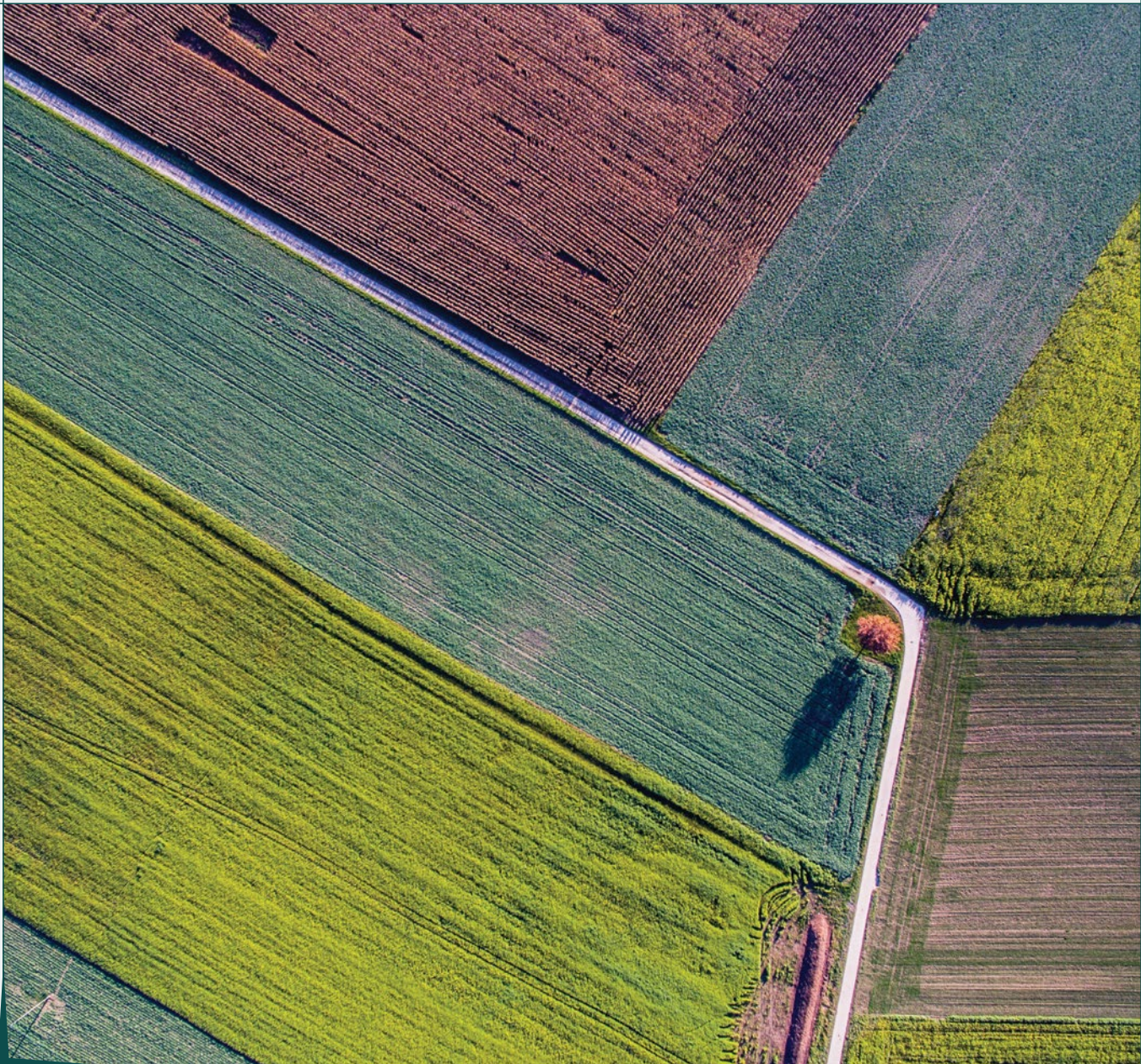
- **Water Supply Reliability:** The City of Bakersfield will partner with the Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company to provide 1,900 acre-feet per year of clean drinking water to 85 service connections and 238 people in severely disadvantaged communities. The Kings Basin Water Authority and the City of Bakersfield both will use funding to implement projects that increase water supply reliability through well rehabilitation, weir infrastructure improvements and pipeline construction.

- **Stormwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge:** The Pixley Irrigation District will construct a new 5.5-mile-long canal to provide surface water for irrigation to approximately 5,500 acres of land that currently rely on groundwater as the only source of water. The project will increase flood protection for downstream infrastructure, crops and more than 1,000 residents of the community of Alpaugh, while also capturing flood water when available for recharge.

The Kings Basin Water Authority and City of Bakersfield also received funding to increase stormwater storage, improve flood protection and pump surface water into basins in the disadvantaged community of Parlier. Another project will deliver surface water to landowners in the cities of Arvin, Edison and surrounding communities that currently rely on groundwater supplies to meet their agricultural and drinking water demands. The project will reduce groundwater pumping and provide indirect recharge to the underground aquifer.

See **GROUNDWATER RECHARGE** on PAGE 18





New name.  
Same commitment  
to your success.

Farm Credit West is now AgWest Farm Credit.

Providing agricultural financial services, backed by a century of experience—to help you grow your legacy.

Contact your local branch or visit  
[AgWestFC.com](http://AgWestFC.com) to learn more.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





**NEW HOLLAND**  
AGRICULTURE

**No DEF!**

**T4.110F**

**The Leading Vineyard Tractor**

**Berchtold.com**  
Locations in  
**Bakersfield & Delano**  
**800-691-7817**

**BERCHTOLD EQUIPMENT CO.**  
**BECO**  
SINCE 1910

**Kern County's Equipment Dealer Since 1910.**



**WANTED:**  
**Growers looking for excellence in almond processing.**

**Daniel Palla**  
Grower Relations Manager  
**661-345-6613**  
daniel@jssalmonds.com

**William Oliveira**  
Grower Relations Manager  
**559-816-5000**  
willie@jssalmonds.com

5600 Norris Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
661-328-5755  
www.jssalmonds.com

JSS Almonds is a growing processing and marketing company in Bakersfield, CA. Our facility specializes in shelled and inshell almonds, as well as organic almonds.

We strive to deliver continuously competitive and profitable returns to our growers through solid performance.

**JSS**  
**ALMONDS**

## Groundwater Recharge

*Continued from PAGE 16*

• **Water Conservation:** To help meet the State of California's requirement to have all customer water service connections metered by 2025, the City of Bakersfield received funding to install 6,500 meters at remaining unmetered service connections in the area.

Financed by voter-approved Proposition 1, the IRWM program has awarded more than \$1.7 billion throughout California, which has been matched by \$5.6 billion in local investments to help implement over 1,300 projects that foster

climate resilience by mitigating drought impacts, improving water supply reliability, reducing flood and fire risk, increasing water storage and improving water quality.

2022 marked the 20th anniversary of the IRWM program, which was established in 2002 by the passage of AB 1672, the IRWM Planning Act. The Act called for collaborative regional partnerships and development of IRWM Plans to identify local water challenges and projects to provide multi-benefit solutions. DWR will be releasing a video in March to highlight the accomplishments of the program, with special

emphasis on the climate resilience, equity and watershed solutions that have resulted across the state.

The program is one of several financial assistance programs under DWR's emerging "Go Golden" program, which is a statewide effort designed to help large organizations, water agencies and communities build long-term water conservation and water resilience planning. The "Go Golden" program includes previously funded projects through the Small Community Drought Relief program and Urban Community Drought Relief program. Interested parties can stay up to date

with the latest Go Golden announcements and news through DWR's email subscription list.

With a shifting climate making swings between drought and flood more extreme, we must implement new programs to manage water in our new climate reality. Californians should continue to use water wisely indoors and outdoors so that we can have a thriving economy, community and environment. For tips on how to conserve water, visit [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com).

For more information about upcoming grant opportunities, visit DWR's Grants and Loans webpage.

## OUR TWO CENTS PODCAST

Wisdom, advice, and insights  
from the people that make up  
the fabric of our community.

[OurTwoCentsPodcast.com](http://OurTwoCentsPodcast.com)

**HIGH QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION**  
Personal Injury · Medical Malpractice · Estate Planning  
Corporation/LLC Formation

# Experienced. Trusted. Local.

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**Kyle W. Jones**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1620 Mill Rock Way • 833-1090 • [KWJonesLaw.com](http://KWJonesLaw.com)





## Who Leads Us?

By **Joshua Stevens**  
Faith Contributor, Valley Ag Voice

### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

<sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

<sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

<sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

<sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

<sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

<sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

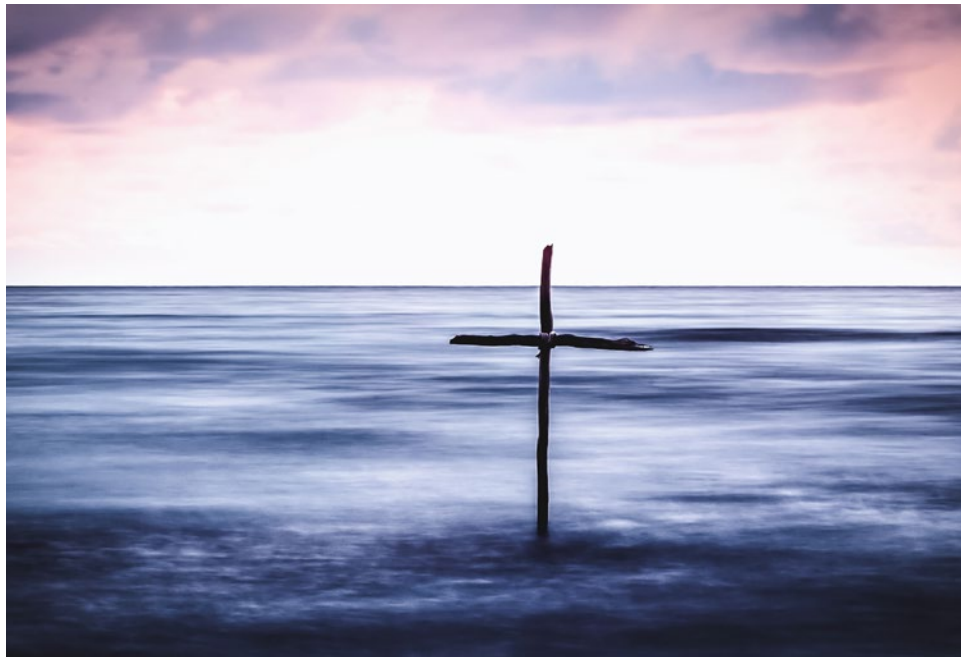
I was born in 1994, and I was fortunate enough to, from a young age, be allowed to ask questions and develop my faith on my own. I was allowed to attend different churches and watch services of differing faiths. I was not forced to believe anything, but from an early age fiercely believed

and defended the gospel of Christ. I heard the same gospel preached from both Catholic and Protestant pulpits and from Baptist to Assemblies of God. I listened and learned about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I was taught the Roman Road from death in our sins to salvation and new life in Christ.

Looking back, I was fortunate that I did not stay in one church. Instead, I listened to people who loved the Lord teach on the same fundamental principles and saw where they stood on secondary or even tertiary issues. Questions like, what role does the Holy Spirit play in communion? To what extent is baptism intertwined with the life of a Christian? Questions of the timing of creation, cessationsim, and much more were opened up for exploration of a young Christian. These early experiences helped define my faith, how I teach others, and how I defend the faith we share.

What I am most thankful for in being able to learn from different congregations at an early age is that I grew up never having the issue of idolizing a leader. Make no mistake, I was taught by wonderful people whom I look up to, and I value those lessons from pastors, elders, and professors greatly. But I was always able to maintain a clear understanding that pastor X over on Madeup Lane was not the leader of the church and elder Y over on Fantasyland Blvd was not the leader of the church. Rather, it is Christ who leads the church.

I remember when the Ravi Zacharias news first started circulating. I remember calling friends who worked in ministry, talking about it in shock, and praying about it. I remember former students and people I had worked with calling me to speak and pray. It was the first time in my life that I realized the power of this verse in Corinthians.



(Photo: Mycteria / Adobe Stock)

I knew, from a particular level, the danger of creating a figurehead for the church. Placing your faith in anything other than Christ would leave us in despair. This news struck me beyond the shocking nature of the discovery, but because I did not realize how easy it was for us to prop up our leaders on this pedestal unwittingly. I spent weeks and even months with a few close individuals as they struggled with their faith, untangling the lies, deception, and pain from the truth of the Gospel of Christ.

As Christians, we must keep a constant reminder to ourselves that our leaders are not the leaders of the church. All of us who attend are desperate sinners in dire need of our Savior. In constant need of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to sanctify us.

We must, as leaders, constantly remind our congregants that it is not I, the pastor, or I, the elder, that leads this church but Christ and Christ alone. We are not alone in our endeavor to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations. Though we do not break bread with every congregation in this city or county, we have brothers and sisters running the same race we are. We should pray for them, uplift them, and encourage them whenever

we can. Moreover, we should continually remind our flock that we ourselves are desperate sinners in dire need of our Savior--in constant need of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to sanctify us. We should not be placed on a pedestal because we have taken time to learn and teach the scripture, but we should constantly strive to keep the living Son of God at the center of our pursuits.

Let us close with a prayer,

Father, thank you for your guidance and persistence in transforming each believer into a new creation. Thank you for continuing a good work in us. As we set about our daily lives and in our regular congregations, I ask that we remember the entirety of the church that is pursuing with us Your will and that we guard against all idols in our lives and do not prop up those who seem godly but instead keep at the center of our pursuit Christ who died for us and Your glory. Let our hearts yearn for a reward not tangible in this life but to hear those hallowed words upon entering your kingdom, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

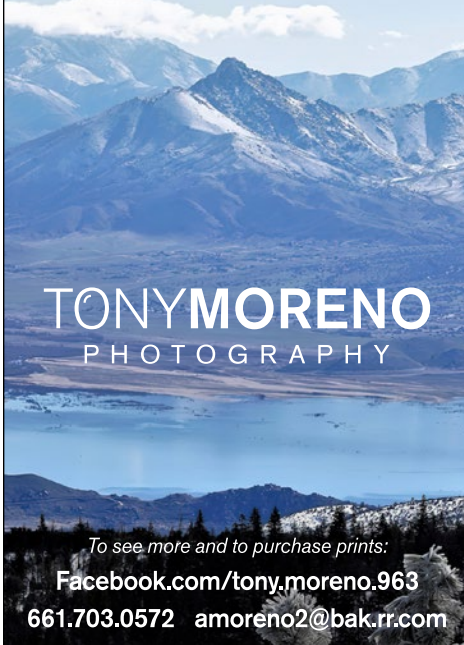
<sup>1</sup> Crossway Bibles. (2001). *The Holy Bible English Standard Version*. Wheaton: Good News Publishers.

(661) 758-6484

HollowayAg.com

## Bring Your Soils Back to Life

Turn to the Valley's trusted soil experts for quality gypsum, amendments, agronomy and Whole Orchard Recycling services



TONY MORENO

PHOTOGRAPHY

To see more and to purchase prints:  
Facebook.com/tony.moreno.963  
661.703.0572 amoreno2@bak.rr.com





**Grapevine MSP**  
*Technology Services*

TRUSTED  
AG  
PARTNER

# MANAGED IT SERVICES

*Concerned about your IT systems  
and Cyber Security?*

## HERE'S WHAT WE DO:

*Remote Support Is Available!*

- Microsoft 365
- Managed IT Services
- Server Support
- Backup and Disaster Recovery
- Desktop Support
- VOIP Phone Solutions
- Cybersecurity
- IT Help Desk 24x7x365



[WWW.GRAPEVINEMSP.COM](http://WWW.GRAPEVINEMSP.COM)

661.377.2992