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What Gavin Newsom’s \$222 billion budget says about
California’s priorities

By Judy Lin and Staff, *CalMatters*

Stoked with liberal ideas, flush with another surplus, California in the Newsom era is getting the agenda America might have had, had America not elected President Donald Trump. As Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday unveiled his initial \$222.2 billion budget proposal for next year, the priorities read like an extension of yet another Barack Obama — or maybe a first Hillary Clinton — administration: Public schools.

Homelessness. Climate action. Consumer protection. School lunches. Affordable health care, even for undocumented people. Newsom even talked about maybe closing a prison soon. Pitching state legislators, who determine appropriations, the Democratic governor did some paddling to the right, as Jerry Brown would have put it: There was a tax cut idea for small business owners. And proposals

to pay down debt and pension obligations and build budget reserves got positive reviews even from the handful of Republican lawmakers left in the Capitol. And he paddled to the anti-Trump left, lashing out at Trump’s California heckling: “He’s tweeting, we’re doing something,” Newsom said. This first budget ask is just the start of a long negotiation. And a number of potentially contentious issues — tax hikes, for example —

were pointedly not on it. But these presentations do serve as a guide to what matters in an administration. Here are this one’s key takeaways: **We’re over “California derangement syndrome”** Enough with the dark national stories about California being a mess, said Newsom, who started his presentation with a sunny reality check: record low unemployment **SEE \$222 BILLION BUDGET ON PAGE 4**

Legislation Update

Courtesy of CFBF

January 13, 2020 - **CDFA Announces Vacancies on Feed Inspection Advisory Committee** Sacramento, January 6, 2020 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS)

branch announces three vacancies on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board. The board makes regulatory and enforcement recommendations to the CDFA secretary to help ensure that commercial feed inspections contribute to a clean and wholesome supply of milk, meat and eggs. The vacancies are for two commercial feed industry representatives and one public member. Applicants must hold a current California Commercial Feed License. The term of office

for board members is three years. Members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Personnel Administration. Individuals interested in a board appointment must submit a resume and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ), available https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/PMAQ_Feed_IAB.pdf by March 16, 2020.

Send the resume and questionnaire via email to Brittnie Sabalbro at Brittnie.Sabalbro@cdfa.ca.gov or by mail to: California Department of Food and Agriculture, Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch, Attention: Brittnie Sabalbro, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 For further information, please contact Brittnie Sabalbro at (916) 900-5022 or Brittnie.Sabalbro@cdfa.ca.gov **SEE LEGISLATION UPDATE ON PAGE 5**

Assemblymember Gray Seeks Audit of
State Regulator’s Failure to Prevent Utility
Wildfires

By Adam Capper, *Assemblymember Gray’s Office*

Sacramento, January 15, 2020 - Assemblymember Adam C. Gray (D-Merced) has submitted a request to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee seeking a state audit of the California Public Utilities Commission. As the state’s primary entity tasked with the regulation of public utilities, Gray’s audit letter seeks information

about the commission’s role in PG&E’s inadequate and dangerous management of its power lines which sparked some of the most destructive wildfires in California history. “A lot of the conversation around utilities and wildfires has focused on shareholders and executives at PG&E placing their

own profits over the public’s safety,” said Gray. “That criticism is well deserved. Shareholders are just now realizing it would have cost a lot less to make responsible safety improvements over time rather than go through **SEE UTILITY WILDFIRES ON PAGE 7**

Address



President's Corner

Gino Pedretti III
President

Scoto, Joe Sansoni and Eric Harcksen and myself. Bre, Lorraine and Denelle were also able to attend. The convention is a great way to network with other people involved in agriculture. It really helps to recharge your

batteries being able to talk to other members going through the same issues we're facing every day. To start off Annual Meeting, I attended the County President Caucus and Bre attended the Mangers Roundtable. These two meetings allowed us to express our ideas with other Farm Bureau leaders and understand what has worked or not worked for them. It helps give me a better idea on how MCFB should move forward.

The convention had many breakout secessions covering issues we are facing today. Some of the breakout secessions were how to tell your story and why, industrial hemp, and Nationwide's new partnership with CFBF members on a 401k retirement program. At night we had the CFBF awards banquet, trade show reception and the Farm Bureau County Fair. I think the Farm Bureau County Fair was my wife's favorite part, since she beat in the "whack-a-mole" game!

I bet you didn't know all the different things CFBF has done for its members this year! CFBF had 190 members take advocacy trips participating in 149 meetings. Farm Bureau leaders testified at more than 100 congressional, legislative, and regulatory hearings. As a result of CFBF advocacy, the Trump Administration broadened the list of specialty crops eligible for the Market Facilitation Program making 8,000 farmers of tree nuts

SEE PRESIDENT ON PAGE 6



Director's Desk

Breanne Ramos
Executive Director

world.

What can we do? Educate, educate, educate. There will always be approximately 2% of individuals who we will not convince of the honesty and reality of farming. You may have heard of the "Moveable Middle" which are the 96% that are in between. They have plenty of questions, concerns, interests, etc. that we can expand on and answer, but this must be done correctly.

I'll admit, if I didn't grow up in agriculture, have the job I do today or continue to learn from the community around me, I would have numerous questions on agriculture. For this reason alone, I cannot fault them for asking questions or having concerns on general items that we consider to be mundane. The answer could be a simple but consider where they are coming from and their background. What am I asking you to do? Have those conversations but do so in a manner that simply educates and does not make the individual feel inadequate. Should a person be made to feel foolish for asking a question, they are easily more apt to go to the internet and not approach an agriculturally minded individual again. We want them to ask questions as we need them to understand actual agriculture and not the stark contrast that can be portrayed.

Post your photos, write out what you are frustrated with that day, tell us what you have going on at your operation. I do beg you, please consider what you are posting. For example, if posting a photo of your day, ensure that you have all the necessary safety requirements depending on the job

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Merced County Farm Bureau's Mission Statement

Merced County Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, grassroots organization that advocates for the men and women who provide food, fiber, and nursery products for our community, state, and nation.

Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible, guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply.

Merced County Farm Bureau supports policies and legislation that promote and protect our Country's number one industry - agriculture for future generations and the security of our nation.

Editor's Note

Denelle Flake
Project Specialist



scholarship applications and the scholarship committees will provide their selections soon. We are grateful for our communities' support that allows us the opportunity to provide financial assistance to local students pursuing a career in agriculture. It is very encouraging to read through the essays of these well-rounded individuals and hear their plans to benefit the future of our industry.

The Rooted in Agriculture Rewards Program application deadline has been extended to Monday, February 3rd.

Please see the ad on page 8 for more information.

Lastly, if you are a member of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition the Merced February Grower Meeting will take place on the 19th at the Merced County Fair. If you need assistance completing your membership paperwork please feel free to call our office at 209-723-3001 to schedule an appointment.

Happy New Year! Our office has been busy creating our schedule of trainings, workshops and other events. We are working to provide a variety of trainings and workshops to help your operations meet an array of different requirements. Be sure to check our *Calendar of Events* below to stay up to date.

The 2020 scholarships that are organized by MCFB were due on December 13, 2019. We are currently reviewing the

Calendar of Events January

31: Farm Bureau Roadshow (15)

February

3: Rooted in Ag Rewards Programs Due (8)

5: Labor Law Workshop (9)

11-13: World Ag Expo, Tulare

13: Funding 101 (17)

19: ESJWQC Grower Meeting - Merced

20: Water Symposium (7)

March

17: CWA Annual Spring Luncheon

20: MCFB 103rd Annual Meeting (20)

28: Mariposa County Farm Bureau's
Rib BBQ (13)

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\$222 BILLION BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

of 3.9%, 117 months of consecutive job growth, an average of 3.8% economic growth over the last five years, a \$19 billion rainy day fund with millions more tucked away in other pots of savings. The governor and lawmakers will be able to fund homeless, health care and education initiatives through a \$5.6 billion surplus.

The governor held up the state in direct contrast to Trump, who criticizes Newsom's response to California's homeless crisis. Why dignify "California derangement syndrome," as Newsom calls it, or rise to Trump's Twitter bait?

"If I'm not willing to stand up to a bully," Newsom said, "if I'm not willing to stand up to someone who is attacking immigrant communities and refugees and attacking people working very hard every single day to feed their families, then I don't belong here."

Homelessness is a defining issue

Calling homelessness "the issue that defines our times," Newsom asked for \$1.4 billion for homeless services with a focus on getting money out fast for emergency rental assistance and board-and-care facilities for the mentally ill.

He also directed state agencies to review public property that can be converted to emergency housing, and to deploy 100 camp trailers from the state fleet to use as temporary shelters. The proposals come on top of \$1 billion allocated last year to keep people off the streets.

The governor also stood by his decision not to name a homelessness czar. "You want to know who's the homeless czar is? I'm the homeless czar," Newsom said.

He declined to say whether the state should guarantee a "right to housing," a policy being pushed by some Democrats as a tool for hastening action. Assemblywoman Autumn Burke has introduced a "right to housing bill" for homeless families.

What about building more homes?

The Newsom administration says the state has secured \$4.5 billion in commitments — including loans and land — from

tech companies Google, Apple and Facebook to support affordable housing.

But the budget offered few new policy changes to make it easier for developers to build, except to say the administration is exploring the creation of a new agency on housing and homelessness. During his gubernatorial campaign, Newsom set a goal for the building of 3.5 million new homes.

We need teachers in low-income schools

The governor is pitching a \$100 million grant program to offer \$20,000 stipends to teachers who agree to work in low-income schools for at least four years. The effort, Newsom says, addresses this sobering statistic: California schools with high concentrations of students in poverty have three times as many underprepared teachers.

Calling the state of special education in California "a crisis," the governor proposed \$895 million in services for students with disabilities, with an emphasis on early intervention and screening for preschoolers. An additional \$4 million would go toward dyslexia research — a soft spot for a governor who, himself, grew up dyslexic.

Newsom's \$84 billion K-12 budget also steers \$900 million toward teacher recruitment and retention in low-income schools that chronically have difficulty in hiring and keeping qualified educators.

School lunches? Tasty but healthy

About those cafeteria frozen pizzas and burritos: The state would direct \$70 million toward improving nutrition in school meals — a proposal lobbied by First Partner Jen Siebel Newsom. Siebel Newsom, who worked on the proposal with Kat Steyer, took a page out of the playbook of former First Lady Michelle Obama, who put her stamp on the White House focusing on school nutrition. Newsom lamented "those damn headlines coming from Betsy DeVos and the Trump administration rolling back the good work" of the Obamas. "Rather than complaining about it, we're going to do something about," he said.

Preschool for all? A work in progress

Newsom made early childhood education a priority in his inaugural budget. His sophomore proposal builds on a goal of preschool for all. He wants \$8.5 million to seed a new state office — the Department of Early Childhood Development — to simplify California's complex system of childcare funding.

The budget also calls for nearly \$32 million to fund an additional 10,000 in the state's subsidized preschool program for low-income families. Issues of pay for child care workers and preschool teachers were left out for a second year.

We're worried about a skilled work force

Newsom's higher education proposals focus on workforce training, with \$83 million to fund apprenticeships and \$17 million for a pilot project to help Central Valley residents earn degrees in fields with local shortages such as accounting, teaching, and nursing. "If we can prove it works in Fresno, then we go to the Central Coast, Inland California and...the North Coast," the governor said.

The University of California and California State University would each get a 5% spending boost to enroll and graduate more students. Community colleges would receive an additional \$409 million, including money to improve faculty diversity, reduce textbook costs, build food pantries, provide legal services to immigrant students and expand programs that allow students to earn a high school diploma and associate's degree at the same time.

Newsom would also add \$21.6 million to an initiative he championed last year that provides student parents with more financial aid for living expenses, and set up a \$5 million task force to brainstorm ways to help Californians struggling with student debt.

For undocumented, health care but not tax credits

Newsom is still resisting a proposal to extend the state's earned income tax credit to undocumented workers who file taxes. That idea that was quietly

dropped during final budget negotiations last spring. But he is willing to extend health coverage to an estimated 27,000 undocumented seniors over the age of 65 at a cost of \$64.2 million a year through the state's Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal.

The expansion pushes California toward universal coverage. Gov. Jerry Brown first extended Medi-Cal to children regardless of immigration status and the state has since expanded coverage to undocumented young adults. But Newsom signaled restraint, saying offering Medi-Cal to all undocumented residents would be too pricey at this point.

Talk of a mystery state park

The budget calls out \$20 million for a new, unidentified, park. Speculation has focused on an 80-square-mile swath of land known as N3 Ranch that spans parts of Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

Newsom declined to name the exact location saying that identifying it would drive up the price to obtain the property. The governor is asking for \$65 million for the Parks for All initiative, which aims to expand the state parks system.

No climate change rollback

Newsom continued to leverage California's pocketbook against climate change, asking for \$12.5 billion over five years to boost climate resilience, curb greenhouse gas pollution, and tackle the state's wildfire crisis. That includes \$1 billion over four years for a new program called the Climate Catalyst Fund, which would provide low-interest loans for emerging technologies and projects aimed at greening parts of California's economy — especially agriculture, recycling, and transportation.

The governor proposes to help communities address the daunting, complex, and highly expensive task of girding for sea level rise, flooding and wildfires via a \$4.75 billion climate resilience bond on the November ballot. His budget continues California's fight against the Trump administration
SEE \$22 BILLION BUDGET ON PAGE 8

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cdfa.ca.gov.

State Agencies Release Draft Water Resilience Portfolio

Public Invited to Submit Written Feedback by February 7

Sacramento, January 3, 2020- State agencies today released a draft water resilience portfolio with a suite of recommended actions to help California cope with more extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, aging infrastructure and other challenges.

The California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Food and Agriculture developed the draft to fulfill Governor Gavin Newsom’s April 29 executive order calling for a portfolio of actions to ensure the state’s long-term water resilience and ecosystem health.

Shaped by months of public input, the draft portfolio outlines more than 100 integrated actionable recommendations in four broad areas to help regions build water resilience as resources become available, while at the same time providing state leadership to improve infrastructure and protect natural ecosystems. Those areas include:

- **Maintain and diversify water supplies:** State government will continue to help regions reduce reliance on any one water source and diversify supplies to enable flexibility amidst changing conditions. Diversification will look different in each region based on available water resources, but the combined effect will strengthen resilience and reduce pressure on river systems.
- **Protect and enhance natural ecosystems:** State leadership is essential to restore the environmental health of key river systems to sustain fish and wildlife. This requires effective standard-setting, continued investments, and more adaptive, holistic environmental management.
- **Build connections:** State actions and investment will improve physical infrastructure to store, move, and share water more flexibly and integrate water management through shared use of science, data, and technology.

- **Be prepared:** Each region must prepare for new threats, including more extreme droughts and floods and hotter temperatures. State investments and guidance will enable preparation, protective actions, and adaptive management to weather these stresses.
- “This draft portfolio has been shaped to provide tools to local and regional entities to continue building resilience and to encourage collaboration within and across regions,” Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot said. “At the same time, state government needs to invest in projects of statewide scale and importance and tackle challenges beyond the scope of any region. Taken together, the proposed actions aim to improve our capacity to prepare for disruptions, withstand and recover from shocks, and adapt from these experiences.”
- To develop the portfolio, state agencies conducted an inventory and assessment of key aspects of California water, soliciting broad input from tribes, agencies, individuals, groups, and leaders across the state. An interagency working group considered the assessment and input from more than 20 public listening sessions across the state and more than 100 substantive comment letters.
- “From Northern California to the Central Valley and the South, Californians from cities, farms, and other sectors are working together to develop innovative solutions to the climate-related water challenges that the state is already experiencing and that are expected to worsen,” said California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Jared Blumenfeld. “This draft portfolio is an important step toward building resilience to ensure the long-term health of our water supplies and ecosystems.”
- Since taking office, Governor Newsom has partnered with the Legislature to tackle California’s drinking water crisis, supported development of voluntary agreements to improve environmental conditions in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems, and advanced a single-tunnel conveyance project under the Delta to protect a key statewide water source from levee collapse

caused by flood or earthquake risk and saltwater intrusion as sea level rises.

Members of the public will be able to submit written feedback on the draft portfolio through February 7. A final water resilience portfolio will be released soon after that. “State agencies are only one set of water decision-makers in California,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “Continuing to improve our water systems relies on collaboration across all groups of water users and all stakeholders. Accordingly, feedback on this draft will be important to refining and finalizing our portfolio.” Information on how to submit written feedback on the draft can be found at WaterResilience.ca.gov.

The State Board of Food and Agriculture
Sacramento, January 7, 2020 - The State Board of Food and Agriculture met at the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s headquarters (1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA). The Board discussed food safety, farm to school programs and an update from the State Assembly Committee on Agriculture. Speakers include Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair of the Agriculture Committee; Scott Horsfall, California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement; Natalie Krout-Greenberg, CDFA; Nick Anicich, CDFA Office of Farm to Fork; and Sonya Logman, CA Census 2020.

Air Quality
The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is holding a number of training events to help truck owners stay in compliance with all of the regulations to which

diesel trucks are subject. Two events are being held to cover the Diesel Truck and Bus Regulation specifically and four events are being held that will cover the Diesel Truck and Bus Regulation, Periodic Smoke Inspection Program, In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation, and Portable Equipment Registration Program.

The two events limited to the Diesel Truck and Bus Regulation will provide information about how to comply with CARB diesel regulations and how to report to continue operating legally in 2020 and beyond. The events will be held:

DATE: January 21, 2020
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Webinar

The four events covering compliance information on the Diesel Truck and Bus Regulation, Periodic Smoke Inspection Program, In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation, and Portable Equipment Registration Program will be held:

DATE: January 27, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Webinar

DATE: January 28, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Quinn Company - Sierra/Sequoia Room
2200 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308

DATE: January 29, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Quinn Company - Kern River Room 10273 S. Golden State Blvd., Selma, California

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On-line registration for these events is available at: https://arb.csod.com/client/arb/default.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Climate Change

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is working to improve the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) application process. CDFA released a draft of its request for grant applications for both the HSP Incentives Program and Demonstration Projects along with proposed applications for each. Most of the essay questions have been removed and the budget worksheet has been simplified. In addition to the application changes, CDFA is also proposing to incentivize whole orchard recycling as a practice eligible for funding under the HSP, increase the maximum grant award to \$100,000, and create a longer application submission period (up to four months). Farm Bureau submitted comments on the proposed changes this week and will continue to work with CDFA to create an HSP that is accessible to more California farmers and ranchers.

Land Use

The Department of Conservation has released a draft of the solicitation guidelines for the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALC) for review and public comment. SALC is a GHG Reduction Fund program which provides funding for nonprofits, land trusts and local jurisdictions to enroll agricultural lands into easements and to cities and counties to obtain planning grants to strategically identify agricultural lands necessary for long-term conservation. CFBF

staff is in the process of reviewing the draft guidelines and will be submitting comments prior to the close of the comment period on January 27th. The draft guidelines can be found at: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP/Pages/Index.aspx>

Pesticides

In response to canceling the registration of chlorpyrifos for use in California by December 31, 2020, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has convened a working group to identify alternatives for use in California. The working group has yet to release its report, but DPR and CDFA are slated to hold a series of statewide workshops to hear ideas about how agricultural can transition from chlorpyrifos use. The workshops will be at the following dates and times: Oxnard—January 21, 2020; 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

South Oxnard Senior Center; 200 E. Bard Road, Oxnard, CA 93033

This action by the state may be precedential for all other pesticides in the future. Therefore, it is paramount that the agricultural community attend and testify about the difficulty's growers and pest control operators will face managing pest pressures without available and useful alternatives to chlorpyrifos. CFBF will be releasing a Farm Team Alert on the subject and sharing talking points with county Farm Bureaus. We encourage all members to attend the meetings and share their perspectives.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has released a solicitation for the 2020-2021 Pest Management Research Grant.

Within this grant program, DPR has made \$1.1 million available to fund projects that advance pest management strategies that are alternatives to chlorpyrifos use. Projects may range from \$150,000

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and fresh grapes potentially eligible to apply. CFBF submitted 207 pages of court briefs in support of its case against the Bay Delta Plan which would take our water from the Merced River. As the top source for reliable information about California agriculture, CFBF handled more the 350 inquiries from local, regional, national and international media.

At the local level, we have worked on many issues affecting Merced County. At the forefront is water issues including SGMA and the Bay Delta Plan. MCFB attended county supervisor meetings during the hemp ordinance, providing input on the effects the ordinance would have. Some other issues we have been working on are the new immigration bill, the USMCA

to \$500,000; DPR expects to fund 2-4 projects. The grant solicitation can be found <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/grants/research/index.htm> and applications are due by February 7, 2020.

Trade Agreement and keeping a watchful eye on high speed rail. These are a few examples of issues MCFB is working on a daily basis.

Besides the work advocacy Farm Bureau does, there are discounts Farm Bureau members can receive from partner companies. Members can take advantage of 27 separate member benefits at the state level. They include a variety of insurance services from Nationwide. Members can receive discounts on the purchase of farm equipment, cars, trucks, industrial supplies, auto parts and more. Some of these discounts come from leading companies like Ford, John Deere, Cat, Case and Grainger. Your membership even provides travel

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UTILITY WILDFIRES FROM PAGE 1

bankruptcy with multi-billion dollar settlements.

“However, government incompetence is also part of the story. The CPUC regulates public utilities and knew about the decaying and outdated condition of PG&E’s infrastructure, yet they failed to act. Instead, the commission often denied what little safety improvements were proposed by the utility.

“Many have pointed to climate change to explain the dangerous conditions which allowed recent wildfires to grow so quickly and burn so intensely. Ironically, the CPUC has been at the center of the state’s fight against climate change since the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Instead of raising the alarm that climate change will make dangerous wildfire conditions more common, the commission has pushed its Safety and Enforcement Division to the bottom of the priority list.

“I am asking the State Auditor to provide an independent and nonpartisan analysis of what went wrong at the CPUC. Why was public safety not a priority for the commission, and why were grid improvements like burying power lines in fire prone areas not approved? Despite playing a central role in helping California adapt to climate change in other areas, why was the CPUC asleep at the wheel on the risk of utility caused wildfires?

“The state has promised not to allow these tragedies to happen again. In order to fulfill that promise, we need answers to these questions. If the CPUC is not capable of ensuring the public’s safety, then it is time we figure out a new way to regulate public utilities so that homes, businesses, and families come first.”

Gray’s audit request will be voted on by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee at a hearing scheduled for February 19th.

Safety During the Winter Months

By Amy Wolfe, MPPA, CFRE, President and CEO AgSafe

The winter months for permanent crop growers requires important maintenance and care in the orchards and vineyards. Pruning and thinning are commonplace, as are easily avoidable injuries. Before sending crews out to tend to this important work, remember to provide refresher training on ladder and hand-tool safety, along with the importance of using proper personal protective equipment, especially eye-protection.

Ladder Safety

Ladders are an integral part of upkeep in an orchard or vineyard and are easy to overlook when it comes to safe use and maintenance. The California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3276 specifically addresses the proper and safe use of ladders, as well as an employers’ responsibility to ensure this important piece

of equipment is cared for and maintained. The standard addresses the following:

- Maintenance: the importance of keeping the ladder in good condition at all times.
- Inspection: ensure that the ladder is looked at by a qualified individual for visible defects and that those inspections happen no less than on a monthly basis.
- Damaged ladders: are removed from service for repair or destruction, while ladders with broken or missing steps, rungs, cleats, safety feet, side rails or other defects shall not be used.
- Proper and frequent cleaning: ladders are free of oil, grease or other slippery, hazardous materials.
- Wooden ladders shall not be painted.
- Ladders shall not be loaded beyond their noted weight rating.

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PRESIDENT FROM PAGE 6

discounts from places like Avis, Budget, Choice and Wyndham hotels. Locally, MCFB members can benefit from discounts from Anteris Agronomics, Ag Safe and UnWired broadband. I personally switched our ranch to UnWired and found them to have faster, reliable service.

When paying you dues each year the thought may go through your

mind, “What I am getting for my membership?” I hope this article shows our members the value in a Farm Bureau membership. The advocacy work Farm Bureau does on behalf of its members is enough in itself to pay for your membership but as icing on the cake you can receive discounts from numerous companies who partner with Farm Bureau!

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SAVE THE DATE
February 20, 2020

Merced County Farm Bureau
Water Symposium

Official agenda will be released soon via postcards & e-news.
For more information or to RSVP please contact
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— specifically calling out federal rollbacks to clean air and greenhouse gas standards. Newsom proposes setting aside \$2.7 million for an Air Resources Board special fund that would increase regulations curbing air toxins from heavy industry and businesses.

Addressing the state's wildfire crisis, the budget earmarks builds on the nearly \$1 billion earmarked last year, adding more sophisticated fire prediction and monitoring, continued fire prevention efforts and spending to create statewide guidelines for emergency fire response.

Governor Dad is still pushing a 'parents agenda'

children, Newsom and his wife Jennifer Siebel Newsom frequently say they're pushing a "parents' agenda" to make life easier on California families. This budget would extend a tax break on diapers and tampons until July 2023, and support a law allowing more workers to take paid family leave by guaranteeing they can come back to their jobs.

Many workers don't take leave to care for a new baby or a sick family member because they can't afford to get by on partial salary, or could lose their jobs if they do. Currently, the program replaces 60% to 70% of a workers' wages. Companies that have fewer than 20 employees do not have to guarantee workers they'll have a job after a leave.

Democratic Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson has been trying for years to pass a job protection law, but has been thwarted by the California Chamber of Commerce, which has lobbied against the idea as a “job killer” that could create more litigation against businesses.

California could become the first state to establish its own generic drug label, leveraging the state's massive market to increase competition and lower generic drug prices. Generic drug makers counter that drug costs are being driven up by brand name drugs.

Time for a tax on vaping?

Calling it a “long overdue” tax on vape cartridges, Newsom is proposing a \$2 levy on each 40 milligrams of nicotine. It’s the same idea behind a new bill from Sen. Jerry Hill intended to ban flavored tobacco.

Proponents say taxing flavored tobacco is another step in trying to stop the sale of vaping products, especially to kids. Between 2017 and 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the use of any tobacco product increased 38.3% among high school students.

Last year several bills intended to tame tobacco sales, especially those aimed at kids, were stalled or gutted with lobbying from tobacco and vaping companies, such as JUUL.

While offering no specifics, Newsom vowed to re-examine the 1967 Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which limits the authority of government officials to detain mentally ill people. Civil libertarians have fought any changes, contending people should not be detained unless they are clearly a danger to themselves or others. “The act was conceived when I was conceived,” Newsom said. “The world has changed.”

plans to provide equal treatment on mental and health needs.

We're ready to discuss closing a state prison

Small business relief, consumer protection

Newsom is proposing to exempt small businesses from an \$800 minimum franchise tax in their first year. Currently, corporations enjoy a first-year exemption. The change is expected to provide limited liability companies, limited partnerships and limited liability partnerships around \$100 million a year in tax relief.

The state is also creating its own version of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has been rolled back under the Trump administration. Newsom will rename the state's Department of Business Oversight to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and provide consumer protection to unfair practices.

California wants to become a 'no kill' state in 5 years, a goal that could save countless pets. Newsom proposes giving \$50 million to the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program to train 100 animal shelters on alternatives to euthanization. Newsom says it's an issue close to his family.

Despite surplus and rainy day funds, California faces massive long-term liabilities. The state faces \$250 billion in pension and retirement health liabilities for teachers and state workers. Newsom's budget would continue chipping away.

MERCED COUNTY FARM NEWS

Hilmar Cheese Company Inc. offers a NEW school tour experience!

By Denise Skidmore, *Director of Education & Public Relations, Hilmar Cheese Company*



Hilmar Cheese Company AgXscape Room

HILMAR, CA. - Hilmar Cheese Company Inc., is excited to offer a new student version of AgXscape, a break-out escape room challenge. The immersive educational experience can be added on to field trips for 2nd grade through high school.

"Teachers are looking for ways to connect what they are learning in the classroom to real world applications, so we adjusted our escape room to meet their needs," explained Kody Stevens, tour and communications specialist for Hilmar Cheese Company. "The student teams must work together to solve challenges in science, math, reading, critical thinking, scan technology and manipulation in a dairy farm office environment. It also works well as a leadership or club team building activity."

Teams of up to eight students and one chaperone have 20 minutes to solve the hands-on puzzles. The student version cost is \$50 per team. With orientation, three teams can be accommodated during the normal 90-minute tour program time.

Tour times are offered at 9:30 am, 11 am and 12:30 pm or later for after school groups. Teams can also

DIRECTOR FROM PAGE 3

you are accomplishing. Not only do we want to ensure safety of all involved or in the surrounding area, but we also want to ensure your photo is not used in a negative manner in the future.

be rotated during lunch time after a tour has ended.

The escape room is the new addition to Hilmar Cheese Company's FREE STEM tours. The company provides a tour with an ice cream making activity based on matter changing form for kindergarten through 3rd grade students. During this

tour the students do a science experiment of making ice cream with changing a liquid into a solid. The tour incorporates reading, rhythm, listening and direction following skills as well as food safety, nutrition and the importance of agriculture.

The company offers students 4th grade through high school a tour with a hands-on cheese making experience. Student teams follow the scientific method and measure weight, volume, time and temperature as well as read, write, critical think and use decision-making skills to make cheese. The importance of agriculture and career pathway options within agriculture is emphasized on this tour.

All of the tours offered are adjusted to be age appropriate. In addition to the tour, each students receives an activity booklet, pencil and cheese samples.

To schedule your escape room break-out activity and/or FREE STEM tour with Hilmar Cheese Company please contact Kody Stevens by e-mail, kstevens@hilmarcheese.com or call 209.656.1167.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes for the new year as you start to get back into those fields! Please reach out to our office if there is anything we can do for you.

SAFETY FROM PAGE 6

- Ladders must be placed on secure and level footing, not on boxes, barrels or other unstable surfaces. In addition, they are not to be used on ice, snow or slippery surfaces.

It is the employers responsibility to provide workers training in the proper use of a ladder and that training must review the importance of using a ladder safely, how to select the proper ladder for the work to be done, the company's process and policy for ladder maintenance, inspection and removal, how to correctly erect the ladder, how to safely climb and work on the ladder, the common factors contributing to falls, and the company's prohibited uses of the ladder.

As with any effective training, it is invaluable to include hands-on demonstrations and examples of what is expected of employees in terms of proper ladder use. In addition, it is important to document when the training occurred, who conducted the training, and the materials used to educate workers. While ladders may appear to be seemingly innocuous tools, a variety of issues can and do arise when the equipment is not properly cared for and employees are not educated in how to use them safely.

Hand-Tool Safety

A wide variety of hand

tools are used during pruning and thinning season with the majority of the resulting injuries being preventable. Tools include chisels, shovels, hoes, poles, handsaws, hammers, rake knives, cutters, and pruning shears. At first glance, these all appear seemingly harmless and easy to use. The practical reality is that it is never prudent to assume employees know how to use this equipment safely. Err on the side of caution by addressing the most common issues seen with hand tool usage.

The issues that arise with hand tool usage are generally due to using the wrong tool for the job, using a broken or damaged tool, improperly using the tool, not wearing personal protective equipment, workers not paying attention to their work, and workers being in a hurry. Each of these issues can and should be remedied with training and proper equipment maintenance.

Employers should address the following elements with workers prior to using hand tools:

- Check the work area to make sure it is free from other workers to avoid injuries.
- Be sure there is sufficient lighting, especially if working in dark places or at night.
- Carefully inspect the tool for

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 10

Labor Laws Workshop

FEBRUARY 5, 2020
10:00 AM -12:00 PM
12:30-1:30 PM *ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP*

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Bryan Little
Chief Operating Officer
Farm Employers
Labor Service
Director, Employment Policy
California Farm
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12:30-1:30 Multiple Employer Plan
(Nationwide solution to CalSavers):
What your business needs to know about company sponsored retirement plans given the upcoming rollout of the new mandatory State-sponsored retirement program titled CalSavers.

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Workshop will cover:
• AB 5
• New Wildfire Smoke Regulations
• Night Work Regulations
• Updates on Legislation
• "Defend Your Property"

California population growth could halt in 2060, demographers say for first time

By Jeremy B. White, *Politico*

SACRAMENTO — For the first time, California demographers are warning the state's population could level off in the coming decades.

Data included in Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal suggests that California could nearly stop growing by 2060 — a stark reversal from a boom that has seen California's population double over the past half-century. The Department of Finance said its projections had never before shown that outcome.

The state's population has grown more slowly in recent years, a trend underpinned by declining birth rates and the outflow of Californians to other states. State data shows California lost some

40,000 net residents in 2019, the first time since 2010 that more people have left California than moved here.

That's been partially offset by international immigration to California, though that trend has also declined.

The state population continues to grow by virtue of having more births than deaths, but that will flip sometime around 2040, demographers say.

By 2045, the state is expected to add fewer than 100,000 residents a year. While past projections have suggested California would have 50 million residents by 2060, demographers have sliced their estimates and now believe the 2060 number is more likely to be around

45 million people, or around 5 million more than the current level.

California is also getting older, a development with sweeping implications for government health and pension programs. The ratio of Californians over the age of 65 to those of working age has increased by nearly 85 percent since 2010.

ADVERTISING

The declining birth rate likewise has implications for California schools, which have seen declining enrollment since the 2013-14 academic year, according to the budget. As the birth rate continues to drop, districts will likely face increasing difficulty balancing their budgets and will confront the unpopular choice of closing campuses.

SAFETY FROM PAGE 6

cracks, rust, wear or other damage.

- Make sure handles are secure and free of oil and grease.
- Report any hand tool problems to a supervisor and get a different tool, if needed.

In addition, it is important that supervisors monitor employees to make sure they are wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment, which may include gloves, made of a variety of materials based on the work being done, eye protection, long sleeves, no loose-fitting clothing, ear protection, and a head covering. Given the seriousness of injuries that can be caused from improper use of hand tools, including cuts, impalement, broken bones, severed fingers, and eye wounds, it is essential that hand tool safety be a priority.

Selecting Proper Eye Protection

Pruning, thinning and other winter activities in the orchard and

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 14

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



IMPORTANT REMINDER:

- Tomato - Processing/Fresh Market, Apple, Apricot, Cherry, Table Grape, Wine Grape, Nectarine, Olive, Pear, Peach, Pecan, Plum, Prune, and Walnut insurance applications are due Jan. 31, 2020

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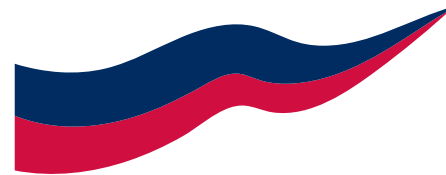


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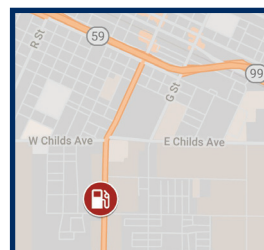
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New Year, New Legal Challenges

By Danette Toso, *Executive Director, Mariposa County Farm Bureau*



“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.”

- Benjamin Franklin

With that positive, inspiring quote noted, buckle your seatbelts my friends, our governor has set us up for a wild ride! There are some “interesting” new laws in place for 2020 and we all need to take notice. Last year brought the ban of plastic straws to California, but this year, we hard working, tax paying, law abiding citizens are in for a real treat! I’ve listed the new California laws that went into effect January 1st and AB 5, SB 104, SB 419, and SB 439, are a few that jumped out at me. I ask you, how can it be legal to force Americans to pay illegal immigrant’s health care when they’re in our country illegally? How can we continue to effectively and successfully run many of our agricultural businesses with AB 5 in place? Isn’t the implementation of SB 419 and SB 439 setting our children up for failure, (not to mention what it will do to our teachers?) I hope you will take a few minutes to read and ponder these new laws.

Workplace

SB 3: Minimum wage

Another pay hike is on the way for minimum wage workers. The minimum wage in California goes up by one dollar to \$12 an hour for workers at companies with 25 or fewer employees and to \$13 an hour for workers at larger companies.

AB 5: Independent workers

While aimed directly at gig workers, this new law may also apply to many more contract or independent worker in California. Under AB-5, workers would be considered employees and not independent contractors if the employer controls the work, directs them in the course of their work or if the worker’s job is part of a company’s core business.

SB 188: Hairstyles

California becomes the first state to ban workplace and school discrimination based on a person’s natural hairstyle or hair texture, with the Crown Law. Protected hairstyles include braids, twists and locks.

SB 142: Lactation accommodations

While California has had a law requiring employers to provide breaks for nursing mothers, many were forced to express breast milk in a bathroom stall or office closet. This new law requires companies to provide appropriate lactation accommodations that is close to the employee’s work area, has electrical plugs and is free of intrusion.

AB 51: Arbitration agreements

Starting January 1, workers can’t be forced into mandatory arbitration by an employer. The law bans mandatory arbitration agreements with employees. The law does not apply to arbitration agreements entered into prior to January 1, 2020.

SB 1343: Sexual harassment

Requires businesses with at least five employees to provide sexual harassment training to its employees within six months of being hired, and every two years after that.

SB 83: Paid family leave

New parents will have more time to care for their child. Benefits under Paid Family Leave will increase from six weeks to eight weeks starting on July 1, 2020.

Housing

AB 1482: Rent control

Communities without their own rent control laws will now be covered by statewide rent control protections. The law limits rent increases to 5 percent each year plus inflation, but never above 10 percent total. The law does not apply to housing built in the 15 years prior. The limit is a rolling number so the date housing is excluded changes every year.

Education

SB 419: School suspensions

Students in elementary school can’t be so easily suspended for causing trouble at school. The law bans schools from suspending students in grades 4-8 for disrupting school activities or defying teachers and administrators. Students in grades K-3 already have this protection. High school students must wait until 2025 for the same benefit.

Healthcare

SB 104: Healthcare for undocumented immigrants

California becomes the first state in the nation to offer government-subsidized health benefits to young adults living in the country illegally. The law expands the Medicaid program to include low-income adults age 25 or younger regardless of their immigration status.

AB 2119: Transgender youth

Transgender youth in the foster care system will get appropriate health care. The law is the first in the country to include access to gender-affirming medical services, mental health counseling, hormone therapy and surgery.

Criminal Justice

SB 273: Statute of limitations

Extends statute of limitations for domestic violence felonies from three to five years.

SB 439: Juvenile hall

This law changes the age that a minor can be sent to juvenile hall. Minors under 12 who commit non-

SEE LEGAL ON PAGE 13

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Important EPA decisions coming

By Brad Haire, *Southeast Farm Press Editor*

The EPA this year will deliver important decisions to U.S. agriculture, including on chlorpyrifos, glyphosate, the neonicotinoids, pyrethroids, atrazine and over-the-top dicamba.

Rick Keigwin is the director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. He spoke about the decisions and the agency's process for making them Jan. 10 at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in Savannah.

Chlorpyrifos

More than a decade ago, chlorpyrifos came under fire by environmental groups that petitioned the EPA to revoke all tolerances of the organophosphate. The agency did not revoke the tolerances. Appeals followed and litigation started against the agency for denying the groups' petition, which, the agency says, failed to meet the legal burden under the law for EPA to revoke chlorpyrifos.

Keigwin could not speak on the current litigation, but said

the agency and registrants are discussing possible changes to the chlorpyrifos registration to better estimate runoff levels into water resources.

"We are in the process of updating our assessments on chlorpyrifos. They will be available this summer for public comment, and then by October, we will also issue a proposed regulatory decision for chlorpyrifos."

According to Tim Hearnden reporting in Western Farm Press, "The training wheels are about to come off for growers test-driving alternatives to chlorpyrifos, which is being phased out by California regulators this year (2020). Under an agreement between the state and manufacturers, chlorpyrifos will not appear on store shelves after Feb. 6, and farms must use any they have on hand by the end of 2020."

Glyphosate

Early this calendar year, the agency will issue a final decision for glyphosate registration. The

EPA, along with every other regulatory body and science organization around the world, concluded the chemistry is not a carcinogen, he said.

"We received a half million comments on our proposed decision from last year. We're in the final stages of wrapping up and developing responses to those comments," he said.

For glyphosate, EPA did propose better management practices farmer can take to target sprays, protect pollinators and reduce resistance.

Neonicotinoid

The re-registration for the neonicotinoids has taken longer than the typical six years because the review, done together with Canada and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, included four active ingredients: Imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin and dinotefuran.

How these chemistries affect pollinators has been an important part of this review. EPA's preliminary pollinator assessment, he said, shows the potential for 'on-field risk' from some uses of neonicotinoids, but the agency considers risks low for chemistry used as a seed treatment, which is a large part of how it is used in agriculture.

Early this year, he said, the

agency will release its proposed decision on neonicotinoids for public comment.

"We will propose some risk mitigation and what we'll want to hear from (farmers) is how easily (they) can implement that mitigation or if we've not calculated the benefits right from their use of these products. We would want to hear from (them) quantitatively and economically

Pyrethroids

During November of 2019, EPA released a proposed interim decision for five pyrethroids and an ecological risk mitigation strategy for all pyrethroids, which addressed the potential risk to aquatic invertebrates, he said. The public comment period for those actions ended Jan. 13, but there will be other public comment periods for the pyrethroids review in 2020.

"There are some data that have become available about potential risks to pollinators and we're working through a risk management proposal for dealing with potential pollinator risk from pyrethroids and that will come out probably later this spring," he said.

Atrazine

As part of its review process, the agency proposed a decision last month for the widely used

SEE EPA DECISIONS ON
PAGE 14



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LEGAL FROM PAGE 11

violent crimes would be released to his or her parent or legal guardian instead of being sent to juvenile hall. The law does not apply to minors who commit murder, rape, or great bodily harm.

SB 970: Human trafficking

Operators of motels and hotels in California must provide training to teach its staff how to identify victims of human trafficking.

ANIMALS

SB 1249: Animal testing

Prohibits the sale of cosmetic products with ingredients that were tested on animals after January 1, 2020. The law does not affect products sold globally where animal testing is required by law.

AB 1762: Dog areas

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has until July 1, 2020 to establish a comprehensive list of state parks that allow dogs, including the specific areas that allow dogs and the total miles of trails that are open to dogs.

WILDFIRES

SB 167: Public safety power shutoffs

Requires utilities like PG&E to devise plans on reducing the negative impact of planned power shutoffs to first responders and people with disabilities.

AB 247: Tree trimming

Gives the California Public Utilities Commission more oversight over

tree trimming efforts by utilities. Power companies would have to submit timely reports on their brush and tree trimming work.

SB 209: Wildfire warning center

Establishes a wildfire warning center to broaden the state's ability to predict and prepare for wildfire. The center would rely on a statewide network of automated weather stations and fire detection cameras.

TECHNOLOGY

AB 1707: Smartphones in polling places

Voters may use handheld electronic devices to help them cast their ballots at polling places, as long as they don't violate other election laws.

California has become an extremely challenging state to live in regardless of the resident's involvement in agriculture. It's very clear that the governor of California and his regime is focused more on "climate change", "sanctuary cities", and the "Train to Nowhere" than supporting the hard working American citizens. It's no longer acceptable to rely on other people to take care of California, we need to stand together and get involved. As always, I encourage farmers and ranchers and to invite friends, neighbors and family members to join the collective voice of the Farm Bureau. Together, we can make our organization stronger than ever, one member at a time.

Mariposa County Scholarship

It's time again to apply for the Mariposa County Farm Bureau scholarship program. To be eligible you must be a resident of Mariposa County and a graduating senior from either of our county high schools, and pursuing a career in agriculture or agri-business. Applications may be obtained either from the Mariposa County Farm Bureau or the FFA department at Mariposa High School. Deadline for applications is March 23, 2020. All applications must be in the Farm Bureau office, mailing address is P.O. Box 715 Mariposa 95338 no later than March 23, 2020

For a scholarship application and/or further information please contact the Mariposa County Farm Bureau at (209) 742-5875 or email us at mcfarmbureau@sti.net.

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EPA FROM PAGE 12

herbicide atrazine. For crop uses, the agency doesn't propose much change, but it does propose to add protection equipment to protect workers, mandatory label directions for spray drift management and reduce weed resistance risk. The agency does propose reducing the maximum rate for turf application "to protect children who crawl or play on atrazine-treated grass."

Dicamba

The agency will decide in 2020 whether the registrations for new dicamba products remain or are modified further for the 2021 season. The registration for new dicamba herbicides used on new resistant crops such as soybeans and cotton started in 2016. It's no secret the rollout ran into trouble due to drift, or off-target, issues and crop injury complaints.

With further restrictions on the label, the agency renewed the registrations for the 2019 and 2020 seasons, but those registrations will run out at the end of this year if EPA doesn't renew them. Some states used their authority to make further changes to labels for applications in state.

EPA required companies with the new dicamba products on the market to conduct studies last year in Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi to see if geography played a part

in off-field movement and those reports are due soon, he said.

"This year we'll be looking at the data the registrars have been required to generate. We're already in discussion with them, the state departments of agriculture and hope to engage soon with some academics about the research they may have underway. And then we'll make a new regulatory decision likely in the August-September time frame before December to help in seed purchasing decisions for 2021," he said.

Keigwin said reports of non-performance with the new technology is also on the radar. "We don't know if it's a resistance issue. We don't know if there's some antagonism when dicamba and glyphosate are being applied together. So that's one of the factors we'll also be looking at and whether or not to renew the registration for the 2021 growing season."

Hemp

The agency late last year approved 10 pesticides for use in hemp, nine biopesticides and one that is considered a conventional, but is really like a soap. All 10 products, he said, were approved because none require a regulated tolerance level.

The challenge now, he said, is finding data needed for approving

the pesticides that do require tolerance levels for potential use in hemp. What residue data does the agency need and in what parts of the plant?

He said the agency has been working closely with IR-4, a very important federally funded program established decades ago to conduct the research necessary for registrations of pesticides needed to grow minor crops, such as hemp and vegetables.

Not many companies, he said, are seeking registrations for

SAFETY FROM PAGE 10

vineyard can pose a serious risk to a worker's eyes. It is essential that proper eye protection be used to ensure that a multitude of issues don't arise. The eyes are exposed to airborne dust and debris, which can lead to itching, irritation and a potential corneal abrasion. Exposure to hazardous chemicals and impalement from flying particles can cause serious injuries that, if not treated properly, can lead to permanent damage. As such, it is essential that eye protection is not only available but that the right tool for the job is used.

It is important to know when to use safety glasses versus safety goggles. Glasses should be worn when conducting activities that do not involve chemicals. They should wrap around the face, creating a barrier not just in front of the eyes but to the side as well. Sunglasses, reading glasses or distance vision glasses do not serve as safe eye protection. They are not designed for impact protection and will not provide adequate protection.

When applying powder or liquid pesticides, use safety goggles as they provide more thorough protection. The goggles should fit tightly on the face and as with

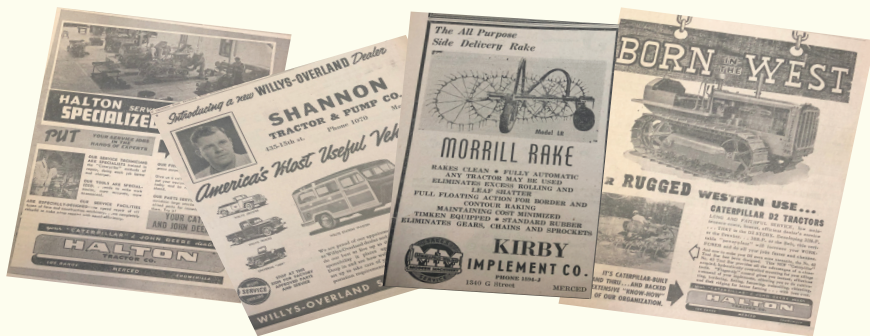
pesticides for hemp, but once FDA decides its stance towards hemp and Cannabidiol, or CBD, that may change.

"So, there's going to be a lot of basic research that's done over the next couple of years to figure some of that data. We can then begin to figure out if we have to set tolerances. If FDA concludes that CBD is a food then we would have to set tolerances and we want to be positioned with a well-established program to move forward with any applications," he said.

effective glasses, wrap completely around the periphery of the eye. The goggles will form a seal that mitigates any potential powder or liquid from coming in contact with the eyes. In the case of both safety glasses and goggles, it is important to replace broken or unsafe eye protection. It is also important to regularly clean glasses and goggles to ensure their effectiveness. It is easy to overlook the importance of ladder and hand tool safety, along with selecting the right kind of eye protection for the job. In reality, though, injuries on our farms are far more commonplace from failing to give these simple but important elements our time and attention. For more information about worker safety, human resources, labor relations, pesticide safety or food safety issues, please visit www.agsafe.org, call (209) 526-4400 or email safeinfo@agsafe.org.

AgSafe is a 501c3 nonprofit providing training, education, outreach and tools in the areas of safety, labor relations, food safety and human resources for the food and farming industries. Since 1991, AgSafe has educated over 85,000 employers, supervisors, and workers about these critical issues.

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Central Counties Dairy Herd Improvement Association will be hosting their 2019 Annual Awards Banquet on Monday, April 6, 2020 at the APC Hall in Atwater. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with a no host social hour starting at 6:30 p.m. Dinner (catered by Neto's Catering of Turlock) will follow at 7:30 p.m. If you would like more information or purchase tickets; contact the office at (209) 356-0355. Tickets are \$20.00/person. This banquet recognizes the top dairy producers in Merced and Stanislaus Counties, CCDHIA employees of and scholarships to well deserving students keeping AG alive and well.

Farm Bureau Roadshow

JANUARY 31, 2020
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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SCHEDULE:

8:00-8:45: Bryan Little, 2020 Update
8:45-9:30: Animal Advocacy with Robert Spiegel and Sheriff Dirkse
9:30-9:45: Coffee and Donut Break
9:45-10:30: Water Update, SED and SGMA
10:30-11:15: CFBF Update and Nationwide
11:15-12:00: Johnna Miller AFBF, Advocacy
12:00: Tri Tip Lunch
No cost for members or non-members
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Basic Elements of a Farm Emergency Plan

*The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.**



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Plan for the unpredictable

As farmers and ranchers know all too well: Mother Nature is unpredictable. But being prepared with an emergency action plan is a great investment in helping preserve what you've worked so hard to build.

Here are some tips for what to include in your farm or ranch emergency plan:

- Include a map of your farm or ranch with all buildings and contents. Document emergency escape routes and procedures for each building on your property.
- Specify who will be responsible for what emergency task, and how they'll report fire and other emergencies. Identify procedures to be followed by the people who remain to handle critical operations before they evacuate.
- Document procedures to account for all people and employees after an emergency evacuation. Have contingency plans for where you'll house livestock if barns or dairy

parlors are damaged or destroyed.

- Pre-plan salvage operations and include a method of debris disposal.

Be aware of what

materials the landfill nearest your farm or ranch will accept and establish alternatives if needed.

Follow any specific procedures for disposal of chemicals or other hazardous materials to meet EPA requirements.

- Develop and maintain a list of all people connected with your farm or ranch who should be contacted in an emergency. Be sure to include names and all pertinent contact information. This can include owners, family members, employees, employee family members, suppliers and anyone else who is on your farm or ranch on a regular basis.

- Develop and maintain a list of emergency contacts. Include local law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical responders, gas and electric providers, hospitals and insurance companies. Keep copies of your emergency contact list in your home, your office, your glove compartment, with all family

members, any key employees and in additional buildings. The key is to always have them close at hand.

- Establish an inventory system. Know exactly what's on your farm or ranch at all times.

- Designate a location for offsite storage of important documents and records.

For more on this topic, read our full-length article on Nationwide Farm and Agribusiness Resources.



The Resource Conservation Districts and UC Cooperative Extension are bringing together Merced and Stanislaus County agencies and organizations that offer programs to help you learn about cost-share funding opportunities and other services! Programs include:

- CDFA Healthy Soils Program
- On Farm Conservation Innovation Program
- Farm Bill Programs: EQIP, CSP, NAP, TAP & more!

When:
Thursday, February 13th
8:30am: Coffee, pastries & registration
9-10am: 10 min presentations by partners
10-11am: Open house, one-on-one discussions

Where:
Ag Classroom in Merced County
2145 Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA

Please RSVP with:
Caddie Bergren at cmbergren@ucanr.edu or by calling 209.385.7403.

For more information, visit us at <http://cemerced.ucanr.edu/>



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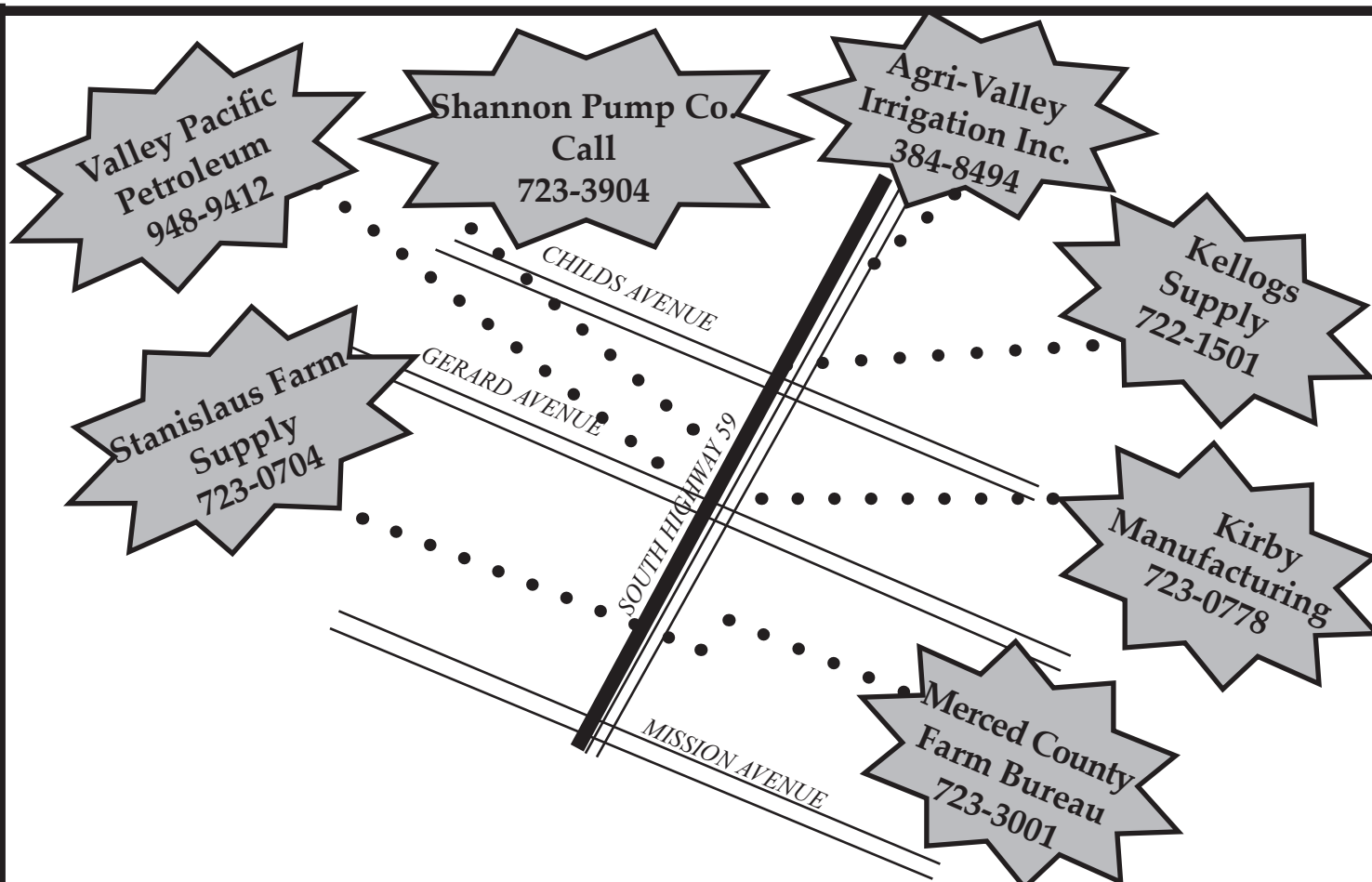
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“Lights, Camera, TV Filming”

By Lauren Palumbo, *Merced FFA Reporter*



Merced FFA member being interviewed for the TV show American Grown: My Job Depends on Ag

My Job Depends on Agriculture has become a staple in the California Central Valley for many farmers, ranchers, ag advocates, and those who support agriculture around the world. This movement started as a facebook page where people involved in agriculture could come together and discuss, report, and share the trials and tribulations of life in agriculture. Then quickly grew to have a National presence via the iconic green California “My Job Depends on Ag” stickers on the backs of cars. The My Job Depends on Ag creators wanted to advocate agriculture on a bigger stage, TV. Their series, American Grown: My Job Depends on Ag, has been airing on local PBS stations around the Central Valley, as well as on their show’s website.

As the topics of the episodes differ from week to week, FFA and California agriculture education became the focus for an upcoming episode. With this new show topic MJDOA reached out to Merced FFA and set up a time to film Ms. Julia Brewer’s floral and horticulture classes along with Mr. Karl Montague’s shop classes. The producer mentioned that they wanted to film what it would be like to be a student in an agriculture class and gather information on how agricultural education benefits and changes the lives of all students involved.

The day was filled with smiles, nerves, excitement, and an

exhibition of all facets of Merced High FFA. Throughout the day of filming, students worked on floral arrangements, welding projects, transplanting winter crops and working in the greenhouse. The day was especially eventful for a few students who were selected to be interviewed: Juan Salas-Rodriguez who is a four year member on the Small Engines team; Bianca Trindade who was recently crowned as Ms. Merced County Teen with her platform being agriculture, and Lauren Palumbo who is the Merced FFA Chapter Reporter. The students were asked questions about how they first got involved in FFA, how being an active member in their FFA chapter has changed them as a person, and what their future aspirations are for life after high school. The film crew also spent some time interviewing Ms. Brewer. “It was nice to be able to give the perspective of an agricultural educator and the impact that it has on the students. FFA was such a huge part of my high school career. I enjoy being able to share my passion for agriculture with my students every day and I can only hope that it has the same lasting impression on them as it did for me” Ms. Brewer shared.

The opportunity was like no other! As a chapter we are excited to be selected to be showcased on the series and hope to show that agriculture education gives amazing opportunities to today’s youth. The episode is scheduled to be aired on January 15, 2020 at 7:30pm on Valley PBS or on the American Grown: My Job Depends on Agriculture website, <https://www.pbs.org/show/american-grown-my-job-depends-ag/>. As a chapter we hope you tune in or stream on any mobile device to show support for both Merced FFA and My Job Depends on Ag.

Farm Bureau Supports Govenor's Draft Budget

By Dave Kranz, *CFBF*

January 10, 2020 - The proposed budget submitted today by Gov. Gavin Newsom follows through on his pledge to elevate issues affecting farmers, ranchers and rural communities, according to the California Farm Bureau Federation.

“The governor’s budget reinforces his commitment to rural California,” CFBF President Jamie Johansson said.

“In his inaugural address last year, Governor Newsom promised not to leave rural California behind, and he reiterated that commitment in a meeting with our Board of Directors last summer. The proposals contained in his draft budget reflect his concerns

for the future of farmers, ranchers and the rural areas they support,” Johansson said.

“Farm Bureau will work with the administration and the Legislature to assure that programs addressing the needs of farmers, ranchers and rural California receive the budget investments required to enhance the quality of life and economy throughout the state,” he said.

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 34,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members.

Merced County Farm Bureau 103rd Annual Meeting

Friday, March 20, 2020

Merced Fairgrounds
Half Dome Hall

900 MLK Jr. Way, Merced, CA

Prime Rib Dinner

No-Host Social - 5:30 p.m.

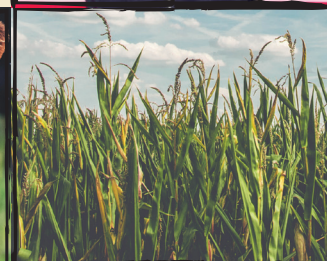
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Reservation Form

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Mail this reservation form by March 6, 2020 along with your check made payable to:

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Please RSVP BY MARCH 6, 2020

Call the Merced Farm Bureau office at 209.723.3001 for more information.