



Merced County Farm News



Props to you, Californians: A preview of what's on your November ballot

By Ben Christopher, CalMatters

After a bit of last-minute legislative maneuvering, the list of propositions that California voters will be asked to weigh in on has been — more or less — finalized.

This past week marked the deadline for citizens and special interests to snag their spot on the November ballot. Eight measures made the cut. They address matters as vital and/or esoteric as rent control, property tax law, dialysis clinic staffing requirements, stem cell research funding and the preservation or final dispatch of cash bail in California.

The same date also marked the deadline for legislators to place their preferred measures on the November ballot. But lawmakers have a bit more flexibility when it comes to deadlines — they can just make new laws. On Monday, the Senate passed Senate Bill 300 to Gov. Gavin Newsom who signed it. The law effectively extended the Legislature's deadline to July 1.

(Technically, the deadline wasn't extended but created anew. The law calls for the Legislature's favored measures to go before voters in a whole new election — conveniently to take place on the same day and same ballot as the ordinary November 3 election.)

That extension gave lawmakers a

few extra hours to add four measures: two to expand voting rights, one that ends a 22-year-old ban on affirmative action, and one that is a tortuously complicated property tax measure that somehow ropes in Realtors, wildland firefighters and "The Dude" from the Big Lebowski.

Here's your November ballot preview:

Race and Civil Rights

These three measures, all placed on the ballot by the Legislature, had been introduced before protests against racism and police brutality swept the country. But as California lawmakers look for ways to play a role in the national debate about institutional barriers to equity and the meaning of

citizenship, many legislators see these as particularly potent causes.

Prop. 16: Ending the ban on affirmative action

Who put it there: The Legislature, via a bill by San Diego Democrat Assemblymember Shirley Weber

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Allow schools and public agencies to take race and other immutable characteristics into account when making admission, hiring or contracting decisions.

In 1996 California voters passed Proposition 209, a constitutional amendment banning affirmative

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Letter to USDA - ELS Cotton in CFAP

By Members of Congress - TJ Cox, Jim Costa, Tom O'Halleran, Ann Kirkpatrick & Josh Harder

July 10, 2020 -

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Justifiably so farmers and ranchers across the U.S. have been declared essential during the Covid-19 pandemic. These producers who grow, pick and process food, fuel and fiber

for Americans across the country have stepped up to make sure these products are still available to consumers every day and can still support the local rural economies that depend on their viability. Many Extra-Long Staple (ELS) or Pima cotton producers have faced a disproportionate amount of loss compared to upland cotton producers because of the lack of support and exclusion from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). ELS producers are continuing to lose

money as the demand for ELS cotton has largely disappeared, resulting in larger carryover stocks, and ELS loan interest costs have increased.

As Members of Congress who represent areas where ELS (Pima) cotton is grown, we are in constant contact with these producers from our districts hearing their frustrations and pleas for help firsthand. We urge the USDA to consider the latest data

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Almonds still
growing in
use as food
ingredient

Address

from the President's Corner

Eric Harcksen



Greetings, from your president, Eric Harcksen, of the Merced County Farm Bureau. Here we go again. On Monday July 13th Governor Gavin Newsom has mandated the closing of more businesses, including bars, indoor restaurants and many other

recently reopened businesses. This makes me wonder how much control the government really has over our day-to-day lives, and how that will affect our economy. On the local level, we voted for our officials to make these decisions for our county. The individuals making these decisions were not voted into office, however they seem to have their hands in our day-to-day lives. These nonelected officials have quickly gained an enormous rein in power and we have allowed them to have control of the economy along with that power. This truly is an interesting time in our lives we are living in.

One of the topics that the board is currently working on is the Split Roll/Prop 15. If Prop 15 passes, the

cost of doing business in California will jump sharply. This will not only effect property taxes, it will also affect the cost of goods and services. We need to educate the public and let them know how much this will affect their farmers, but it will also increase their grocery bills. The proponents have given this initiative the friendly title of "California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act".

At our next scheduled board meeting in August, MCFB will be hosting a Candidates Night. We hold this special meeting to ask your potential candidates questions that pertain to our members. This brings our issues to the surface and allows

See 'President' Page 12

Approved by California voters on June 6, 1978, an amendment to the California Constitution was made titled the People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation. This has long carried the name of its proposition number, Proposition 13. Verbiage from the Merced County Assessor's website reads as follows, "Under Proposition 13, the property tax rate is 1% of assessed value, plus any bonds or fees approved by popular vote. An annual tax bill may also include other special assessments and levies, which are not property taxes and not based on assessed value." For years, various interests have worked to remove this assessment for property taxes.

In the midst of the chaos of 2020, an initiative has been approved for the November ballot – Proposition 15: Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative. The has largely been funded by the California Teachers Association (CTA), Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and SEIU California. The tax hike will raise up to an estimated amount of \$12.5 billion per year for schools, cities and counties according to Family Farmers Against Prop 15.

The initiative's wording can be found on the California Secretary of

State's website. It reads: "Increases funding for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments by requiring that commercial and industrial real property be taxed based on current market value. Exempts from this change: residential properties; agricultural properties; and owners of commercial and industrial properties with combined value of \$3 million or less. Increased education funding will supplement existing school funding guarantees. Exempts small business from personal property tax; for other businesses, exempts \$500,000 worth of personal property. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Net increase in annual property tax revenues of \$7.5 billion to \$12 billion in most years, depending on the strength of real estate markets. After backfilling state income tax losses related to the measure and paying for county administrative costs, the remaining \$6.5 billion to \$11.5 billion would be allocated to schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent). (19-0008.)"

You'll notice that agricultural properties are listed as exempt. Upon review, our organization has found that "fixtures and improvements" are not

exempt. This means you will face an increase in taxes on a wide range of property including: fruit and nut trees, vineyards, fences, barns, processing plants, dairies, irrigation systems, silos and tanks, storage sheds, feedlots, dams, paved roads, wind machines and much more." This has been sourced from the Assessor's Handbook (CA State Board of Equalization) and can be found on the fact sheet that we have listed on page 11 of the Farm News. The above has also found not to be exempt by the Legislative Analyst Office which is a nonpartisan and independent body. The initiative will also increase taxes for businesses that support agriculture including warehouses, farm equipment dealers and transportation companies.

I do not need to tell you how detrimental this will be to local and state agriculture, but this will impact others as well. Assessors from throughout the state have also spoken up and said this will be a large impact to them and our local offices are no different. Not only will the number of assessors be increased which will be hard, but the space and equipment will need to be increased.

Please do not take this issue lightly and believe that our organization is not in the least. Review the documents on page 11 and reach out to your

from the Director's Desk

Breanne Ramos



friends and family – both involved and not involved in agriculture. More information can also be found at www.cafarmersagainstprop15.com. Reach out to our office should you have questions and know we will not be quiet on this issue.

Merced County Farm Bureau's Mission Statement

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

Merced County Farm Bureau exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize

California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible, guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply.

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



from the

Editor's Notes

Denelle Flake

In the month of June, we were fortunate to finally be able to offer some in-person trainings. We hosted multiple Ag Haz Mat certification courses and Pesticide Safety workshops that were all well attended given our capacity limitations. We plan to offer our members more trainings in the later part of this year should the ever-changing mandates allow. If you or your employees have a request for specific trainings, please feel free to reach out to our office, so we have an idea of what our membership wants to see.

This year we are partnering with Stanislaus County Farm Bureau to host a virtual Spray Safe event. It is still in the planning phase, but we will announce details once they are finalized.

Virtual FARM2U/AgEdventure Day is continuing to develop. We completed our second filming of the dairy operation at Pedretti Ranches

and have more scheduled in the books. I have been spending most my days editing and creating engaging content to accompany the presenter’s videos to ensure the students enjoy learning about agriculture.

The application for the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom “Literacy for Life Grant” will become available in August. This grant supports the integration of agriculture into regular California K-12 classroom instruction. To get more information, please visit learnaboutag.org.

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition must submit all data to the Regional Water Board by July 31st, so if you still have not completed your 2019 INMP Summary Report please do so by this month. If you need assistance completing the report you can call our office at (209) 723-3001 and I will be happy to schedule an apointment or give guidance over the phone.

We still have IDC hand sanitizer available for purchase in our office. Give us a call if you would like to pick some up and see page 20 for pricing.

Calendar of Events

- July 21

Nationwide - Healthcare Webinar
- July 21

Nationwide - Multiple Employer Plan Webianr
- July 28

UCIPM Pesticide Safety Webinar - Disinfectants
- July 31

SCFB CE Webinar (pg. 20)
- August

Literarcy for Life Grant application period opens
- August 7

SCFB CE Webinar (pg. 20)
- August 11

UCIPM Pesticide Safety Webinar - Top 10 Violations
- August 28

Deadline to apply for CFAP

Merced County Farm News

Published monthltly by
Merced County Farm Bureau
Phone (209) 723-3001
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Email: dflake@mercedfarmbureau.org
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Entered as Second Class matter, Jan. 20, 1948 at the US Post Office in Merced, CA. Subscription is included in membership. Singles issues are 50 cents. Merced County Farm News is printed by Mattos Newspapers Incorporated, 1021 Fresno Street, Newman, CA 95360, (209) 862-2222.

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

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from the
Intern's Perspective
 Tabitha Xavier

I have really been enjoying my time here at Merced County Farm Bureau! I have been able to engage in various meetings and have learned a lot by completing tasks around the office. It is interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes because I don't think you truly understand how much time, effort and the amount of meetings that go in to everything that happens, whether it be planning or just a continuous meeting for the

discussion of an ongoing topic.

I have gotten the privilege to sit in on various meetings (via Zoom) for several different topics and issues that are currently happening. I think one of my favorite meetings that I have gotten to listen to so far would have to be anything dealing with the split roll property tax measure which many will relate to Prop 15. This is an evolving topic and it is very interesting because it is an issue that directly impacts property owners. It is fascinating to sit and listen to a group of people discuss this issue and solutions as we are seeing and hearing about it

everywhere.

I have also been able to help with the e-News that is sent out to our members every Wednesday. I have assisted in finding articles and new job postings as well and putting it together to send out for the week. I worked very closely with many different computer programs and features and have learned how to implement them into my job.

As many of you may already know, because of the current situation, FARM2U has been taken to a virtual platform this year. With that being said there is a lot of work to be done

in preparation! I have learned a lot from Denelle, watching her record and edit videos of different farmers speaking and developing content for the children to view. It has been a very interesting experience to say the least as I participated as an FFA member who presented at the event for three years and am now watching it go to a virtual platform. It is much different, but I am excited to see the outcome! We have been working diligently with Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and meeting with them frequently to make this FARM2U and AgEdventures educational yet fun for the students!



Pesticides

In a settlement, Bayer has agreed to pay more than \$10 billion to end thousands of lawsuits filed over its Roundup, glyphosate-based product this week. This settlement does not cover three cases that are currently underway and will continue through the appeals process, including the San Benicia case where the jury awarded near \$2 billion in damages, which was subsequently lowered. The settlement calls for Bayer to pay from \$8.8-\$9.6 billion to resolve current glyphosate cases and set aside \$1.25 billion lawsuits. The company will also set aside \$1.25 billion to fund payouts for potential claims in the future. Portions of the settlement are pending court approval. The settlement also resolves many other cases over the herbicide dicamba. For dicamba, Bayer will pay up to a total of \$400 million on pending litigation for the 2015-2020 crop years."

Climate Change

AB 1071, (Limon-D) would establish the Agricultural Climate Adaptation Tools Program to be enacted by the Strategic Growth

Council but managed by the Department of Food and Agriculture. This program would provide up to \$2 million of grant funding for the development of planning tools for farmers and ranchers to use to adapt to climate change. The bill would require the Strategic Growth Council to conduct pilot projects in the central valley, central coast, and desert regions of the state, and hold trainings for technical assistance providers on how to use the planning tools. Technical assistance would be targeted to meet the needs of small and moderately scaled, socially disadvantaged, and female farmers and ranchers. The bill would require any planning tools developed to be incorporated by the Office of Planning and Research into the clearinghouse for climate adaptation information. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.

Taxation

Farm Bureau has recently supported ACA 11, (Mullin) and SCA 2, (Galgiani); nearly identical legislation that provides California farmers

and ranchers with new, expanded property tax exemptions. ACA 11 seeks to replace the ballot measure entitled "Changes Requirements for Transferring Property Tax Base to Replacement Property. Expands Business Property Reassessment. Initiative Constitutional Amendment," which became eligible for the November 2020 General Election in April of last year.

Under existing California law, older generations can transfer their principal residence and up to \$1 million in other property to their lineal descendants without a reassessment, passing along the savings that have accrued under California's Proposition 13 method of property taxation. Essentially, for a family farm, this means that property will be reassessed on all value above \$1 million. Unfortunately, the ballot measure repeals the current \$1 million tax exemption for other property, meaning that farms and other commercial and residential properties unrelated to a principal residence would be reassessed at fair-market value, per existing law. This provision is indeed problematic for multi-generation family farms as the death

of a parent(s), or grandparent(s) would mean that the family farm would no longer benefit from \$1 million property tax exemption on the transfer of the property and instead the entire farm would be reassessed at fair-market value.

As provided by ACA 11, however, farms will only be reassessed on all value above the current base year value plus \$1 million. Any reassessment would only occur on the portion of valuation that exceeds the combined cap. Simply put, ACA 11 keeps the current \$1 million property tax exemption for only family farms and allows for an additional credit for base year valuation, which depending on the length of ownership of a property can be a few thousand dollars or potentially tens of thousands of dollars in existing property tax savings. ACA 11 passed in the Senate and awaits final action by the Assembly on Friday.

Editors Note: 'Commodity' portion omitted, because it was specific to cut flowers. Prop 13 has been revised to Prop 15. The California Legislature has been on recess and returned Monday, July 13. Updates listed above were last compiled on June 26.

Props

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action at state institutions. The result was an immediate drop in Black and Latino enrollment at the state's elite public universities. Some civil rights organizations have been trying to repeal Prop. 209 ever since.

Each of those attempts has been stymied by a coalition of Republicans, moderate Democrats and some progressive legislators who represent districts with large Asian American voting populations. This year, as in previous years, some of the most vocal and persistent opponents of the effort to reintroduce affirmative action have been Chinese-American political activists. They argue that boosting enrollment of students from underrepresented racial groups would come at the expense of "overrepresented" Asian American students.

Prop. 17: Restoring the right to vote to people on parole

Who put it there: The Legislature, via a bill by Sacramento Democrat Assemblymember Kevin McCarty.

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Allow Californians who are currently on parole to vote.

In 1974, California voters passed a ballot measure giving people who have committed felonies the right to vote once they complete their sentences and are no longer on parole.

Thanks to that law, there are some 40,000 Californians who are not in prison but unable to legally cast a ballot. But as with any criminal justice debate, this is also one about race. According to an estimate from 2016, two thirds of people on parole in the state are Latino or Black.

Prop. 18: Letting (some) 17 year olds vote (some of the time)

Who put it there: The Legislature, with a bill introduced by San Mateo Democrat Assemblymember Kevin Mullin.

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Allow 17-year-old U.S. citizens to vote in a primary and special election as long as they will turn 18 by the subsequent general election.

California Democrats have been on a decade-long tear increasing voting access. Same-day voter registration, automatic registration at the DMV and pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-

olds are among the recent pro-vote innovations to come out of the Capitol.

Letting people under 18 vote would be yet another extension. Already 23 states let 17- year-olds vote in certain circumstances.

Democratic legislators have tried to do this six times before; this is the first to make the ballot.

Housing and Prop. 15

This wouldn't be a California election without at least a few wildy contentious ballot measures about housing and property taxes.

Prop. 15: Split roll

Who put it there: Citizens.

Campaign largely funded by the California Teachers Association, SEIU California and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Tax some commercial property based on its market value, rather than the price at which it was purchased. This would raise property taxes on many large businesses across the state, increasing funding for schools and local government.

In 1978, California voters passed Proposition 13, placing a cap on property taxes, kicking off a nationwide anti-tax revolt and placing city and county budgets in a generation-spanning straitjacket.

By tying a landlord's property tax payments to the original purchase price, Prop. 13 has been the gift that keeps on giving to property owners, particularly those lucky enough to have bought cheap real estate decades ago. There's been bipartisan reluctance among lawmakers to touch it ever since, lest they incur the wrath of irate homeowners.

This initiative attempts to divide and conquer that political problem by repealing the property tax protections only for commercial landlords with more than \$3 million in holdings. If this measure passes, those landowners would have to make tax payments based on the current value of their properties — a tax hike for most — resulting in an estimated \$6.5 to \$11.5 billion more for cities, counties and school districts.

Prop. 19: Property tax breaks and closing the "Lebowski loophole"

Who put it there: The Legislature, via a bill by San Mateo Democrat Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, but sponsored by the California Realtors.

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Allow

homeowners who are over 55, disabled or victims of natural disaster to take a portion of their property tax base with them when they sell their home and buy a new one. It would also limit the ability of new homeowners who inherit properties to keep their parents' or grandparents' low property tax payments. Most of the additional money raised would go into a state fire response fund.

We've seen this one before — half of it, anyway. In 2018, the California Association of Realtors put a measure on the ballot allowing older or disabled homeowners to keep a portion of their Prop. 13 tax break. The Realtors argued that the current property tax rules disincentivize longtime homeowners from moving, "trapping" empty-nesters in houses that are too big for them and locking out new families. But because the measure would cost schools, counties and cities, it was opposed by organized labor and local government groups — and failed by 20 points.

The Realtors tried again this year, but with an added fiscal sweetener. Under this proposal, anyone who inherits a home from their parents or grandparents would only be allowed to keep the low property taxes if they use the home as their primary residence and only on the first \$1 million between the home's original purchase price and its market value. Inspiration for that caveat may have come from the Los Angeles Times, which tracked down a number of California scions, including "The Big Lebowski" star Jeff Bridges, who are still paying 1970-era property tax levels on their rental properties.

And then there was a last-minute wrinkle. In the final weeks of June, the Realtors sprang a deal: designating that most of the funding generated by the measure would go to fighting wildfires. That won the support of the influential

California Professional Firefighters union. It also means the measure will be funding a public need that might be on many voters' minds come November.

That bargain was struck after the Realtors had submitted their signatures, so with the help of Assemblyman Mullin, they passed it through the Legislature, pulling their original proposal just before the deadline.

Prop. 21: Rent Control (Again)

Who put it on the ballot: Signatures, collected via an effort mostly funded by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Type: Statute

What it would do: Allow cities to introduce new rent control laws, or expand existing ones.

Despite a 20-percentage point, 56-out-of-58 county defeat in 2018, a statewide rent control measure is back on the ballot.

Polling from that election season suggested that California voters generally liked rent control as a concept, but worried about the specifics of the proposal. Accordingly, this new initiative makes a few tweaks.

Under this one, cities would be allowed to apply new rent control ordinances only to homes that are at least 15 years old. And it exempts single-family homes owned by landlords with no more than two properties.

Just like last time, the measure is being pushed by the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation and its pugnacious president Michael Weinstein. State lawmakers — by passing a law last year that set a 7% ceiling on how much landlords can raise rents each year — had hoped to ward off another attempt by Weinstein and company. They had no such luck.

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Props

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How Tough on Crime

California, the home of three-strikes sentencing, has spent the last decade rethinking its approach to criminal justice. Two measures on the November ballot, channeling the spirit of the '90s, are pushing to reverse that reversal.

Prop. 25: Ditch or keep cash bail

Who put it there: Signatures, via a campaign largely funded by the bail bond industry.

Type: Referendum

What it would do: Ask voters to either approve or strike down a state law that banished money bail from the state criminal justice system.

In 2018, acting on the advice of state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, legislators passed a bill ending cash bail in California. Rather than letting people pay their way out of jail while they await trial, the law gives judges the right to determine whether someone who is arrested should be kept behind bars based on the risk they are deemed to pose to themselves or others.

Moving quickly, the bail bond industry mounted a campaign to put the question on the ballot as a referendum. Voters will vote either "Yes" to keep the state law and end cash bail for good, making California the first state to do so, or "No" to keep the bail system.

Prop. 20: Rolling back Brown-era "leniency"

Who put it there: Signatures, via a campaign largely funded by law enforcement agencies.

Type: Constitutional amendment

What it would do: Allow prosecutors to charge repeat or organized petty theft as a felony,

require probation officers to seek tougher penalties for those who violate the term of their parole three times, and exclude those who have been convicted of domestic violence and certain nonviolent crimes from early parole consideration.

Gov. Jerry Brown was famously allergic to talk of his "legacy" while in office. But if the former governor has one, it might be the effort he spent in his final two terms as governor supporting efforts to reverse the "tough on crime" policies he helped introduce during his first two terms in the 1970s and '80s.

In 2011, California legislators reduced punishments for parole violators. In 2014, voters passed Proposition 47, recategorizing some non-violent crimes as misdemeanors. In 2016, voters passed Proposition 57, giving inmates convicted of certain non-violent offenses a shot at early release.

This ballot measure would partially undo each of those.

Labor vs. Management

Usually standoffs between employees and their bosses take place behind closed doors. In California, you often find them on the ballot.

Prop. 22: Self-employment for ride hail and other app-drivers

Who put it there: Signatures, via a campaign mostly funded by Lyft, Uber and Doordash

Type: Statute

What it would do: Turn "app-based" drivers into independent contractors, exempting companies such as Lyft and Uber from standard wage and hour restrictions. It would also guarantee these drivers an earnings floor, a stipend to purchase health insurance and other minimum benefits.

Unless you happen to be an anti-vaccine protestor, the most controversial law of the 2019 legislative session was Assembly Bill 5. On its face, the law simply codified a state Supreme Court ruling, making it much harder for companies to treat their workers as independent contractors, rather than full-fledged employees. In practice, it upended the business models of Uber, Lyft, Doordash, Postmates and Instacart, all of which rely on an army of phone-toting gig-workers to provide their various services.

In the months since, all attempts at legislative compromise have fizzled, California's Attorney General has sued Uber and Lyft for violating the new law and California regulators declared their drivers to be employees.

As a last-ditch effort, the various companies implicated have poured \$110 million — and counting — to push a ballot measure that would simply exclude their drivers from the law. And throwing a bone to critics who say their drivers are mistreated, the measure also imposes some worker benefits and protections.

Prop. 23: Regulating dialysis clinics

Who put it there: Signatures, via an effort funded entirely by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West

Type: Statute

What it would do: Require dialysis clinics to have at least one physician on site at all times and to report patient infection data to California health officials.

DaVita Kidney Care and Fresenius Medical Care own the majority of the for-profit dialysis clinics in the state. For years, the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers union has been at war with them.

After unsuccessful efforts to unionize clinic staff, the union sponsored legislation to cap reimbursement rates to clinics and floated an array of possible ballot measures to boost their staff spending and cut their profits. In 2018, the union finally got one on the ballot: Prop 8, which would have set a cap on clinic profit margins.

The measure was soundly defeated, but only after the two companies spent over \$111 million, making it the most expensive ballot campaign ever. This one isn't likely to be much cheaper.

Coming Back for More

Two measures on this year's ballot aim to bolster laws and programs already on the books. Both campaigns are led by Bay Area real estate developers with a penchant for ballot box policymaking.

Prop. 24: Stronger consumer privacy laws (again)

Who put it there: Signatures, via a campaign funded entirely by Alastair and Celine Mactaggart.

Type: Statute

What it would do: Strengthen California's already strongest-in-the-nation consumer privacy law and establish a California Privacy Protection Agency

In 2018, California lawmakers passed the California Consumer Privacy Act, giving consumers the right to find out what data companies are collecting about them, to opt out of having it collected and to have that data scrubbed. It was — and remains — the only law like it in the county. It was also a compromise. San Francisco real estate developer Alastair MacTaggart had been pushing for an even stricter ballot measure, but the Legislature stepped in, brokering a deal between MacTaggart and the tech industry.

Now MacTaggart is back. Along with setting up a state agency tasked with enforcing state privacy law, the measure would beef up financial penalties for violators and allow consumers to demand that personal information not be shared at all, rather than simply not sold.

Prop. 14: Borrowing for stem cell research

Who put it there: Signatures via an effort mostly funded by Robert Klein, JDRF International and Open Philanthropy

Type: Bond

What it would do: Borrow \$5.5 billion to fund stem cell research

In 2004, voters passed Proposition 71 to create the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The institute exists to channel state money toward stem cell research. Prop 71 also let the state borrow \$3 billion to do that.

That pot of cash is now almost empty. Robert Klein, a Silicon Valley real estate developer who led the Prop. 71 effort and became the institute's first board chair, is leading the campaign for more.



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By Alison Heupel, Golden Valley FFA Chapter Reporter

Golden Valley FFA once again set a new Chapter record with having 4 State Proficiency Winners for the 2020 year. In April, California FFA announced the California State FFA Proficiency winners which highlights the best of the best Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. In order to qualify for State Winner consideration, students must win the Chapter, Section, and then the Regional scoring levels.

Hunter Aue, a 2019 graduate of Golden Valley High School was the State Winner in Beef Production Entrepreneurship in which he raises and owns 112 head of bucking bulls and cows which he and his family showcase at many PBR and ABBI events throughout the Western United States. Hunter just finished his first year at Merced College in which he hopes to one day become an animal nutritionist.

Spencer Stephens, a 2020 graduate of Golden Valley High School was named the State Winner in Environmental and Natural Resources in which helps operate the family DEF business, SS Blue in Merced. Spencer is responsible for many of the day to day operations of blending and bottling of the DEF that is then marketed throughout the State to farmers and transportation agencies. Spencer will be attending Fresno State in the fall in which he will major in Agriculture Business.

Peter Bliss, also a 2020 graduate of Golden Valley High School was named the State Winner in Fiber/Oil Production. Peter farms and operates over 200 acres of cotton in which he is responsible for all day to day tasks which include ground preparation, planting, irrigation, and harvesting. Peter, along with his family have been involved within Agriculture for many years. Peter plans on attending Merced College in which he hopes to take

Agriculture Business courses.

Our final State Winner was Josh Heupel, a 2019 graduate of Golden Valley and current student at Fresno State. Josh was the State Winner in Fruit/Pomology Production in which he owns and manages 97 acres of Chandler walnuts in the Le Grand area. In addition, Josh was named the 2019 National Proficiency winner in Agricultural Mechanics and

Fabrication. Josh hopes to continue on with the family farming operation in addition to one day becoming an Agricultural Lobbyist.

All 4 of the State Winners received State Winner plaques, as well as monetary awards. The next step for the State Winners is to have their application scored for National Recognition in hopes of becoming National Finalists. National Finalists

results will be announced in mid-August. The proficiency award program highlights the best projects in California and Golden Valley FFA had the most in the entire State of California this year.

To learn more about Golden Valley FFA, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or by checking out their website at www.goldenvalleyffa.com.



Hunter Aue
State Beef Production Winner



Peter Bliss
State Fiber/Oil Production Winner



Spencer Stephens
State Environmental Winner



Josh Heupel
State Fruit/Pomology Winner

Local Chapter Highlight

~Golden Valley FFA~

Golden Valley FFA Celebrates 4 State Proficiency Winners

Training for landowners interested in using prescribed fire

By UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

DAVIS, Calif. — Healthy California wildlands were managed with periodic wild and cultural fires for millennia. As the state's population and development grew, officials suppressed most fires out of concern for people, homes and businesses.

Though well-meaning, the strategy left land overgrown with vegetation capable of fueling even more dangerous high-intensity wildfires. The past few years have seen an exponential increase in catastrophic wildfires in California.

As a result, there is growing interest in using prescribed fire to bring nature back into balance. Despite the current interest, communities have limited capacity, shared knowledge and experience to bring it back. To close those information gaps, UC Cooperative Extension in Mariposa County hosted a five-session webinar series because the in-person workshop was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The switch to a virtual series enticed more than 500 people

from across the U.S. and more than 12 countries register for the series, and 200 people regularly attended each session. In comparison, 34 people were registered for the in-person workshop.

The webinar series provided guidance on fire ecology, prescribed burn permitting and planning, plus cost-share and the concept of launching a prescribed burn association with neighbors, local agencies and the community in five 90-minute sessions. Recordings are now available free on the UCCE Mariposa County YouTube channel.

The training is designed for California landowners and land managers, but contains information that can be applied broadly in areas where landowners and managers are faced with unmanaged vegetation growth that poses a fire risk.

"Whether you live in a mixed conifer forest, oak woodland, chaparral or grassland habitat, returning prescribed fire to California is part of well-managed landscapes," said Fadzayi Mashiri, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor and the webinar series coordinator.

The webinar series struck another first for the small foothill county. The recorded series was approved for continuing education units by the national Society for Range Management. Following are descriptions to individual sessions:

Session 1 – Fire ecology

Fire ecology and behavior and benefits of prescribed fire, Susie Kocher, UCCE forestry advisor in Lake Tahoe

Prescribed fire for invasive plants and weed control, Fadzayi Mashiri, UCCE natural resources advisor in Mariposa and Merced counties

Session 2 – Permitting

CAL FIRE permitting and prescribed burning, Brian Mattos, CAL FIRE unit forester for resource management

Air quality permitting and the health impacts of fire – David Conway, environmental health director, Mariposa County Health Department

Session 3 – Prescribed fire planning

Wildland-urban interface dynamics and community planning – Steve Engfer, senior planner, Mariposa

County Planning Department

Developing a burn plan – Rob York, UCCE forestry specialist

Session 4 – Resources for burning

Prescribed burn associations – Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UCCE fire ecology advisor

EQUIP funds for prescribed fire through the National Resources Conservation Service – Robyn Smith, Natural Resources Conservation Service district conservationist

Session 5 – Cultural burning

Benefits of cultural burn, Honorable Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe Social History of Fire in Southern Sierra – Jared Dahl Aldern, Sierra-Sequoia Burn Association.

The workshops were funded in part by California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment. Sponsors include the North Fork Mono Tribe, CAL FIRE and the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council.

State inspectors visit ag workplaces to help employers protect laborers from COVID-19

By John Cox, The Bakersfield Californian

July 9, 2020 - A multiagency enforcement initiative announced last week by Gov. Gavin Newsom has dispatched Cal/OSHA inspectors across the state to help employers including local farming companies comply with COVID-19 health and safety precautions.

Although the effort involves surprise "compliance visits," a spokesman for California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health said Wednesday it's not related to an investigation the state Attorney

General's Office launched recently to determine whether ag companies are doing enough to protect their workers from the spread of the disease.

The visits are of particular significance to the Central Valley, the heart of California agriculture, where the coronavirus has had a big impact on some farming companies and their workforce, including in Kern.

At least three local ag processing plants have been hit with COVID-19 infections. One of them, the Primex Farms nut plant in Wasco, has reported dozens of cases.

The Kern County Farm Bureau gave its members notice Monday of the visits, noting Cal/OSHA views

the disease as a workplace hazard that employers must address in a systematic way.

Ag employers are not the only ones being targeted. When Newsom announced the initiative July 1, he said it would involve Cal/OSHA, the state Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

Cal/OSHA said inspectors have visited some 2,800 work sites across California and contacted an additional 441,755 California businesses, mostly

by email. It emphasized the visits aren't classified as inspections and that agency inspectors are working with employers to "correct deficiencies on site."

"Cal/OSHA is looking into employers' infection prevention procedures to ensure that workers are protected from the spread of COVID-19," spokesman Frank Polizzi wrote in an email.

"Employers must address the disease as a workplace hazard which means steps should be taken to protect workers like modifying the workplace to allow for more distancing, requiring

Inspectors

continued from page 8

the use of cloth face coverings and providing supplies and time for proper hand washing and disinfection of the workplace," he continued. "Cal/OSHA has posted guidance for workers and employers in a broad range of industries to protect from the coronavirus and continues to add updates."

Bryan Little, director of employment policy for the California Farm Bureau Federation and chief operating officer of the Farm Employers Labor Service, said he was aware Cal/OSHA has been visiting farms.

He said by email both organizations have shared extensive resources

with individual farmers and ranches, including webinars, recommendations and links to online information.

The federation has also paid for public service announcements on Spanish-language radio, he said, in an effort to teach ag employees how to avoid contracting COVID-19.

"In addition," he wrote, "I

respond to between five and 10 calls a day from farm employers, addressing various questions related to COVID-19, above and beyond the questions I receive related to overtime, meal and rest periods, piece-rate compensation and other non-COVID-19-related compliance matters."

California closes indoor restaurants, movie theaters and all bars statewide as coronavirus cases rise

By Noah Higgins-Dunn, CNBC

California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all bars and all dine-in restaurants, movie theaters, museums and other indoor businesses across the state to close Monday as Covid-19 cases continue to climb.

The affected businesses include all operations at bars and the indoor operations at restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums and cardrooms. All except for bars will be allowed to operate outdoors, if possible, he said.

The order comes after Newsom previously ordered these businesses to close in counties on the state's "monitoring list." The new order, which will now apply across the state, is effective immediately, Newsom said.

In addition to the statewide order, Newsom also ordered the closure of indoor operations for fitness centers, worship services, personal care services, malls, offices, hair salons and barbershops for all counties that have been on California's monitoring list for three or more consecutive days, which represent 80% of the state's population. There are now 30 counties on the list, including Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties, Newsom said.

Newsom said the state recorded 8,358 new cases on Sunday. The state's

positivity rate, or the percentage of all tests returning positive, has ticked up to 7.4%.

"The data suggests not everyone is acting with common sense," Newsom said at a press conference Monday.

California hospitals also reported an increase in the number of coronavirus patients, growing 28% over a two-week period, he said. There were 6,485 people hospitalized with Covid-19 as of Sunday.

The Golden State governor's order on Monday marks one of the largest rollbacks any state has issued since reopening their economies.

Newsom reminded residents to limit their interactions with people outside their households and encouraged them to meet outside if they do meet.

Earlier on Monday, two of California's largest school districts, Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified, issued a joint statement announcing that they will begin the fall

school year online.


In the statement, the school districts said much of the research surrounding the coronavirus and children is still unknown and many of the guidelines for reopening are "vague and contradictory."

"One fact is clear: those countries that have managed to safely reopen schools have done so with declining infection rates and on-demand testing available. California has neither," according to the statement.

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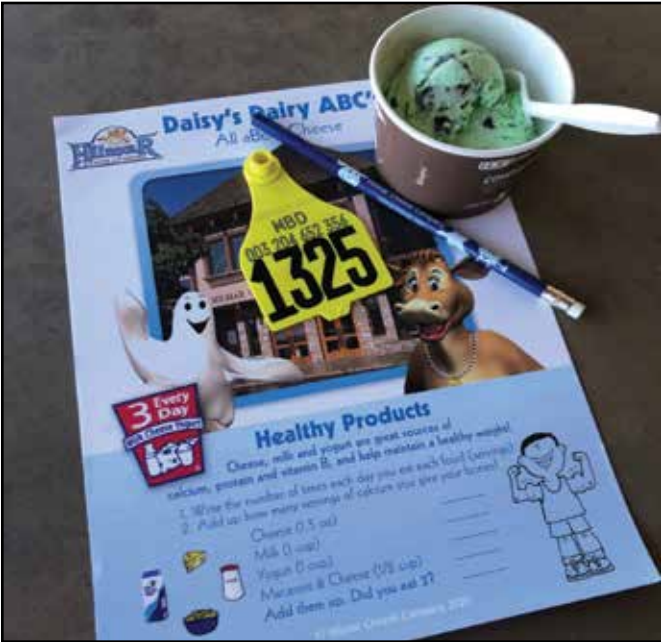
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Hilmar Cheese Company’s Visitor Center offers two curbside options!



curbside pickup and curbside catering. The Visitor Center remains closed indoors to the public.

Curbside pickup offers the public the opportunity to order sandwiches, salads, cheese chowder, Peet’s coffee, milkshakes, smoothies and more from the café along with their favorite cheeses, gourmet foods and other merchandise.

Company. “We now have a way to offer anything we have in the visitor center from farmhouse style décor items to squeakers and lunch for curbside pick-up. We are also sad that 9,000 students missed out on their spring field trip to learn about dairy and cheese.”

To help children learn about dairy each kid’s scoop of ice cream will receive a Hilmar Cheese Company activity booklet, pencil and an ear tag. There are two ways customers can order, call 209.656.6383 to place and pay for their order over the phone with a pickup time or park in the visitor center parking lot and call in the order upon arrival. A fun way to celebrate national ice cream month.

offered in increments of 24 servings. A seven day notice is required when placing an order and contactless payment is required upon placement. Meals will be in disposable pans with disposable serving utensils. Some of the entrée offerings are Golden Dijon Chicken, Baked Mac and Cheese and Pesto Penne. All meals include house green salad, seasonal roasted vegetable medley and choice of fresh seasonal fruit salad or roasted potatoes and freshly baked rolls and butter. Desserts and hors d’ oeuvres are also available. The full menu is on hilmarcheese.com/catering. To place an order call 209.656.6383 or email catering@hilmarcheese.com.

Follow @hilmarcheese on Instagram and /hilmarcheesecompany on Facebook to stay up-to-date with updates, specials, merchandise offerings and more!

Order a kids scoop and it comes with the pictured goodies!
By Hilmar Cheese Company

The Visitor Center at Hilmar Cheese Company is excited to offer two curbside options

“We realized how much people loved squeakers, fresh cheese curds, when we had to close to the public in March,” said Denise Skidmore, spokesperson for Hilmar Cheese

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HIGHER PROPERTY TAX MEASURE HITS CALIFORNIA FAMILY FARMS

DECEPTIVE MEASURE FAILS TO EXEMPT AGRICULTURE: WILL INCREASE FOOD PRICES FOR CONSUMERS

Sacramento special interests have qualified an initiative for the November 2020 California ballot that would eliminate important, long-standing property tax protections for commercial and agricultural property that voters approved via Prop 13 many decades ago. **The measure would hike taxes by \$12.5 billion / year** – costs that will be borne by small business, farmers and consumers throughout the state.

DECEPTIVE PROPERTY TAX MEASURE WOULD HIKE TAXES ON AGRICULTURE

- Proponents are saying their measure won't impact agriculture, but they included language which exposes farmers to steep property tax hikes on all "fixtures and improvements". This legalese means **farmers will face tax increases on a wide range of farm property**, including:

Fruit and nut trees, vineyards, fences, barns, processing plants, dairies, irrigation systems, silos and tanks, storage sheds, feedlots, dams, paved roads, wind machines and much more. Source: Assessor's Handbook (CA State Board of Equalization), pg. 196
- The independent and nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst Office recently confirmed that these types of agricultural property are NOT EXEMPT from higher taxes under the measure.

PROPERTY TAX MEASURE TAXES EVERY STEP FROM FARM TO FORK

- The measure doesn't just increase property taxes on agriculture – **it hikes property taxes on critical support industries as well**, like farm equipment dealers, transportation companies, and warehouses.
- Every step in the process of producing food and getting it to your local grocery store or restaurant – planting, irrigating, harvesting, processing, transporting, storing – is exposed to higher property taxes under this poorly timed and flawed measure.

HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES ON AGRICULTURE WILL INCREASE FOOD PRICES FOR CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS

- California families were already struggling with the astronomical costs of living in this state before the recent economic crisis. Increasing taxes on California's family farmers and all the industries that support food production in our state will just make things worse.

Californians can't afford higher prices on food. Join the family farmers of California Farm Bureau and other leading agricultural organizations in opposing the deceptive higher property tax measure.

Ad Paid for by Protect California's Family Farms, Save Prop 13
a Project of the California Farm Bureau Federation.
Committee major funding from
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www.CAFarmersAgainstHigherFoodCosts.com

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A Project of the California Farm Bureau Federation
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Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code Section 6033(e) notice requirement, we estimate that 100% of your contribution is not deductible as business expenses because they relate to the organization's lobbying activities.

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President

continued from page 2

us to know how they will be handled by these individuals. This meeting is important to hold because it allows your board to decide on who we will endorse to represent you.

On July 15th I was honored to be a part of a conference call with our great President, Donald Trump and the

United States Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue. This also included all the County Farm Bureau Presidents across the nation. This in one example on how the Farm Bureau gives the farmers a voice to our elected officials.

The Merced County Farm Bureau is open for business and here to serve you by appointment only. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

Reclamation's Burman urges cooperation on water

By Tim Hearden, Western Farm Press

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman says she'd like to see more cooperation from California officials as talks aim to resolve a legal dispute over competing biological opinions governing the management of their respective water projects.

The talks are proceeding after Gov. Gavin Newsom filed suit in February to nullify new federal opinions that would ease restrictions on surface water for San Joaquin Valley growers.

The federal Central Valley Project and State Water Project "are so intertwined" and their officials have worked together for decades, but "I would just like to see more cooperation from the state," Burman told Western Farm Press.

"I always want to see a collaborative solution" reached, said Burman, who was interviewed as she and U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt were visiting farms in the Klamath Basin on July 9.

Her comments came after California Natural Resources Secretary

Wade Crowfoot said in June that "there is strong potential" for an agreement soon.

"There are some clear differences ... in state and federal approach, but the men and women that do the work operating the system work really closely together," Crowfoot told the State Board of Food and Agriculture. "They all wake up every morning wanting to maximize water reliability but also to avoid extinction of fish."

State officials argue that new federal conclusions affecting water operations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are not scientifically adequate and fall short of protecting species. The new federal opinions were introduced in October and ratified by President Donald Trump in Bakersfield earlier this year.

California water regulators in November announced plans to use their own data to operate the SWP rather than rely on the federal opinions. Burman's sentiments echo those of farm groups that have been pushing for Newsom to work with the federal government on water deliveries.

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Nipomo High School Teacher Honored as California's Ag Educator of the Year

As the No. 1 insurer of farms and ranches in the United States*, Nationwide® is bringing attention to the importance of agricultural education through the Golden Owl Award. This annual award honors exceptional agricultural teachers across select states and provides financial support for their education programs.

"It's an honor to recognize outstanding teachers for their dedication to agricultural education in their communities," said Brad Liggett, president of Agribusiness at Nationwide. "This award symbolizes the hard work individual teachers put into agricultural education to help students pursue their passion for farming or other careers in ag."

In partnership with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the California FFA, Nationwide is proud to announce Rosemary Cummings, agriculture teacher at Nipomo High School in Nipomo, as California's first Ag Educator of the Year through the 2019-20 Golden Owl Award. As a result of her efforts, Cummings will receive the Golden Owl Award trophy and \$3,000 in funding to help bring new educational opportunities to the program and its students.

Nominations for Cummings shed light on the true impact she's made on the students she serves.

One student wrote, "[Cummings] has been my teacher, mentor, and hero all four years of high school. My life has been impacted by her many times whether being coached by her, lifting my spirit up and instilling in me the true value of hard work."

Another nominator described her passion for helping others and encouraging positivity, saying she "consistently puts the good of the organization and the welfare of her students above all else. She is always willing to be a lending hand and never ceases to have a positive attitude."

Cummings was one of six extraordinary California teachers recognized as finalists for the 2019-20 Golden Owl Award, after more than 400 nominations were submitted by local students, fellow teachers, parents and community members. The five runners-up include: Michael Campbell, Imperial High School, Imperial; Andree' Earley, Las Plumas High School, Oroville; Cody Jacobsen, Golden Valley High School, Merced; Julie Luxon, Madera South High School, Madera; and Alissa Sarvinski, Eureka High School, Eureka. Each finalist received an individualized plaque and \$500 in funding for their program.

"Almost anyone who farms, ranches or works in an agricultural business can refer back to an agricultural teacher who helped guide or inspire them," CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. "We're pleased to join with Nationwide and the California FFA in this program to highlight outstanding agricultural teachers."

Nationwide inaugurated the Golden Owl Award during 2018-19 by recognizing the contributions of 17 Iowa and Ohio agricultural teachers. Following the recognition, the Iowa Educator of the Year, Brad Taylor of Roland-Story High School, quickly saw a 30-student increase in his agricultural shop class for the fall semester—at a high school with just over 300 students.

As a result of the positive response from the communities in which Golden Owl Award nominees make a difference, the 2019-20 Golden Owl Award was expanded from two states to five: California, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The 2019-20 award has honored 31 outstanding agricultural educators across the five states. Nationwide plans to expand the program even further to recognize top teachers in additional states for the 2020-21 Golden Owl Award.

"Educators devote countless hours, and often their own resources, to

positively impact the lives of their students," Liggett said. "As a company with deep roots in agriculture, we're proud to supply these hardworking and compassionate public servants with additional funding, and we hope to eventually expand our efforts to recognize the work of teachers all across the country."

As the top farm and ranch insurer in the country, Nationwide supports the future of the agricultural community through meaningful sponsorships of national and local organizations.

In conjunction with the Golden Owl Award, Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to each participating state's FFA, including the California FFA, to further support the personal and

professional growth of students, teachers and advisors alike.

The Golden Owl Award is the result of a partnership among Nationwide, the California FFA, California Farm Bureau, Illinois FFA, Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Farm Credit Illinois, the Iowa FFA Foundation, Ohio FFA, Ohio Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania FFA, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Compeer Financial.

For more information or to learn more about the California Golden Owl Award finalists, visit www.goldenowlaward.com.

*Source: 2018 SNL Financial Report. Based on statutory data.

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The Long and Winding Road

from the
Mairposa CFB
Danette Toso



rioters, looters, thugs and thieves of the cities. What a drastic change in my energy, mood and sense of wellbeing as I get home and turn on the news! Some people simply don't watch or listen, I think there is a fine line in getting pertinent information, and over exposure. I haven't defined that line yet, but I hope to soon for my own piece of mind.

In these crazy, trying times, it's more important than ever to work to preserve our agricultural way of life. Just like many other nonprofit organizations, the Mariposa County Farm Bureau relies on fundraisers to support our agricultural advocacy efforts. The Hornitos Rib Barbeque Dinner had to be cancelled in March, and now our Annual Dinner in October has been cancelled as well. The Governor of California has deemed that all gatherings over 50 people be cancelled until there is a vaccine for COVID 19. Well, there goes our funding for all things agriculture this year, such as education, scholarships, and advocacy.

We are brainstorming, working on fundraising ideas other than public gatherings. Your help would be greatly appreciated in this effort, we need fresh ideas. Agriculture was deemed essential when this pandemic began and we all know it always has been and always will be. With your help, we can stay strong and continue to make a positive difference on this long and winding road we call agriculture.

As always, I encourage farmers and ranchers 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.

As I drive the long and winding road from my office in Mariposa, I am in awe of the beauty before me. As I crest the hill on Bear Valley Road, I literally thank the Lord for the beautiful view and dramatic sunset. Most evenings, I pull over to the side of the road and just see, take it all in and appreciate the entire landscape. The Detwiler Fire in 2017 did a number on the trees, but many of them have withstood its devastating wrath. Even the unlucky still have a place in the picture, standing and reminding us of what was and what can be again. Driving down our dirt road, I cuss the gates as I begrudgingly open and close them behind me, (cattle guards, I dream of cattle guards!)

We are unbelievably blessed to live in Mariposa County, far away from the

New MCFB Member Benefit

We Appreciate our Farmers and Ranchers!

Big Creek Lumber is offering Merced County Farm Bureau Members a \$100 credit for NEW accounts!

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Turlock High grad crowned Dairy Princess



Alyce Silva of Turlock was selected as the 2020 Dairy Princess for the California Milk Advisory Board's District 6 (Photo contributed).

By The Turlock Journal

Alyce Silva of Turlock was selected as the 2020 Dairy Princess for the California Milk Advisory Board's District 6 in a virtual crowning event held June 20.

Silva is the daughter of David and Nelia Silva of Turlock. She is a 2019 graduate of Turlock High School. She is a full-time student at Modesto Junior College majoring in Agriculture Business and Agriculture Sciences, where she is a member of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Club.

Silva had the honor of representing the dairy industry as the 2019-2020 District 6 1st Alternate Dairy Princess. She is a past member of her high school's FFA program where she showed dairy cattle at the Stanislaus County Fair, and served as chapter reporter. She plans to transfer to California State University, Fresno and major in Agricultural Communications.

Crowned Alternate, Paige Brigham is the daughter of Karry and Regina Brigham of Atwater. She is a graduate of Atwater High School, and plans to attend CSU Monterey Bay in the fall and major in Biological Sciences. Brigham had the honor of representing the dairy industry as the 2019-2020 District 6 2nd Alternate Dairy Princess, and was an active member of Atwater FFA where she showed dairy heifers. She was also active in the St. Anthony's 4-H club where she held several officer positions. Brigham competed on the varsity water polo and swim teams at Atwater High School.

Silva will represent District 6, which includes Alameda, Mariposa,

Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties. As Dairy Princess, she will play an important role on the CMAB's Communications Services team in meeting community relations objectives.

Silva and Brigham will be speaking on behalf of the California dairy industry to various audiences throughout the year. In addition, they will attend a professional development training focused on presentation skills, advocating for the California dairy industry, leadership and business etiquette.

California is the nation's leading milk producer. It also produces more butter, ice cream and nonfat dry milk than any other state. The state is the second-largest producer of cheese and yogurt. Dairy products made with Real California Milk can be identified by the Real California Milk seal, which certifies they are made with milk produced on California dairy farms by California dairy farm families.



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Stanislaus County Ag Comm - 10-11 am

New! *August 7th - Paraquat and Private Applicator (PAC) Study Session*
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau - 10-11 am

August 27th - Commodity Fumigation Requirements
Stanislaus County Ag Comm - 10-11 am

September 17th - Common Violations
Stanislaus County Ag Comm - 10-11 am





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Almonds still growing in use as food ingredient

By Tim Hearden,
Western Farm Press

With a historic 3-billion-pound crop hanging in the trees, almond growers may be relieved to know the nut is still growing in popularity as a food ingredient.

The number of new almond products rose by 13 percent in 2019 with 12,206 new products introduced globally, according to new data from Innova Market Insights.

For the first time in the report’s history, dairy joined confectionery, snacks, bakery goods and bars amid top categories for new products with almonds, according to a news release summarizing the report.

With 934 new products introduced last year, dairy now holds an 8 percent share of total new food introductions

containing almonds, Innova’s research found. Almonds have been the No. 1 nut for uses in new products since 2006.

“This annual report captures the evolving work that goes into developing new products,” said Lu Ann Williams, Innova Market Insights’ director of innovation. “It provides reassurance and validation behind using an ingredient like almonds and reinforces consumer demand.

“If you’re making a short list of ingredients to include in product development and you see these numbers, they should give you a lot of confidence,” she said. “Almonds continue to show growth and expansion into new markets because they have undeniable consumer appeal and align with desirable health and texture claims.”

The data comes as downward pressure on grower prices suggests a ceiling may have been reached in sustainable almond production in California, with one Rabobank analyst recently advising growers to consider retiring underperforming orchards regardless of age.

Winning streak over?

With this year’s domestic yield expected to top 3 billion pounds for the first time, some analysts believe California’s lengthy run of profitable almond prices may be over for the next several seasons as the rapid pace of planting as apparently overtaken world demand.

Industry groups such as the Almond Board of California have been working feverishly in recent years to boost demand by promoting the nut as a food ingredient, with significant success.

New almond product introductions across the confectionery, snacks, bakery, bars and dairy categories

account for 80 percent of global almond introductions, but almonds also experienced double-digit growth last year in emerging categories such as desserts and ice cream (17 percent) and spreads (26 percent), according to the Almond Board’s release.

The Global New Product Introductions Report from Innova Market Insights found that almonds are the top nut in Europe, Asia-Pacific and North America.

In North America, the third largest region for almond introductions, almonds are the top nut type for new product introductions in the bar, snacks, bakery and dairy categories, the report states.

Bars represent the biggest category for almonds with 24 percent of introductions. The United States saw 12 percent growth in 2019 with 1,791 almond product introductions, according to the study.



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Cotton

continued from page 1

for ELS cotton and expand CFAP’s eligibility to include ELS producers. Due to there being a decline in ELS market prices between January 2020 and April 2020 by 7.2%, ELS meets the threshold requirements established in CFAP for eligibility.

Additionally, export sales have been stalled since March and many shipments significantly dropped in April. Multiple international ports closed as a part of the global response to mitigate the impact of the Coronavirus. Because of the port closures and delay in deliveries there has been a rise in additional costs that

were not foreseen. The impact of the Coronavirus has impacted the entire supply chain from the consumer and the retailer to farmers.

The ELS cotton grower community is a group of approximately 500 family-owned farms in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. Given the current economic situation, ELS producers are in dire need of the timely assistance that can be provided through CFAP. Based on the price information released since the original CFAP announcement, we strongly urge USDA to include extra-long staple cotton in the program.

Thank you for your consideration in a time of crisis.



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To request, fill out the 'N95 Mask Distribution Form' on their website at <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/58/Ag-Commissioner>



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