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Thank you for responding! 2022 Census of Agriculture Data Coming February 2024

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has concluded data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. To all producers who responded to the ag census, thank you. Your information helps inform decisions that impact all who serve American agriculture.

The widely used ag census data will be available in February 2024 at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus and in NASS's Quick Stats database at quick-stats.nass.usda.gov. Learn more on NASS's website and follow NASS on X @usda_nass for updates.

Ag census data inform decisions about policy, farm and conservation programs, infrastructure and rural development, research, education, and more. Thank you again for your time and participation.

UC scientists share techniques to sustainably grow agave in California

Tasting event showcased research on production of agave for tequila, mezcal and more



Paulina Rojas, PhD Student in the UC Davis Ecology Graduate Group and research project leader Samuel Sandoval Solis, UC Cooperative Extension specialist in water resources management offering pulque tastings to an event attendee

By Linda J Forbes
Director of Strategic Communications

A group of University of California researchers and collaborators is developing innovative agricultural techniques for growing agave in California without compromising natural resources. The team's findings and practical tips, available online in English and Spanish, are designed to help Californians sustainably grow agave, which can be used to make sweeteners and profitable distilled beverages like tequila and mezcal.

The researchers view agave production as an ecological and financially viable solution for agriculture in a changing climate. They work closely with growers, environmental organizations and agroecology experts to advance sustainable production practices that promote biodiversity; soil, water and air conservation; and the protection of the natural environment.

The team recently held a "Fire, Smoke & Legend" event in Sacramento to showcase their research and offer

tastings of scores of agave products from research collaborators and more than 20 vendor partners. Participants also sampled food from a variety of local restaurants.

"We value science outreach and education, so we are excited to share our findings with the community," said Samuel Sandoval Solis, a UC Cooperative Extension specialist in water resources management at UC Davis and principal investigator for the research project. "Many attendees at the Sacramento event said they were inspired to grow their own agave, and we want to help them do that sustainably."

One attendee commented, "It's great to see and sample the wide variety of products you can make with agave. I had no idea!"

In addition to its economic and environmental benefits, agave has great cultural significance in Latino and Indigenous communities. For thousands of years, these plants were vital to the survival of ancient Mesoamerican people, providing food, fibers and tools for sewing and medicine. Agave symbolizes health and abundance in Mexican culture.

Researcher Yessica Viridiana Fernandez Galicia, a Ph.D. student in agricultural economics at the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo in Texcoco, Mexico and member of the Water Resources Management Group led by Sandoval Solis, noted that the guidelines they published provide "practical, easy-to-use information on climate change resiliency in agave, which species to consider for different distilled products, temperature ranges, managing residues and more."

J. Pablo Ortiz-Partida, senior climate and water scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, lends

his expertise in developing strategies for vulnerable populations in California to adapt to the current and projected



Silvia Almaraz, Agua Miel Distillate representative, and Louise Jackson, Emeritus Professor in Cooperative Extension, discussing the research-based guide to growing agave in California

See Agave in California page 7

USDA Commemorates 100 Years of Contributions to the Grape Industry



California vineyard.

Photo by Jessica Griffiths

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center (SJVASC) celebrated 100 years of cooperative research with the grape industry that has positively impacted the way the world grows, cultivates and consumes grapes.

This historic grapevine breeding research program develops and introduces new, high-quality, disease-resistant table grapes and raisins cultivars. The first table grape cultivar was developed in 1923 in Fresno, California, at the USDA Experiment Vineyard, part of the USDA Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1972, the program became part of ARS, the chief in-house research agency of the USDA.

Since then, ARS scientists have developed over half of the top 10-15 seedless grape varieties. The red seedless 'Flame' cultivar grape was grown by ARS scientists in 1973. The green seedless 'Autum King' grape was developed and released in 2006, and in 1983, ARS scientists invented seedless black grapes.

"The phenomenal research conducted by our scientists over the past 100 years created a billion-dollar industry and has defined how the world grows and consumes table grapes," said ARS Administrator Dr. Simon Liu. "As we move into the next 100 years, our collaboration with the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center will continue to deliver innovative research that will produce high-quality, nutritious fruits for future generations."

Red seedless grapes were unknown to U.S. consumers before ARS released the Flame variety. The release of another ARS variety, Crimson red seedless, in 1989 further increased this table grape's popularity. Now grown extensively by domestic and foreign producers, these two varieties comprise a significant part of today's consumer market for table grapes.

"The farming community in California produces 99 percent of the table grapes grown in the United States, and scientists working at SJVASC have led this effort," said ARS Pacific West Area Director Dr. Tara McHugh. "This day recognizes a century of innovative research that has increased crop productivity and improved the quality and marketability of the table grapes we eat today."

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Rangeland Trust Successfully Preserving California's Ranching Legacy

Farm Credit has sponsored organization's major fundraiser since 2011

In 1998, as today, many California ranchers were facing serious headwinds, including high taxes, escalating land prices, ever-increasing regulations and the threat of urban development. Many ranchers were getting out of the business or leaving California altogether.

To protect California's cattle industry – which dates back to the first Spanish mission in 1769 – and allow families to continue ranching, leaders with the California Cattlemen's Association began looking for solutions. The one they settled on was creating a land trust similar to one ranchers in Colorado had formed a few years previously.

The plan worked. Today, the California Rangeland Trust is the state's largest state-wide land trust. The owners of 84 properties totaling 377,434 acres have voluntarily sold or donated their development rights – an area equivalent to the cities of Los Angeles and Sacramento combined. And the amount of acreage continues to grow. In fact, by the end of this year – the organization's silver anniversary – the Rangeland Trust could have an even 100 conservation easements established, said Alyssa Rolan, the trust's communications director.

Rolan said there are many reasons why a ranching family would be interested in establishing a conservation easement.

There's satisfaction in knowing that regardless of what happens in the future, their land will remain working open range land," Rolan said. "There are also financial benefits when they sell the development rights, which many do."

While the bulk of the Rangeland Trust's funding comes from state and federal conservation grants, the nonprofit also receives crucial private-sector funding, which Rolan said has been a big help in recent years. The group's major fundraising event is its A Western Affair, which takes place every other year. This year's event was held in May at Yolo Land and Cattle in Esparto. Farm Credit organizations with operations in California have come together annually to sponsor the gala since 2011.

"As Farm Credit partners with farmers and ranchers to grow the future, we stay rooted in our mission-based, farmer-owned legacy, which focuses on serving our customers and communities," said Regional Marketing Manager Jacob DeBoer with American AgCredit. "We are committed to helping preserve and protect California's rich ranching and farming resources, both through customized financial solutions—and by partnering with nonprofit organizations like Rangeland Trust."

Nearly 400 people attended this year's event, which raised \$360,000. Rolan said a highlight was a resolution from Rep. John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, recognizing its contribu-



The owners of the Koopmann Ranch alongside Interstate 680 near Pleasanton have placed two parcels in the Rangeland Trust. The easements allowed the family to pay their estate tax bill and to continue preserving the land from nearby development.

tions to the Golden State for the past 25 years. It was appropriate because in 1998, Garamendi and his family were the first ranchers in California to dedicate their development rights to the trust.

In addition, the Trust debuted the film trailer for its upcoming documentary *Just Can't See Them From the Road*, which attempts to connect people back to where their food comes from and show viewers why keeping ranchers ranching matters for everyone. The film screened at film festivals this summer with private screenings beginning this fall and through next year. (You can view the trailer and get more information here. <https://rangelandtrust.org/fromtheroad/>)

Kevin Ralph, California State President at AgWest Farm Credit, said the Rangeland Trust's work to preserve rangeland is vital.

"The Rangeland Trust works with ranchers interested in preserving their land to enter into voluntary legal agreements that permanently limit uses of the land to protect its conservation values," Ralph said. "The landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. As most ranches are family-owned, that is a major incentive because limiting estate taxes helps ensure that the property can be passed down to the next generation."

Farm Credit organizations supporting the Rangeland Trust are AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit and CoBank. These organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System – the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

Rolan stressed that the Rangeland Trust doesn't actively

See Rangeland Trust next page

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Rangeland Trust

continued from previous page

seek properties.

"We don't contact landowners – they come to us," Rolen said. "Easements may not be a solution for all ranching families, but we're always open to having those discussions with ranchers who are interested. We work with the landowner to figure out what works best for them."

The benefits of preserving rangeland go far beyond the ranching community. Rolen said 62% of the state's open space consists of rangeland, 67% of the state's endangered species spend part of their lives on private rangeland and 85% of the state's water runs over rangeland.

"Rangeland is critical to air quality, water quality, wildlife habitats and local food supplies. We believe in protecting rangeland and the life it sustains," she said.

Protected parcels range from a 30-acre parcel in the Livermore area that protects the endangered California tiger salamander to the 80,000-acre Hearst Ranch in San Luis Obispo County that surrounds the famed Hearst Castle.

"The owners of the 30-acre parcel were close to losing the ranch because of an estate tax burden and a huge debt. Because of the conservation easement, the owners were able to keep it in ranching," Rolen said. "And the Hearst family has been quoted as saying that the coastline along Highway 1 could have looked like Malibu because of the opportunities for development, but now, with the conservation easement, it will never be developed and will remain beautiful open space forever."

While the goal is to finish the year with 100 ranches with conservation easements, Rolen said there are more than 90 ranches representing over 200,000 acres on their waiting list, awaiting funding.

"We know we won't stop after we reach that milestone because there is still a lot more work to do. Our goal is to help as many families stay on the land as possible because their stewardship benefits all Californians," she said.



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Agave in California

continued from page 4



An agave grower and spirits importer shows off a favorite bottle of mezcal

effects of climate change, particularly water impacts.

"Our research has shown that growing agave can be a profitable water-efficient alternative and climate-resilient endeavor for California farmers and others who have an interest in the industry," he said.

Other collaborators include Gabriela Rendon Herrera, UC Davis graduate student researcher; Alyssa J. DeVincentis, director of science and technology at Vitidore, Inc.; and Louise Jackson, UC Davis professor

and specialist in sustainable agriculture practices.

With support from UC ANR seed grants, the research began in March 2023 and the guidelines were published in August, 2023. The collaborators are continuing to work on developing and disseminating best practices for agave production in California through a variety of educational materials and events.

More information is available at <https://california.agave.ucdavis.edu/>.

USDA awards \$2 million to study livestock grazing in organic orchards



Scientists will study the effects of livestock grazing of cover crops in organic almond, walnut and pistachio orchards. Photo by Alda Pires

By Pamela Kan-Rice

Assistant Director, News and Information Outreach

UC, The Organic Center, University of Rhode Island partner on \$3.5m food-safety study for organic produce growers

Grazing sheep and other livestock can help convert cover crops to fertilizer for orchard crops. To develop best management practices, the University of California and The Organic Center are collaborating on research to help organic orchard growers safely incorporate livestock grazing into their farming practices. The project is funded by a \$2 million grant recently awarded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative research program.

Interest in grazing livestock on cover crops in nut orchards has increased in recent years. However, research is needed to determine the best way to improve soil health and pest suppression, and to address concerns about food-borne pathogens and food safety.

"Organic farmers typically follow the USDA National Organic Program standards for raw animal manure, waiting 90 to 120 days between incorporating raw manure into the soil and harvesting the crop," said Alda Pires, UC Cooperative Extension urban agriculture and food safety specialist in the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis.

"Little research has been conducted to verify adequate waiting periods to reduce contamination risks in integrated crop-livestock production systems," she said. "This research will fill the knowledge gap and facilitate the development of science-based food safety guidelines for

grazing small ruminants in orchards."

For this four-year project, "Influence of Orchard Grazing on Soil Health and Pest Control While Mitigating Food Safety Risk," the scientists will study organic almond, walnut and pistachio orchards in two distinct nut-growing regions in California – the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. The scientists will assess the effects of livestock grazing of cover crops on bacteria populations, soil health, pest control and economics.

Building soil health

"Growers have consistently raised the need for more information on grazing impacts on nutrient availability during tree growth, as well as

potential to build up the biological, physical and chemical pillars of soil health," said Amelie Gaudin, associate professor and endowed chair of agroecology in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences.

Livestock grazing may provide an opportunity to quickly enhance the amount of nitrogen that can be used by plants and microbes when the cover crop is terminated. "This project will help growers develop nitrogen budgets for these more diversified systems and quantify additional benefits and potential tradeoffs for soil health – such as compaction and salinity – to guide the development of place-based best management practices," Gaudin said.

Pest management

Houston Wilson, UC Cooperative Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside, will be studying the effects of livestock grazing on orchard pests.

Navel orangeworm, or NOW, is by far the most destructive pest of almonds and pistachios," Wilson said. "These moths overwinter in unharvested nuts in the orchard, and so removal and destruction of remnant nuts over the winter is the foundation of NOW control. While farmers typically use machinery to do this, grazing with animals may present a unique alternative that is more cost-effective and provides additional ecosystem benefits, such as soil health and weed control."

Outreach to farmers

As part of the project, The Organic Center was awarded \$75,000 to work with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to direct national extension and education outreach activities. These will include a social media cam-

See *Livestock grazing* page 20

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UC scientists share new insights on cover cropping in rice



PhD candidate Sara Rosenberg collects seed emergence data of cover crop mixtures at the Colusa Farm research site

By Linda J Forbes

Author - Director of Strategic Communications

For the first time in nearly 30 years, University of California scientists are conducting research on cover crops in rice, and they are sharing their expanded findings with growers through field days and educational materials. Previous research had focused on just two species, rendering the team unable to make recommendations to growers.

“When I went on farm calls, and at various meetings, rice growers were asking for updated information,” said UC Cooperative Extension rice advisor Whitney Brim-DeForest. She and her colleagues recognized it was time to evaluate cover crops again to support the industry.

The researchers are collaborating with growers in Colusa and San Joaquin counties and at the California Rice Experiment Station in Biggs to evaluate winter cover crop mixes for their ability to increase soil carbon and improve nitrogen cycling, and to evaluate ten single species and two mixes for suitability in rice growing systems. The project is funded by a California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Demonstration grant and the California Rice Research Board.

“Working with the growers has been a fantastic opportunity to further understand the constraints they face when cover cropping and has given us insight into how we might better implement cover cropping in California rice,” said Brim-DeForest. “For example, we’ve learned that cover crops are very sensitive to water conditions –

too much rain leads to drowning; too little rain and establishment is poor.”

The project connects dedicated grower collaborators with a UC team that brings diverse expertise in agronomy, plant nutrition, soil health and pest management. “Together, we are increasing knowledge for the benefit of the rice industry,” said Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, UCCE Delta crops resource management advisor and project leader at the San Joaquin location.

Leinfelder-Miles stressed another important aspect of the collaboration. “It can take years before management practices result in changes to soil health metrics, which can inhibit long-term adoption,” she said. “It is important to collaborate with industry partners who have a vested interest in long-term outcomes.”

Sara Rosenberg, UC Davis graduate student in plant sciences, added that rice growers need more data to make informed decisions and policy makers need information to adapt incentive programs to the growers’ contexts and the diversity of agricultural systems that

exist in California.

“There are more incentive programs these days to support growers in adopting sustainable practices such as cover cropping,” she said. “But rice is a unique system, and it tends to be left out of the conversation with respect to soil health practices. Due to the flooded conditions and heavy clay soils, the impacts and growth habits of cover crops may be very different than what we can expect in an upland crop like corn, wheat or tomato.”

Scientists collect data on cover crops in Colusa

UC ANR Technicians take germination count and collect seed emergence data of cover crop at the Colusa site in December 2022

Colusa site flooded after high rainfall events in February 2023. Flooding events resulted in a poor establishment of all cover crop treatments.

Colusa site flooded after high rainfall events in February 2023. Flooding events resulted in poor establishment of all cover crop treatments

Additional project collaborators include UCCE rice farming systems advisor Luis Espino, UCCE agronomy farm advisor Sarah Light, UC Davis professor of Cooperative Extension Bruce Linqvist and associate professor of plant sciences Cameron Pittelkow. When project results and grower guidance are available, the team will share them through the UC Rice Blog, county newsletters, and the winter grower meetings. There will also be a farmer field day scheduled at one of the research sites over the cover crop growing season.



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Tulare County Crop Value Rockets to \$8.6 Billion



Tulare County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Chris Greer and Agricultural Commissioner Tom Tucker display crops from Tulare County in the Board of Supervisors Chamber on September 26.

Tulare County's total gross agriculture production value for 2022 is \$8,612,450,000. This represents an increase of \$522,828,700 or 6.5% above 2021's value of \$8,089,621,300.

Milk continues to be the leading agricultural commodity in Tulare County; with a gross value of \$2,671,291,000, an increase of \$728,248,000 or 37%. Milk represents 31% of the total crop and livestock value for 2022. The value of milk increased by \$7.20 per hundredweight (cwt).

Livestock and Poultry's gross value of \$823,251,000 represents an increase of 12% above 2021, mostly due to a higher per unit value for cattle. The total value of all Field Crop production in 2022 was \$745,489,000, an increase of 30% from the previous year. This increase is mostly attributed to better prices for field crops across the board. Fruit and Nut commodities were valued at \$4,127,035,000, a decrease of 10%. This decrease can be partially attributed to a decrease in the value of Lemons, Peaches, Tangerines, and Walnuts. Vegetable crops were valued at \$26,604,000, representing an increase of nearly 30%. This can be attributed to an increase in harvested acreage for a variety of vegetables.

Tulare County's agricultural strength is based on the diversity of the crops produced. The 2022 crop report covers more than 150 different commodities, 41 of which have a gross value in excess of \$1,000,000. Although individual commodities may experience difficulties from year to year, Tulare County continues to produce high-quality crops that provide food and fiber to more than 90 countries throughout the world.

To see the full report, visit <https://agcomm.co.tulare.ca.us/pest-exclusion-standardization/crop-reports1/crop-reports-2021-2030/>.

KIOTI Unleashes Its Powerful, Premium HX Series Tractors

Delivering power and durability paired with premium features and comfortable cabins, the new HX Series enhances agricultural efficiency



KIOTI Tractor, a division of Daedong-USA, Inc., delivers more power to its tractor lineup with the introduction of the HX Series. The HX9010C and HX1151C models feature a proven KIOTI engine, a spacious cabin and a heavy-duty front axle, ensuring the power, comfort and dependability customers require to tackle the tough jobs on the farm.

“The new HX Series models demonstrate our commitment to delivering machines built with our customer needs top of mind,” said Joel Hicks, associate product line manager of KIOTI Tractor. “When developing these machines, we built upon years of experience and customer feedback to deliver valuable features that deliver durability, efficiency and comfort. The new HX tractors also provide the power needed to make quick work of tasks and are capable of meeting the needs of small and large farms, regardless of the variety of chores.”

Proven Power and Consistency

The HX9010C and HX1151C feature a powerful KIOTI four-cylinder diesel engine, delivering 90 horsepower and 115 horsepower, respectively. This makes the HX Series the most powerful in KIOTI's lineup. This engine package delivers impressive power and torque, ensuring operators can tackle any job they face.

As with the rest of the tractor lineup, KIOTI builds almost every major component themselves, and the HX Series tractors are no exception. This allows for quality and control from concept and design to manufacturing and production. As a result of this vertical integration, every KIOTI tractor possesses an unmatched level of consistency.

Both HX models include a power boost feature, which delivers 9% more PTO horsepower and torque for heavy

applications or travel. This feature raises the rated PTO to 76.7 horsepower on the HX9010C and 91.5 horsepower on the HX1151C.

Spacious, Premium Cabin

Not only does the HX boast impressive power, but it also redefines the concept of operator experience. The spacious cabin provides unparalleled comfort and improved visibility. The climate-controlled cabin includes a deluxe air suspension seat with fore and aft adjustment, in addition to a swivel and heated lower cushion for added comfort. The standard instructor seat allows for roomy, additional seating for on-the-job training without impacting comfort, visibility or machine operation.

The steering wheel tilts and telescopes, enabling the operator to adjust to their desired position, reducing fatigue during long workdays. An ergonomic and user-friendly layout ensures the controls are placed close to the operator for increased efficiency.

The HX Series is built with operator needs top of mind. From the roomy cabin to the tilt and telescopic adjustable steering wheel, operators can expect enhanced productivity and minimized fatigue when working long hours or operating in challenging conditions.

Unrivaled Operating Experience

The HX tractors include a heavy-duty front axle with standard planetary drives and limited-slip differential. The axle provides robust durability and increased traction over open-differential designs, regardless of operating conditions.

An electronic hitch enables the operator to conveniently tune the hitch to the application without leaving the seat. Operators can easily adjust speed, hitch operating range, draft settings and engagement position for the Auto PTO feature.

Heavyweight Hitter

With a machine weight of 10,230 pounds, both models boast a lift capacity of 8,000 pounds 24-inch aft of hitch, allowing operators to efficiently move materials. Other features include a contemporary hood and headlights design, and an optional grill guard for added protection. The excellent service access on the HX Series also simplifies routine maintenance.

The HX models are available now at KIOTI dealerships across the United States and Canada. To learn more about the KIOTI HX Series, contact an authorized KIOTI Tractor dealer or visit KIOTI.com.

Tractor dealer or KIOTI.com.

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*Offer available October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in USA dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DLL using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. © 2023 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daedong-USA, Inc.



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(cash rebates shown)

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- Workmaster 25 (24.7 HP) TRACTOR LOADER BACKHOE (includes loader cash discount) 23 hrs., w/hydro. trans., remote valve, R1 tires #F92241. \$25,900
- Workmaster 25 (24.7 HP) Tractor Loader (includes loader cash discount) rental return 79 hrs., hydro. trans., remote valve, R4 tires #F92273 \$16,900.00
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- Workmaster 35 (35 HP) TRACTOR LOADER BACKHOE NEW (includes loader cash discount) w/hydro. trans., R4 tires, remote valve #F92753 ... \$34,900.00
- Workmaster 40 (40 HP) w/Loader (includes loader cash discount) NEW with hydrostatic trans., R4 tires, remote valve, 68" bucket #F92285 \$27,900.00

Call for current hours on the rental return tractors. Prices shown are cash sales plus applicable taxes. Subject to prior sale.

Bargains on Loaders, Backhoes, Scrapers, Rotary Cutters, Tillers, Posthole Diggers and More!

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- Workmaster 70 (70 HP) 4WD, NEW, 8x8 transmission, 9.5-24/14.9-28 R1 tires, mid-mount valve (loader ready), remote valves #F92354..... \$31,900.00
- Workmaster 75 (74 HP) 4WD CAB Tractor Loader, NEW, 12.5/80-18, 19.5L-24 R4 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, 72" bucket #F92826 \$55,900.00
- Workmaster 75 (74 HP) 4WD CAB Tractor rental return 250 hrs., 11.2-24/16.9-30 R1 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights #F92361 \$39,900.00
- Workmaster 75 (74 HP) 4WD Tractor rental return 200 hrs., 11.2-24/16.9-30 R1 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights #000203..... \$33,900.00
- Workmaster 95 (97 HP) 4WD Tractor rental return 250 hrs., 12.5/80-18, 19.5L-24 R4 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights, reversing fan #F93097 \$45,900.00
- Workmaster 95 (97 HP) 4WD Tractor Loader rental return 50 hrs., 12.5/80-18, 19.5L-24 R4 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle trans., wts., reversing fan, 84" bucket #F93109. \$55,900.00
- Workmaster 95 (97 HP) 4WD CAB Tractor Loader, NEW, 11.2-24/16.9-30 R1 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights, 84" bucket #F91512 \$70,900.00
- Workmaster 105 (112 HP) 4WD CAB Tractor rental return, 500 hrs., 13.6-24/16.9-34 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights #F91512 \$44,900.00
- Workmaster 120 (120 HP) 4WD Tractor rental return 500 hrs., 12.5/80-18, 19.5L-24 R4 tires, triple remote valves, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, weights, reversing fan #F92522 \$37,900.00
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- T5.100 DC (99 HP) 4WD CAB Tractor rental return 230 hrs., 11.2R28/13.6 R38 tires, 24x24 dual power transmission with Powershuttle, dual remotes, weights, 540/1000 PTO #F92393..... \$72,900.00
- T5.120 DC (117 HP) orchard tractor, rental return 300 hrs., SAF-T-Cab, 24x24 Powershuttle-dual power transmission, 12.5/80-18/19.5L-24 R4 tires, front weights, 540/1000 PTO #F91894. \$74,900.00
- T5.120 DC (117 HP) orchard tractor, NEW, SAF-T-Cab, 24x24 Powershuttle-dual power transmission, 12.5/80-18/19.5L-24 R4 tires, front weights, 540/1000 PTO #F91897 \$84,900.00
- T5.120 Electro Command (117 HP) rental return 400 hrs., Cab with 11.2R28/13.6 R38 tires, 16x16 powershift w/creeper transmission, triple remotes, weights, 540/1000 PTO #F92397 \$82,900.00
- PowerStar 75 (74 HP) CAB NEW, 4WD with 11.2R28/13.6 R38 tires, CVT transmission, triple remotes, front weights, 540/1000 PTO, autoguidance ready #000293 \$129,900.00
- PowerStar 75 (74 HP) CAB NEW, 2WD with 9.5L-15 front, 16.9-30 rear tires, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, dual remotes, front & rear weights #F91802..... \$38,900.00
- PowerStar 75 (74 HP) CAB NEW, 4WD with 11.2R24 front, 16.9R30 rear tires, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, dual remotes, front & rear weights #001355 \$59,900.00
- PowerStar 90 (86 HP) CAB NEW, 2WD with 7.50-16/16.9R34 tires, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, dual remotes, front & rear weights #F92834 \$72,900.00
- PowerStar 100 (98 HP) rental return 900 hrs., 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, 13.6-24/18.4-34 tires, dual remotes, front & rear weights #F92104..... \$29,900.00
- PowerStar 120 CAB with loader (117 HP) NEW, 12x12 Powershuttle transmission, 13.6-24/16.9-34 tires, dual remotes, 84" bucket, weights #000207 \$84,900.00
- T3.60F - (54 HP) rental return 800 hrs., 4WD Narrow, low profile, 200/70R16-320/70R20 tires, 20x20 transmission w/creeper, front weights, triple remote valve #F90778 \$17,900.00
- T3.70F - (64 HP) rental return 700 hrs., 4WD Narrow, low profile, 200/70R16-320/70R16 tires, 20x20 transmission w/creeper, front weights, triple remote valve #F90782 \$19,900.00
- T3.80F - (74 HP) rental return 470 hrs., 4WD Narrow low profile, 200/70R16-320/70R20 tires, 20x20 transmission w/creeper, front weights, triple remote valve #C91065..... \$24,900.00



- T4.80F (74 HP) rental return 7/8 hrs., 4WD Narrow CAB, 16x16 transmission w/Powershuttle, 260/70R24 tires, front & rear weights, dual remotes #9080U..... \$39,900.00
- T4.80V (74 HP) rental return 750 hrs., 4WD Super Narrow ROPS, 16x16 transmission w/Powershuttle, 260/70R24 tires, weights, triple remotes #92496..... \$41,900.00
- T4.100F (98 HP) rental return 400 hrs., 4WD Narrow CAB, 16x16 Powershuttle transmission, 280/70R20-420/70R28 tires, weights, triple remotes #F91242..... \$54,900.00
- T4.100F (98 HP) rental return 360 hrs., 4WD ROPS, 16x16 Powershuttle transmission, 280/70R18-420/70R24 tires, front & rear weight, dual remotes #F92646..... \$49,900.00
- T4.110F (106 HP) NEW 4WD Narrow CAB, 16x16 Powershuttle transmission, 280/70R20-420/70R28 tires, front & rear weights, triple remotes #000108..... \$69,900.00
- T4.110F (106 HP) NEW 4WD ORCHARD ROPS, 16x16 Powershuttle transmission, 10.5/80-18 R4/19.5L-24 R4 tires, front & rear weights, triple remotes #F92055..... \$72,900.00
- TK4.100M (98 HP) rental return 15 hrs., Rubber track crawler, CAB, 16x8 transmission with creeper, triple remotes, front weights #F91200..... \$72,900.00
- TK4.100M (98 HP) rental return 50 hrs., Rubber track crawler, ROPS, 16x8 transmission with creeper, quad remotes, front weights #F91189..... \$63,900.00

WIDE SELECTION OF INVENTORY!! MUCH MORE TO CHOOSE FROM!

Call for current hours on the rental return tractors. Prices shown are cash sales plus applicable taxes. Subject to prior sale.

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"TS6/T6 Series Row Crop/Utility Tractors"

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- TS6.140 (140 HP) rental return, row crop ROPS/Canopy, 14.9R30 frt./14.9R46 rear tires, 16x8 Powershuttle trans. w/creeper, 98" bar axle, triple remotes, front weights, 500 hrs. #001561. \$84,900.00
- T6.175 Electro Command (145 HP) rental return 1480 hrs., 4WD CAB tractor w/14.9R30 front/14.9R46 rear tires, 16x16 Powershift transmission, 98" bar axle, SuperSteer, dual remotes, front & rear weights #F91620..... \$84,900.00
- T6.180 Electro Command (145 HP) 6-cylinder, NEW 4WD Cab tractor w/14.9R30 front/14.9R46 rear tires, 16x16 Powershift Transmission, 98" bar axle, SuperSteer, dual remotes, front & rear weights #000197..... \$139,900.00

We have a great selection of models arriving, please call us!

"T7" Series - Check out the award winning T7 series!

- T7.230 PowerCommand (165 HP) rental return 425 hrs., Cab tractor w/28x12 Powershift transmission w/creeper, SuperSteer front axle, 380/85R30 front/380/90R46 dual rear tires, 119" bar axle, weights, four remotes, Loaded! #F92456..... \$189,900.00
- T7.270 AutoCommand (240 HP) rental return 1400 hrs., Cab tractor w/50 CVT transmission (50) KPH), front axle suspension, 420/85R30 front/520/85R42 rear tires, weights, four remotes, Loaded! #F92152..... \$179,900.00

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Sweeten the Holiday Season with Deliciously

Creamy Desserts

(Family Features)

Once the table is cleared and gifts are put away, it's often time for one of the favorite moments of holiday gatherings. The taste (and smell) of those divine desserts you may only make once a year is enough to keep guests hungry even after the main course.

Put a new staple on holiday menus for years to come with this Cran-Raspberry Quinoa Pudding Trifle that combines fresh raspberries, vibrant cranberry sauce, orange juice and orange zest for a unique dessert. Ready in 30 minutes, it can be an easy way to impress everyone at the table with a creamy pudding base inspired by favorite winter flavors.

As a tasty treat that's ideal for just about any occasion, this take on rice pudding is made using Success Boil-in-Bag Tri-Color Quinoa, which offers a

heat-safe, BPA-free and FDA-approved bag and is easily prepared in just 10 minutes. Its light, nutty flavor and versatility creates a pudding that's perfect for a wide range of pairings, from satisfying chocoholics or pumpkin-spice fanatics to whipping up a sweet, simple dessert.

For a comforting dish full of familiar cold-weather flavors, serve Pumpkin Pecan Rice Pudding Bars. Pumpkin-spice fanatics can enjoy their favorite ingredient mixed into a rice pudding base sweetened with coconut milk, brown sugar, vanilla extract, whipping cream and maple syrup.

This holiday-inspired dessert relies on the fluffiness of Success Boil-in-Bag White Rice as a high-quality, precooked solution. The boil-in-bag rice is quick and easy with no measuring and no mess, and it's ready in 10 minutes to make seasonal recipes a cinch.

Find more sweet holiday recipe inspiration at SuccessRice.com.



Cran-Raspberry Quinoa Pudding Trifle

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes

Servings: 6

Quinoa Pudding:

- 2 bags Success Tri-Color Quinoa
- 4 cups almond milk
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Creamy Yogurt Layer:

- 2 cups plain Greek yogurt
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

Cran-Raspberry Layer:

- 1/2 cup cranberry sauce
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 2 cups fresh raspberries
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- 2 cups gluten-free vanilla cookies, chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh raspberries

To make quinoa pudding: Prepare quinoa according to package directions, substituting almond milk for water. Drain, reserving almond milk.

Remove quinoa from bags and stir into almond milk in saucepan over medium heat. Stir in honey, vanilla and cinnamon. Bring to simmer. Cook, stirring constantly, 5-8 minutes, or until thickened slightly. Refrigerate 45-60 minutes, or until well chilled.

To make creamy yogurt layer: In large bowl, stir yogurt, honey and vanilla. In separate bowl, beat cream until stiff peaks form. Stir whipped cream into yogurt mixture until blended. Refrigerate until ready to use.

To make cran-raspberry layer: In medium bowl, stir cranberry sauce, orange juice and orange zest. Gently fold in raspberries.

To assemble: In 10-cup trifle dish, layer 1/3 quinoa mixture, 2 tablespoons almonds, 1/3 cran-raspberry mixture, 1/3 vanilla cookies and 1/3 yogurt mixture. Repeat layers twice. Garnish with remaining raspberries and almonds.



Pumpkin Pecan Rice Pudding Bars

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Servings: 4-6

- 1 bag Success White Rice
- 1 cup pecans
- 4 cups coconut milk
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup

Prepare rice according to package directions. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spread pecans on baking sheet and toast 8-10 minutes. Cool then chop.

In large saucepan over medium-high heat, combine milk, pumpkin, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Slowly add about 1/2 cup hot liquid to eggs and beat well. Stir egg mixture back into saucepan and cook over medium-high heat 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cooked rice, vanilla and pecans.

Pour mixture into greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Bake, uncovered, 30 minutes, or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.

Whip heavy cream to soft peaks then add maple syrup and continue beating until peaks form. Serve with warm pudding.

Tip: For sweeter pudding, increase brown sugar to 1 1/2 cups.

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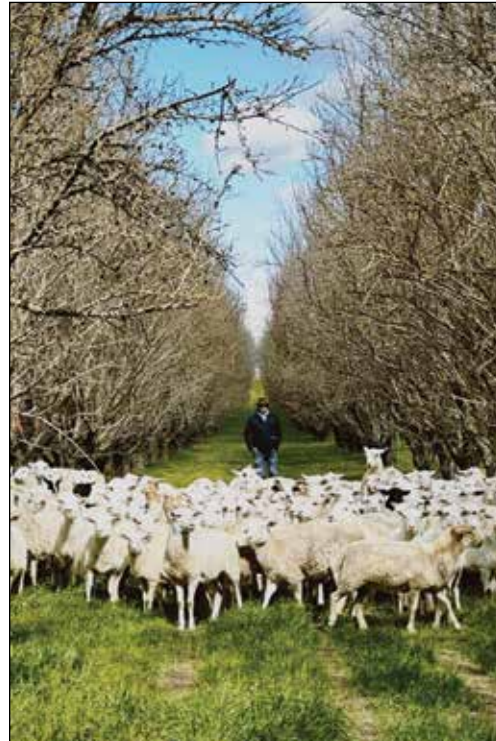
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Livestock grazing

continued from page 8



The livestock grazing project will help growers quantify benefits and potential tradeoffs for soil health. Photo by Teresa Fernandes Miranda

paign, webinars and educational sessions and a technical report for growers.

“There is an increasing interest from organic farmers to learn how to incorporate livestock into their operations to gain better soil health and fertility,” said Amber Sciligo, director of science programs at The Organic Center.

“This

research is very exciting because it will holistically explore the potential risks and benefits of livestock not just to soil health, but also pest control – a truly interdisciplinary project that matches the whole system of the organic farm.”

Produce food-safety management tools

For another organic food-safety project, Pires and Sciligo will be working with Patrick Baur, professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at the University of Rhode Island.

The University of Rhode Island and The Organic Center received \$3.5 million from USDA’s Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative research program for the new organic food-safety education project.

“We’re going to develop a new food safety management tool designed specifically for organic soil amendments,” said Baur, who is leading the project. “We’re also going to develop a suite of new communication and training tools aimed at the entire fruit and vegetable sector to build a shared language between organic agriculture and the food safety community and help them work better together.”

As part of the produce project, Pires of UC Davis was awarded \$1.16 million to conduct a risk assessment and create a publicly accessible dashboard to meet the specific needs of organic growers operating at different scales, under different cropping systems, in different regions.

Also participating in this project will be Beatriz Martinez Lopez, professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, and Abhinav Mishra and Govindaraj Dev Kumar of the University of Georgia.

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Stan Creelman to Serve as 2024 World Ag Expo® Chairman

Stan & Denise Creelman pose at the 2024 World Ag Expo® Chairman Kickoff Dinner

The 2024 World Ag Expo® season was kicked off by Show Chairman, Stan Creelman, on Saturday, September 23rd. Hosted at the International Agri-Center®, the annual “Kickoff Dinner” was attended by volunteers, staff, and invited guests. The event provides the opportunity to gather and enjoy fellowship while setting the tone for the coming show.

“I am honored to serve as the 2024 World Ag Expo® Chairman,” said Creelman. “There have been so many great leaders before me, it is humbling to be among them.”

A local farmer, Creelman came to Tulare in 1976 to help manage a custom harvesting operation. Since then, he has held numerous roles in agriculture including managing the Mid-Valley Cotton Growers from 1989 – 2021. He has served on the board of the National Cotton Council and as President of the California Grower Owned Gin, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, and the National Cotton Growers Association.

The 2024 show theme “The Best Farm Show on Dirt,” is a fun play on the success of World Ag Expo® as an outdoor show.

“2024 World Ag Expo® is back and better than ever,” said Jerry Sinift, International Agri-Center® CEO. “Our staff and volunteers are excited to welcome back both

exhibitors and attendees to Tulare in February.”

The annual show is produced by the International Agri-Center®, a non-profit focused on agriculture education year-round.

Entering its 57th year, World Ag Expo® is the largest annual outdoor ag tradeshow in the world. In 2023, the show saw 108,233 attendees from 49 states and 56 countries. With more than 1,200 exhibitors and 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, World Ag Expo® provides a platform for networking, education, and business in one of the most productive ag counties in the United States. Applications are open online for seminar submissions at <https://bit.ly/wae24seminarapp> and the Top-10 New Products Contest at <https://bit.ly/wae24top10app>. Limited exhibit space is still available and can be requested at <https://bit.ly/exhibitwae24>.

Tickets are on sale online now at <https://bit.ly/WAE24Tickets>, and attendees can plan their visit at www.worldagexpo.org. With a diverse lineup of agriculture companies, demonstrations, and seminars, there is something for every ag professional. World Ag Expo® 2024 will run Tuesday, February 13 through Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the International Agri-Center® in Tulare, CA.

For more information, visit www.worldagexpo.org.

USDA Publishes New Standards for Organic Livestock and Poultry Production, Promotes More Competitive Organic Market

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack previewed the Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) final rule. This new rule establishes clear, strong and consistent standards for organic livestock and poultry production, levels the playing field for organic livestock farmers, ranchers and businesses and promotes fairer, more competitive markets for their products, while providing consumers with more transparency about their purchases.

"USDA is creating a fairer, more competitive and transparent food system. This organic poultry and livestock standard establishes clear and strong standards that will increase the consistency of animal welfare practices in organic production and in how these practices are enforced," said Vilsack. "Competitive markets help deliver greater value to all producers, regardless of size."

This change was driven by strong interest from consumers and the organic industry. USDA encouraged the public to comment and USDA received more than 40,000 written comments, all of which were carefully reviewed to inform drafting of this final rule. USDA also held a listening session on August 2022 to hear public comments on the proposed rule.

OLPS improves uniformity with regard to animal welfare practice requirements for organic livestock and poultry, promoting their well-being and natural behaviors.

The final rule outlines more consistent standards for six key areas, including:

- **Outdoor space requirements:** OLPS sets minimum outdoor space requirements for organic poultry and requires ready access to the outdoors. Outdoor areas must be at least 75 percent soil and include vegetation to the degree possible.
- **Indoor and outdoor living conditions:** Shelters must have sufficient space for livestock to lie down, stand up, turn around, fully stretch their limbs or wings and express natural behaviors, such as rooting in pigs and scratching in chickens. Bedding areas must be sufficiently large and comfortable to keep livestock hygienic (for the species), dry and free of lesions.
- **Poultry stocking densities:** The rule sets specific requirements for indoor and outdoor stocking densities to align with advisory board recommendations, third-party animal welfare standards and public comments from organic stakeholders.
- **Preventative health care practices:** Producers must maintain preventative health care practices that include sufficient nutrition and comprehensive parasite prevention plans. Animals must be treated with allowed medicines to minimize pain, stress and suffering. All necessary treatment must be administered, even if the animal

loses its organic status.

- **Physical alterations and euthanasia:** Physical alterations are permitted only for identification purposes or the safety of the animals, and certain alterations are prohibited altogether. Alterations must be performed at a young age for the species and in a manner that minimizes the animal's pain and stress. Humane euthanasia may only be used if treatment is not an option.

- **Transport, handling and slaughter:** Operations must describe how organic management and animal welfare will be maintained for transport that exceeds eight hours. Animals must be fit for transport. The mode of transport must be seasonally appropriate to protect livestock from cold or heat. Operations must adhere to USDA (FSIS) humane slaughter standards.

In partnership with USDA-accredited certifiers, USDA's National Organic Program will oversee the implementation of and enforce compliance with these new, more consistent standards to support the growth of the organic market.

Implementing OLPS will give organic livestock and poultry farmers, ranchers and businesses - including those interested in transitioning to organic - more opportunities to compete fairly in the market. The rule supports ongoing consumer confidence and trust in the USDA organic seal by better aligning the organic standards with consumers' expectations for animal welfare. Many consumers are willing to pay a premium for organic livestock products, particularly for the organic chicken, egg and meat industry. By increasing consumer trust in the organic label by aligning the organic standard with consumers' animal welfare preferences, USDA is helping to deliver greater value to producers, and creating a fairer, more competitive and transparent food system.

Today's announcement supports USDA's ongoing National Organic Program mission to protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal and maintain strong consumer confidence in the label. USDA-certified organic products are an increasingly important part of American agriculture, and the organic community represents a fast-growing food and farming sector in the United States and the global marketplace.

Earlier this year, the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) previewed the Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule. The final rule is the biggest update to the organic regulations since the original Act in 1990, providing a significant increase in oversight and enforcement authority to reinforce the trust of consumers, farmers and those transitioning to organic production.

The final rule will be published in the Federal Register. A preview is available on the AMS website.

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USDA Highlights Progress in Partnering with Farmers to Increase Innovative Domestic Fertilizer Production, Expand Double Cropping through Investing in America Agenda

Vilsack announces more than \$50 million in awards to expand domestic fertilizer production

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighted progress made in partnering with farmers and American businesses to increase innovative domestic fertilizer production and in making it easier for U.S. farmers to grow food through the practice of double cropping. USDA also announced \$52.6 million in awards under the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program, which will fund 17 new projects to boost domestic fertilizer manufacturing, support innovative fertilizer technologies, and help lower costs for farmers.

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, Secretary Vilsack announced these during a visit to Pernault Farms in Kankakee, Ill., where the double cropping practice is being utilized. Support for double cropping and domestic fertilizer production expansion are part of a broader set of commitments made in September 2022 by President Biden and Secretary Vilsack, at a nearby Kankakee Farm, to help producers boost production and address global food security. The Fertilizer Production Expansion Program (FPEP) is funded by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation and is part of a government-wide effort to spur domestic competition and combat an increase in fertilizer costs caused by the war in Ukraine.

"With President Biden's leadership, USDA is creating a resilient, sustainable and competitive agricultural economy, which allows farmers to continue doing what they do best by growing food for the rest of the world," said Agriculture Secretary Vilsack. "Through a farmer-focused commitment, we will continue to build on our efforts to lower costs, bring made-in-America jobs to rural communities, and strengthen the agricultural supply chain and market opportunities to the benefit of producers."

Fertilizer Production Expansion Program

In 2022, USDA made \$500 million available under the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program, to increase innovative domestic fertilizer production, creating jobs in rural communities and providing more options to U.S. farmers. Due to strong demand for funding, in June of 2023, USDA increased the funding available for FPEP to up to \$900 million.

The Department received requests for \$3 billion in applications from more than 350 businesses for the first two rounds of the program. Including today's announcement, since the program was announced roughly 18 months ago USDA has awarded 33 projects for a total of over \$121 million invested. USDA expects to announce additional project selections in the coming months and is inviting public comments on four projects through November 15, 2023.

Example of projects funded as part of the announcement include:

- In Watsonville, California, Farm Fuel Inc. is being

offered a \$2 million grant. This Rural Development investment will be used to help offset the costs associated with purchasing equipment, securing inventory of raw materials, and working capital. Farm Fuel Inc. is a woman-led corporation that produces organic fertilizer primarily from mustard seed meal left after the oil is extracted. The flagship product "PESCADERO GOLD" is produced in the Watsonville, California facility

- In Boardman, Oregon, True Organic Products Inc. is being offered a \$5 million grant to expand its organic fertilizer production plant to manufacture an incremental 15,000 tons of pelleted organic fertilizer from local waste byproducts to better serve farmers.

- In Casco, Wisconsin, Dairy Dreams is being offered a \$2.5 million grant to construct a nutrient concentration system and a pelleting system on a dairy farm to convert manure to domestically manufactured fertilizer, improving access to organic liquids and pellets. The technology will also convert one-third of manure inputs into clean, dischargeable water and is expected to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the hauling and disposal of manure.

Double Cropping

In 2022, USDA announced the expansion of insurance coverage for double cropping for 2023 to support food production and lower costs for American families. Double cropping allows farmers to plant a second crop on the same land in the same year, helping to boost production without relying on farmers to substitute crops or cultivate new land. As part of this commitment, USDA expanded double crop insurance opportunities in nearly 1,500 counties where double cropping is viable. With the expansion in 2023:

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) processed 4,166 new requests for coverage in the states where insurance for double cropping was expanded or made easier. This includes 1,611 new requests for coverage for second crop grain sorghum in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, and 2,555 requests for coverage for second crop soybeans in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.

In states where double cropping coverage was expanded or made easier, nearly one million additional acres were insured, representing a more than 43% increase in insurance coverage for second crop acres compared to the 2014-2022 average.

In states where double cropping coverage was expanded or made easier, there was a significant increase in winter wheat plantings. For example, Illinois saw a nearly 40% increase, Ohio saw a more than 30% increase, and Michigan saw a 21.5% increase.

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USDA Research Investments Spur New Agricultural Markets



Harvester in the field. Photo courtesy Getty Images.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced an investment of nearly \$22 million in agricultural economics research that includes agricultural markets, international trade, farm labor, consumer behavior and nutrition, food retail, agricultural production and processing and agricultural policy.

“The challenges facing the agricultural sector, the production and consumption of food, and management of natural resources and the environment continue to evolve,” said USDA NIFA Director Dr. Manjit Misra. “At NIFA, we support research that investigates the increasing global demands for food production in the face of limited resources and changing climate. These will have major implications for how we use natural resources, promote healthy diets, invest in science, and foster economic opportunities and quality of life for all Americans.”

Misra made the announcement in Colorado during his keynote address at the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services Annual Meeting sponsored by the North American Agricultural Advisory Network.

This investment is part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grants portfolio within the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science Program. AFRI builds fundamental and applied knowledge in food and agricultural sciences critical for solving current and future societal challenges.

AFRI is the nation’s leading and largest competitive grants program for agricultural sciences. These grants are available to eligible colleges, universities and other research organizations.

Examples of the 41 projects include:

Auburn University researchers will conduct the first comprehensive study to empirically estimate equivalence scales that compare economic wellbeing of U.S. house-

holds of different compositions over the past 50 years. The results could be widely applied to define the poverty line, evaluate social inequality and poverty, calibrate social safety net payments, measure the costs of raising children, and calculate payments for life insurance, alimony and legal compensation for wrongful death.

Colorado State University researchers, through one of the funded projects, will measure the incidence of persistent food insecurity among at-risk Americans and analyze its drivers, as well as estimate mortality rates for individuals experiencing food insecurity and its effects on life expectancy.

University of California Davis scientists will analyze the effects of weather, climate change, adaptation and natural resource scarcity through the lens of California irrigated agriculture. Specifically, they will quantify the effect of weather and climate change on the revenue of specialty crop growers.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute researchers will seek to understand the effects of the changing pattern of consumers’ expenditure on food-at-home to food-away-from-home on welfare distribution throughout the food supply chain.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education and Extension across the nation to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. NIFA supports initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture and applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice. In FY2023, NIFA’s total investment was \$2.6 billion.

Visit our Twitter: @USDA_NIFA; LinkedIn: USDA-NIFA. To learn more about NIFA’s impact on agricultural science, visit www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts.

Locally grown produce prescribed as part of diabetes treatment



Produce Rx participants will be able to access an average of \$70 worth of produce each month for 6 months and educational activities. Shopper shown at the Center for Land-Based Learning's Mobile Farmers Market. Photo by Evett Kilmartin

By Mathew Burciaga, UC Berkeley Rausser College of Natural Resources UC Cooperative Extension specialist to evaluate effects of improved access to fruits and vegetables and health education

Health and nutrition experts generally recommend that all adults fill half their plates with fruit and vegetables as part of a healthy meal. For adults with diabetes, those fruits and vegetables have an added benefit: recent research suggests that including produce as a part of their care plans can lead to improvements in hemoglobin A1C and blood pressure.

To help improve these key clinical outcomes, doctors and medical professionals in Yolo County will begin to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables to more than 500 patients with prediabetes, types I and II diabetes and gestational diabetes through a new Produce Rx program. The project is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by CommuniCare+OLE, a network of 17 federally qualified health centers that serve medically underserved areas, regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

For the program's pilot year that began in May 2023, 112 participants are receiving access to an average of \$70 worth of produce every month for six months, which is paired with monthly educational activities. Susana Matias,

a professor of Cooperative Extension in the UC Berkeley Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology, will partner with CommuniCare+OLE to evaluate outcomes as the program expands through the end of 2025.

"We are very excited about this project because it addresses a major social determinant of health: access to healthy food," she said. "Our role in the project is to build evidence about the impact of this type of program, which is critical for scaling up."

"Having consistent access to fruits and vegetables and health education support may affect patients' health and well-being," Matias added. She will work with undergraduate and graduate students at UC Berkeley and UC Davis, as well as postdoctoral researcher Caitlin French, to ask each patient about their produce consumption habits at the beginning and at the end of their participation in the program. Those responses will be analyzed to determine if improving this access resulted in significant changes among patients. Matias also will track how average blood sugar level and household food-security change throughout the program.

Other Produce Rx project partners include the Davis Farmers Market, the Center for Land-Based Learning's Mobile Farmers Market, and Spork Food Hub.

Learn more about Produce Rx at the CommuniCare+OLE website.

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