



# California Farm Equipment Magazine

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## Happy Thanksgiving

*“On this day of gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous Thanksgiving filled with warmth and happiness.”*

*California Farm Equipment Magazine*



# Dairy Summit Provides Ideas on How to Meet California's Climate Change Goals

*Special 2025 meeting added to Farm Credit-sponsored program to help navigate new policies*



*A full house attended the 2024 Dairy Summit at UC Davis*

Meeting California's ambitious climate and clean energy goals is no small task for policymakers, businesses and residents. But thanks to its forward-looking and collaborative approach, the dairy sector is on track to meet its own world-leading climate target.

In fact, California's dairy farmers are on a path to achieving climate neutrality by as early as 2027 and meeting the state's 2030 methane-reduction goal. Two ingredients to that success are the information shared and partnerships fostered at the California Dairy Sustainability Summit.

The Summit, held every other year, is hosted in part by Dairy Cares, a nonprofit created by the dairy industry more than 20 years ago to manage sustainability issues, said Michael Boccadoro, Dairy Cares' executive director.

"The Summit was created in 2018 to educate the audiences we interact with and promote the efforts the industry is undertaking to meet sustainability goals. We want to showcase efforts and accomplishments while encouraging the partnerships and investments needed for continued success," he said.

"When SB 1383 passed in 2016, the California dairy sector became the first jurisdiction in the world with a target of achieving a 40% methane emission reduction by 2030, a goal that requires significant public and private investments, along with ongoing research. The Summit was organized to bolster innovation and collaboration, and to help dairy farmers adopt practices that improve their long-term economic and environmental sustainability."

Farm Credit organizations serving California agriculture have provided support each year since the Summit's inception.

"Dairy is a \$20 billion a year industry in California, including more than 1,100 family farms along with dairy cooper-

atives, processors, and other businesses," said Kevin Ralph, California President of AgWest Farm Credit. "Farm Credit is proud to help sponsor the Summit because it's so important to help the industry meet its climate mandates while continuing to provide milk and other dairy products for the nation."

Tiffany Lionudakis, Dairy Relationship Manager with American AgCredit, agreed.

"The Summit brings together producers and other stakeholders as they consider changes that have a direct impact on sustainability. This Summit allows for reflection

on what's worked, the challenges that remain, and the possibility of future opportunities which deliver on both producers' desire for good stewardship and consumers' desire for sustainability," Lionudakis said.

Farm Credit members AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit, CoBank, Fresno Madera Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit are proud sponsors of the Summit. The organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System – the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

Dairy and livestock account for over half of the state's methane emissions – and methane alone is responsible for about 20% of the global warming driving climate change. Considering its high potency but short-lived nature, reducing methane emissions is widely recognized as one of the most important opportunities to reduce warming.

California regulators have embraced an incentive-based approach to reducing emissions, particularly through the development of digesters – systems designed to capture methane from manure and convert it into electricity, renewable natural gas, or hydrogen.

For farms where digesters are less suitable, the state's alternative manure management program helps promote the recycling of manure in ways that create fewer emissions. The state's investment in dairy methane reduction incentives now exceeds \$2 billion.

Boccadoro noted that European countries in contrast have invoked heavy regulations and the world's first livestock carbon tax in Denmark, and he fears regulators there may also force dairy farmers to reduce herd sizes.

"This has led to farmer protests around Europe, and it hasn't led to achieving the response they are looking for. We think government should use the carrot approach, without

See Dairy Summit page 13

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# Silver medalist Maddalena reflects on her path from 4-H to Olympics

*4-H lessons in discipline, respect, being prepared formed foundation for success in sports, career*



*A 4-H program sparked Sagen Maddalena's interest in shooting sports, which led to her silver medal-winning performance at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Photo by Kulani Lakanaria*

By Pamela S Kan-Rice

Assistant Director, News and Information Outreach

Just weeks after winning a silver medal in shooting at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Sagen Maddalena returned to her hometown, where her interest in the sport was sparked as a 4-H member.

Groveland, nestled at the entrance to Yosemite National Park in Tuolumne County, greeted her with a hero's welcome on Sept. 21, when she served as grand marshal for the Gold Rush town's annual 49er Day parade.

"Have a dream, think of your future, but put action towards it," the two-time Olympian advised kids when she spoke at local schools. "I had a dream of going to the Olympics. I continued to work toward it and it came to fruition."

At an early age, the marksman began focusing on details for a competitive edge. A 4-H volunteer recalled a teenage Maddalena declining a soft drink because she worried that it would affect her shooting performance.

Asked about the memory, Maddalena said that sounded right because sugary drinks may increase one's heart rate, diminishing a shooter's concentration, steadiness and accuracy. She enjoys thinking through the conditions, including wind and light, and winning.

From a small town to the medals podium

Maddalena reflected on her path from participating in California 4-H in Tuolumne County – in a town with a population of 540 – to college, a successful career in the Army and the Olympic medals podium. The 4-H Youth Development Program is delivered by University of California Cooperative Extension.

While she doesn't recall how old, eight or nine, she was when she joined the Groveland Highlanders 4-H club, the Tuolumne County native vividly remembers the array of activities.

"I was yay tall," she said, gesturing with her hand, "and I was cooking cakes in baking classes. I remember my instructor, 4-H leader, Mrs. [Carol] Willmon. We had our meetings up here in Groveland, and I learned a lot about, financials, keeping track of your livestock, how much you're feeding 'em, what money is going in, what money's going out."

She raised animals to show at the Mother Lode Fair in Tuolumne County – goats, sheep, hogs and horses.

"Me and the sheep weren't very good friends," she said. "I loved goats; goats and hogs were good. And then I also did fair with horses, showmanship and English and Western [riding styles] with horses. I was all over the map with 4-H, but it really taught me how to take care of my animals."

But it was a 4-H shooting program that changed her life. Firearm safety central to first experiences with shooting "I got started with shooting through 4-H," said Maddalena, explaining that her parents encouraged her to enroll in a shooting program at age 13. "They wanted to me to learn gun safety and being able to handle a firearm safely if I ever came in contact with one. So that's how I started through 4-H. But with the .22 [firearms] program, I just latched on, I loved it. And there was some competition with it. I learned about safe handling of a firearm, and then I got to compete with it and skyrocketed from there."

From there, Maddalena joined a junior team, then made her way to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she



*Maddalena joined 4-H in in Tuolumne County at age eight or nine.*

*Photo courtesy of Sagen Maddalena*

competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Rifle Championships. "That really that opened the doors then to possibly going to the Olympics, representing my country on the world stage," she said.

To hone her shooting skills and serve her country, Maddalena joined the Army. She qualified for the U.S. Olympic team in 2020, competing in Japan during the pandemic, and again in 2024. In Paris, she finished in second place in the

*See Silver Medalist page 10*

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# UC ANR publishes first-ever manual on olive production for oil

Growers, UC Cooperative Extension researchers offer guidance on producing high-quality olives



A high-density California olive orchard has about 200 to 300 trees per acre. Increasing planting density was crucial for making oil olive production more economically feasible in California. Photo by Boundary Bend Olives; copyright UC Regents

By Michael Hsu

Senior Public Information Representative

Facing a deluge of lower-price products from Europe, the California olive oil industry is doubling down on its clear-cut competitive edge: the consistent and bona fide quality of its oil.

“Olive Production Manual for Oil,” a new book published by University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, aims to help California olive growers maximize that advantage.

“It’s a tough market to compete in, but I think the way to win for California is to compete on quality,” said book co-editor Selina Wang, a UC Cooperative Extension specialist in the UC Davis Department of Food Science and Technology. “The quality of California olive oil is unmatched, but you can’t make good quality olive oil with bad fruit, so the goal is to get more fruit from the trees – and for the fruits to be high-quality fruit.”

The 273-page manual, available for purchase online, is the first of its kind in the U.S. While some parts of the book are specific to California (which grows nearly all of the olives for domestically produced olive oil), most of the material would be useful to producers in other states, Wang noted.

“Through our conversations with growers, it became clear to us that a manual like this – not a scientific publication but a manual that is easy to follow, written in language that is accessible, and with pictures and illustrations – would be really helpful to the growers,” she said.

**Growth of California**

## **olive oil industry necessitated creation of manual**

Aside from a book focused predominantly on table olives and another on organic olive production (by UCCE farm advisor emeritus Paul Vossen), there was no one-stop, comprehensive resource on the bookshelf for oil olive growers. The need for such a manual had become more acute as oil olives replaced table olives in California orchards during the last 20 years.

Whereas harvesting by hand was historically cost-prohibitive, the introduction of super-high-density planting systems in 1999 made oil olive production more economically feasible. Mechanical pruning and harvesting of

new cultivars (Arbequina, Arbosana and Koroneiki) – specifically bred for these densely planted orchards – led to the rapid expansion of oil olives in the state. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, California olive oil production jumped from 2 million pounds in 2006 to an average of 21 million pounds in 2021–23.

With about 37,000 acres of oil olives planted across California, the Olive Oil Commission of California saw the need to support the production of this manual. Championed by Dan Flynn, founder and executive director emeritus of the UC Davis Olive Center, Wang and co-editor Louise Ferguson outlined the contents of the book. They then sought out a mix of growers and industry professionals and UCCE advisors and specialists to write its chapters.

“Most of the information is data-based, from people who are working with the olives,” said Ferguson, a UC Cooperative Extension pomologist at UC Davis. “This is the first data-based olive oil production manual we’ve had.”

## **Manual infused with firsthand insights, practical recommendations**

Hard-earned experience taught growers a valuable lesson that is conveyed in the book – the need to hand-prune. While mechanical pruning helps control the size of the trees, some hand-pruning is still required to allow light to filter to the leaves. Failing to do so leads to a dramatic decrease in yield.

“That happened in many of the orchards that were inexperienced in these new cultivars and new super-high-density planting systems,” Ferguson said.

See *Olive Oil* page 11

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## USDA seeks nominations for the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. Members of this Committee advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the scope, timing and content of periodic agricultural censuses, as well as surveys of agriculture and other related industries. The committee also makes recommendations on the content of agricultural reports and represents the views and data needs of suppliers and users of agricultural statistics.

“The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics serves a vital role to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS),” said Joe Prusacki, Associate Administrator. “It is a diverse panel of experts, and we tap into their expertise and experiences to keep current with shifting data needs in the rapidly changing agricultural environment. Committee members also help keep NASS informed of emerging issues in the agriculture community that can affect our statistics activities.”

The committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, consists of 22 members representing a broad range of disciplines and interests including, but not limited to, agricultural producers, national farm organizations, agricultural economists, rural sociologists, farm policy analysts, educators, state agricultural organizations, and agriculture-related business and marketing experts. Members serve a staggered two-year term and can serve up to three terms for a total of six consec-

utive years. Nominations are currently being sought for 22 open committee seats.

“Serving on the Advisory Committee of Agriculture Statistics is an opportunity to bring your input and recommendations to the table, and we want to ensure those recommendations take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by all of USDA,” added Prusacki. “We strongly encourage all interested individuals to apply to help represent the needs of today’s diverse agriculture industry.”

To submit a nomination, complete an AD-755 form available online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf>

The completed form must be received by Nov. 25, 2024, via one of the following methods:

- Email: Scan the completed form and email it to: [SM.NASS.OA@usda.gov](mailto:SM.NASS.OA@usda.gov)

- Mail: Nominations can be mailed to...  
Joseph J. Prusacki, Associate Administrator  
National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA  
1400 Independence Avenue SW., South Building  
Washington, DC 20250

For more details see the Federal Register notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/09/10/2024-20408/advisory-committee-on-agriculture-statistics>



# California Avocados – Optimistic Outlook For 2025



yield for California avocado groves has been increasing.

To support next season's harvest CAC plans to expand the California avocado advertising program it launched in 2024, spotlighting the California difference and focusing on communication of locally grown and sustainably farmed. To kick off planning with retailers, California Avocado Commission representatives will welcome customers and colleagues in their booth #B2538 at the upcoming International Fresh Produce Association Global Produce and Floral Show in Atlanta.

"Our team is looking forward to meeting with both loyal and prospective California avocado customers at the show to discuss next season's increased crop and to get

**T**he current fruit set on California avocado trees across multiple growing regions is considerably higher this year than in previous years, leading many growers to project that the 2025 crop harvest may yield an increase in crop size compared to recent seasons. Bountiful rains in the 2023 and 2024 seasons were partially responsible for a smaller than normal crop in 2023 and delayed harvest in 2024, but these rains also contributed positively to soil and tree health.

"The Commission is very enthusiastic about the possibility of larger crops in the near future," said CAC Vice President of Marketing Terry Splane. "However, we're tempering that enthusiasm with caution, as many factors could positively or negatively affect the size of the 2025 California avocado crop, such as excessive heat, wind or frost. It's just simply too early to know for sure."

The optimistic outlook for the 2025 California avocado crop is due in part to significant grower investment into new plantings over the last decade, which are now coming into prime production. These new plantings occurred not just to replace older, less productive trees, but in some cases it was to replace trees that were lost to fires and other challenges. Also, some growers have planted additional trees to increase their avocado acreage or because they are moving to a higher density planting model on existing acreage. This investment by California avocado growers is illustrated by the roughly 3 million new avocado trees in California from 2013 to 2023, averaging about 265,000 trees per year.

In addition to planting new trees, California avocado farmers have invested in various avocado rootstocks and varieties. They continually implement operational improvements to secure better yields, and indeed the overall average per-acre

them energized for the customized retailer programs we can partner on with them," said Splane. "Merchandising responsibly grown, premium California avocados in season benefits retailers and their shoppers."

About the California Avocado Commission



Created in 1978, the California Avocado Commission strives to enhance the premium positioning of California avocados through advertising, promotion and public relations, and engages in related industry activities. Ethically sourced

California avocados are sustainably grown and locally farmed for exceptional quality and freshness, by about 3,000 growers in the Golden State. The California Avocado Commission serves as the official information source for the California avocado industry. Visit [CaliforniaAvocado.com](http://CaliforniaAvocado.com).

*"Photos are courtesy of the California Avocado Commission."*



# California Farm Equipment

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## Silver Medalist

*continued from page 4*

women's 50-meter rifle three positions.

"4-H prepared me for the Army really by showing me discipline," Maddalena said. "And it taught me to take care of my equipment or the livestock that I had. So it taught me those life lessons. Discipline, respect and being prepared is what 4-H really brought into my life. Just as a kid, to get that foundation was so important before I moved up and then decided to join the Army.

And then it all came full circle because in the Army it's all about discipline, respect and being prepared."

Olympian trains soldiers in Army Marksmanship Unit

At 49er Day, youngsters and community members had an opportunity to get some shooting pointers from the silver medalist, who was wearing her Army uniform. For those aspiring to excel in shooting sports, Maddalena, who trains soldiers in marksmanship, had this advice: "Know what's behind your target, have respect for your equipment, go easy on the trigger and always have control of your firearm."

Maddalena, who has been in the Army for five years, continues to serve as a marksman and an instructor in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

The secret of success, according to Maddalena is continuously working toward a goal.

"Have that dream and have that desire," she said. "But you have to have action towards it. You've got to work toward it. Put in the work to make those dreams come true."

Maddalena, who is based at Fort Moore in Georgia, continues to hone her skills and aims to compete for gold in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity that 4-H gave me in such a small town to be able to be involved with the 4-H program; it really just it helped me grow," Maddalena said. "And I'm very appreciative of that."



*At the fair, Maddalena competed in both English and Western horse-riding styles. Photo courtesy of Sagen Maddalena*

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Of the three main varieties planted in super-high-density systems, Arbosana has the most consistent fruit yield. Photo by Dan Flynn; copyright UC Regents

## Olive Oil

continued from page 6

She added that other key topics in the manual include irrigation management in a water-constrained state, nitrogen management, harvest timing and orchard site selection. Choosing a good spot for planting is crucial in this era of extreme climate volatility, Ferguson noted, as olive trees are significantly affected by temperature shocks in spring (fruit set) and fall (harvest).

For Wang, another overarching theme in the manual is the importance of testing. Testing the soil, water and leaves provides critical data that growers can use to adjust their inputs and production practices for optimal profitability.

"You may spend a couple hundred dollars on the lab work, but it will pay off, for sure – you're going to increase the health and productivity of your trees," Wang explained. "Oil olive growers are paid based on the oil content in their fruit; you not only want to have a lot of fruit on the trees, you want to make sure that your fruit are accumulating oil."

### California oil olive growers, practices continue to evolve

Wang and Ferguson hope their book will help California producers compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Currently, about 90% of the olive oil consumed in the U.S. is imported from Mediterranean countries, due primarily to the lower price point. In that region, producers tend to harvest riper olives that produce oil at a greater volume but lesser quality.

In contrast, California growers harvest earlier and produce oil that is higher quality (with more flavor and more antioxidants) and far exceeds accepted standards for "extra virgin olive oil."

According to Wang, California olive oil mills have nearly maximized their efficiency, and the growth opportunity for the industry is in the orchards: to optimize practices to produce more fruit, and to plant more trees. Wang said the new manual can help on both fronts.

"Just like for other crops, focusing on quality – while increasing efficiency and productivity, and therefore profitability – is the name of the game," she said.

Ferguson also stressed that knowledge continues to evolve and urged growers to reach out to the editors and chapter authors with their experiences.

"Most of the authors are in California and they're working," she said. "So if you start to notice things that are different, or you want more information or something is not clear, the authors are available."

The manual can be purchased at <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=3559>.

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## Dairy Summit

*continued from page 2*

can't pass on the costs," he said.

Summit attendees learn about technical solutions being implemented and the progress being made, in addition to hearing about what's being explored as potential groundbreaking solutions. Conversations like those held at the Summit have been instrumental in promoting the continuation and expansion of local, state and national programs that incentivize the adoption of new technologies.

Boccardo said methane is emitted from both ends of the cow. Manure is the most obvious source and is being dealt with by solid waste separators and digesters. But he said that reducing the burps caused by the cow's digestive process is the next frontier.

"That's the cause of just under half the methane in California but 80-90% of it globally. Reducing enteric methane is not just important in California but even more important worldwide," he said.

One solution there is developing feed additives that reduce the amount of methane generated in digestion. A newly FDA-approved feed ingredient, 3-NOP is beginning to help reduce methane emissions from cows by about 30%. Several other feed ingredients, such as fatty acids, oregano, seaweed and tannins continue to be explored.

The Summit takes a broad approach to addressing sustainability challenges. Beyond methane, much focus is given to advancing the protection of water quality and conservation and to adopting cleaner technologies that boost local air quality. Boccardo cited three main takeaways from this year's Summit.

Progress is made by working with farmers toward sustainability goals. New technologies and strategies must make sense for individual operations.

Cutting-edge technologies are continually coming to (and from) California dairies, from high-tech, automated farm equipment to the use of manure-digesting worm beds. The energy captured by methane digesters is now fueling more than 17,000 vehicles annually by creating electricity, renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen.

A global perspective is needed because sustainable nutrition and climate change are global issues. While California leads the way in advancing sustainable production, it must also remain economically competitive in producing affordable and nutritious milk and dairy foods.

While the Summit has traditionally been held every other year, organizers recently announced an added 2025 "Farm Focus" version on the event. Considering increasingly challenging environmental policies, the March 25, 2025, Summit will be held at the Visalia Convention Center and will focus on equipping dairy farmers with valuable information and tools. Through general sessions, breakouts and an Expo Hall, the one-day program will highlight the importance of sustainability leadership and the technologies, strategies and incentive programs available to help navigate the changes ahead.

The traditional version of the Summit will return to the UC Davis Conference Center on March 24, 2026. Topics for the 2025 and 2026 Summits are expected to include the new Dairy PLUS program that supports the adoption of advanced manure management projects that better protect groundwater while reducing emissions. The state early this year awarded nearly \$18 million to 15 dairy farm projects to kick off the new program. Other expected topics include the continued evolution of markets for biogas and information about the early adoption of feed additives.

Boccardo is confident the industry will meet its targets and credits the willingness of government and farmers to work together to find solutions.

"Ag is looked at differently in California. It's recognized by most as a critical item. You can't live without it, and keeping food costs low is important, especially to low-income communities," he said. "And of course, we've also shown a high success rate. Dairy farmers have demonstrated a great partnership with the state and USDA to achieve reductions."

The next Summit will take place on March 24, 2026, at the UC Davis Conference Center. For information, visit [cadairysummit.com](http://cadairysummit.com).



# Historic On-Farm Conservation Funding Assistance Available for Producers



The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California announces Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025) federal assistance opportunities for agricultural producers, including through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). While NRCS accepts applications for these programs year-round, interested applicants should apply no later than November 15, 2024, for the first application cutoff period.

“We are excited to support California’s producers with an historic investment in on-farm conservation this Fiscal Year,” said NRCS California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. “With the addition of the Inflation Reduction Act, we will be investing approximately 50 percent more federal funding to help producers address their unique resources concerns and help them achieve their stewardship goals.”

Through EQIP and the Inflation Reduction Act, more than \$100 million is available for conservation practices and initiatives, including but not restricted to,

National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI) to assist farmers in replacing outdated engines with new and cleaner-burning technology.

Activities that support wildlife habitat creation and enhancement on farms and ranches.

NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart partner projects to help improve water infrastructure, delivery, and application on farms.

National Water Quality Initiative for targeted conservation actions to improve water quality.

Joint Chief’s Landscape Restoration Partnership to collaborate with agricultural producers, forest landowners, tribes and public land managers to mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, and restore forest ecosystems

Application cutoff periods allow NRCS to screen and rank applications for those with the highest conservation benefits across California’s landscapes, including cropland, rangelands, and private non-industrial forestlands. Additional signups may be announced at later dates.

EQIP provides financial assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, improved irrigation efficiency, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, forest restoration, organic and creating or enhancing wildlife habitat.

Applying for Assistance

Applicants seeking financial assistance are required to meet Farm Bill Program eligibility in conjunction with the Farm Service Agency, which includes meeting the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance requirements and the Adjusted Gross Income limits.

NRCS California will be utilizing ACT NOW to process conservation applications in selected ranking

pools to deliver conservation faster. ACT NOW allows NRCS to immediately approve and obligate a ranked application. This means no longer having to wait for all applications to be reviewed and preapproved. Applications selected through ACT NOW will be batched and processed in the order received.

NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round. State Technical Committees, composed of producers and partners, work with NRCS to set state-specific, ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding. These dates account for producer needs, staff workload, and to ensure potential participants have ample opportunity to apply. To find out more about our application process or to begin an application, please contact your local NRCS Service Center by visiting here.

Technical Assistance

NRCS offers conservation technical assistance at no cost to give producers personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to help them make informed decisions. If a producer chooses to take the next step towards improving their operations, NRCS staff can work with them to develop a free, personalized conservation plan, with conservation practices that can help them reach their agricultural production and conservation goals.

The voluntary conservation plan defines and explains existing resources in a simple, easy to understand manner. Typically, the plan will include land use maps, soils information, inventory of resources, engineering notes, and other supporting information. One benefit to landowners who work with an NRCS professional conservationist to develop a plan is an increased potential for participating in financial assistance programs and is a good first step in the overall process.

Historically Underserved Producer Benefits

Special provisions are also available for historically underserved producers. For EQIP, historically underserved producers are eligible for advance payments to help offset costs related to purchasing materials or contracting services up front. In addition, historically underserved producers can receive higher EQIP payment rates (up to 90% of average cost). NRCS sets aside EQIP funds for historically underserved producers.

NRCS has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America’s private landowners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources since 1935.

For additional information about EQIP, visit the California NRCS website.



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## Kubota Introduces Two New Utility Vehicles: RTV-X CAB and RTV-X CREW

New Models Diversify Kubota's RTV-X Line of Rugged Utility Vehicles

From the Equip Exposition tradeshow floor, Kubota Tractor Corporation introduced two upgraded additions to its RTV-X line with the RTV-X CAB and RTV-X CREW models. These models continue the company's legacy of durable and versatile diesel-powered utility vehicles with elevated features including a redesigned and more aggressive exterior and new heavy-duty multipurpose tires. The new RTV-X CAB and RTV-X CREW models are engineered for farmers, commercial operators, and homeowners who prioritize durability and workability. Both models will be available beginning February 2025 at authorized Kubota dealers in basic, standard, or premium grade options.

"The RTV-X made a serious statement earlier this year with its rugged and durable chassis, Kubota diesel engine, and variable hydrostatic transmission," said Jacob Mandoza, Kubota senior product manager, utility vehicles. "And now, the CAB and CREW Models offer operators their most valued options right from the factory: the CAB model prioritizes cab comforts while the CREW model prioritizes versatility to handle whatever the day may bring. These were logical enhancements following the success of the updated RTV-X which launched last year. These models have had a ton of success in each of our primary customer markets, including ag, commercial, construction/rental, and residential."

### The RTV-X Series Lineup

Kubota's RTV-X Series is ready to work and play for you, in almost any weather or terrain while keeping the driver and passengers comfortable. Kubota's VHT-X (Variable Hydraulic Transmission) provides exceptional performance on various terrains with fluent and powerful acceleration. Low-speed driving is made smooth through intuitive throttle control, great traction, and maneuverability with or without loads. You'll also feel more secure, especially when traveling down long inclines, knowing that dynamic braking is helping to provide additional braking power and greater driving control. The full steel frame helps isolate the driver and passengers from harsh noise and vibrations. Plus, Kubota's K-Connect and PTO drive system on the RTV-X and RTV-X CAB makes the machine even more versatile by allowing the quick attachment and detachment of a large variety of implements like blades, snowblowers, brooms, and a debris blower.

### Kubota's RTV-X CAB Model: All-Weather Climate-Controlled Cab

Kubota's RTV-X CAB model takes everything great about the RTV-X base model and adds a fully integrated, factory-installed cab. The climate-controlled cab is designed to keep the operator working and comfortable no matter the weather – from sun to snow. This model includes all the rugged features of the RTV-X Series with the addition of a quieter factory-installed cab with air conditioning,

heat and defrost. The new ProKonvert™ system comes standard on the premium grade model of the RTV-X CAB, which allows the cargo bed sides to be easily configured without tools, allowing operators to drop two sides and/or the back tailgate for loading and even converting it into a flatbed. Plus, a hydraulic dump bed, which is standard equipment on all grades, allows for efficient dumping of material as well as precision material placement. The cargo bed is made from durable steel and can be upgraded with a spray-on bedliner for standard models, while premium grades come with the bedliner as a standard feature.



### Kubota's RTV-X CREW Model: Easily Converts from a 2-Seater to 4-Seater

Kubota's RTV-X CREW, also built on the beloved RTV-X Series chassis, features Kubota's K-Vertible™ bed system that converts from a one-row with a long bed and maximum cargo space, to a two-row with a smaller cargo bed and the ability to carry four people. In the one-row configuration, CREW models offer 19.1 cubic feet of storage and a cargo capacity of 1,102 pounds; while in the two-row configuration, this changes to 9.9 cubic feet of storage and a cargo capacity of 661 pounds. The best part? It can easily convert between a 1-row and a 2-row machine, without the use of tools. Plus, the bed dumps in either configuration without having to make any machine adjustments.

The new RTV-X CAB and CREW models will be available in three color options: Kubota orange, RealTree® Camo, and desert sand. For more information or to find an authorized Kubota dealer near you, visit [www.KubotaUSA.com](http://www.KubotaUSA.com).

## John Deere and DeLaval launch groundbreaking Milk Sustainability Center



The Milk Sustainability Center from John Deere and DeLaval is an innovative digital ecosystem that integrates agronomic and animal performance into one unified platform

Dairy farmers have a new tool that will help them enhance efficiency and sustainability while accommodating changing reg-

ulations that affect their operations. Launched today and available for customer registration, the Milk Sustainability Center from John Deere and DeLaval is an innovative digital ecosystem that integrates agronomic and animal performance into one unified platform.

Dairy farmers can use the Milk Sustainability Center to monitor nutrient use efficiency (NUE) and carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) across their farm, herd and fields. It collects animal and agronomic data, providing insights to help farmers manage nutrient utilization effectively and reduce the need for manual data input.

"The Milk Sustainability Center is designed with input from dairy farmers to help them increase their productivity and efficiency and enable them to address the needs of dairy processors, retailers, and consumers," said Dave Chipak, Director Product Management at John Deere. "Integration of agronomic and animal performance data will give farmers the future ability to benchmark the data and utilize recommendations to make real-time changes that provide for an increase in productivity and a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions."

Developed and powered by Dairy Data Warehouse BV (DDW), a Dutch company with 11 years of experience in providing data solutions for sustainable dairy farming, the Milk Sustainability Center will serve dairy farmers by integrating their machinery, milking equipment, and herd management software solutions into one platform to reduce the need for manual entry. The cloud-based platform integrates the agronomic data from the John Deere Operations Center™ and the animal data from the DeLaval system, allowing consultants such as nutritionists and agronomists to provide more holistic recommendations to the farmer.

Lars Bergmann, executive vice president of digital service at DeLaval, explains: "Dairy farming involves using multiple unconnected software solutions. The Milk Sustainability Center links these different systems into one platform. This integration reduces the need for manual data entry and provides farmers with a comprehensive view of their farms' sustainability. The tool helps identify where farmers can save money and improve their sustainability efforts by highlighting nutrient losses and offering recommendations for reduction."

The Milk Sustainability Center is currently available at no cost to an initial group of dairy farmers in the United States, Netherlands and Germany, with plans to expand to other countries. John Deere and DeLaval invite interested dairy farmers in these areas to join the waiting list. As farmers are onboarded, the benefits of the Milk Sustainability Center will be extended to other farmers on the waiting list. For more information or to join the waiting list, farmers can visit [milksustainabilitycenter.com](https://milksustainabilitycenter.com) or contact [inquiries@milksustainabilitycenter.com](mailto:inquiries@milksustainabilitycenter.com).

To support the mission of the Milk Sustainability Center and provide dairy farmers with a solution that increases their productivity and sustainability efforts, John Deere and DeLaval welcome partners to join them in supporting the Milk Sustainability Center. For more information, potential partners may contact us at [inquiries@milksustainabilitycenter.com](mailto:inquiries@milksustainabilitycenter.com).

### **New Holland advanced guidance system for specialty tractors wins an EIMA Technical Innovation award**



An advanced guidance system developed for New Holland T4 FNV specialty tractors has won a Technical Innovation award in the scheme run in advance of November's EIMA International farm machinery exhibition. EIMA International is one of Europe's premier agriculture machinery events, showcasing the latest technologies from around the world to its broad, intercontinental audience, every other year in Bologna, Italy. Alongside the new vision-based system, New Holland has been recognized twice more in the awards scheme with mentions for the Seed Terminator developed for the CR combine range and the CropSpeed system that features in the latest FR forage harvesters.

Developed to help address the lack of skilled operators faced by many specialty crop producers, and ease the workloads of such growers and their staff, Advanced Vision Assisted Guidance is LiDAR-based, and manages steering movements both in the rows and at row ends, in addition to rear implement control. As a result, it is effective in situations where GPS-based systems are not a solution. Benefits include increased safety and comfort from reduced operator fatigue, enabling closer attention to be given to machine operation. The technology has the potential to help retain experienced operators by relieving them of repetitive and arduous tasks, while also providing significant support to those less skilled. Greater precision also means reduced environmental risk and enhanced performance from optimized use of fertilizers and crop protection products based on real orchard or vineyard field conditions.

The system is based purely on LIDAR sensor technology, using simultaneous localization and mapping algorithms, and with no GPS element there is no risk of errors and incidents resulting from any loss of GPS signal caused by factors such as canopy coverage, netting, nearby greenhouses or valley slopes. It is also able to recognize row ends, and incorporates a path planner to perform headland turns, with different path shapes available. A collision check mechanism means that if the headland does not have the required characteristics, the system will advise the operator, avoiding possible collisions with trees/plants or other objects.

Advanced Vision Assisted Guidance integrates the use of perception-based implement control, allowing automation of various tasks for different implements. With a trailed sprayer connected via ISO-BUS, for example, it can be used to automate left and right section control at row-ends, or account for any missing tree/plant in the row.

### **Mentions for CR Seed Terminator and FR CropSpeed systems**

EIMA Technical Innovation award scheme mentions were also given to the New Holland FR Forage Cruiser forage harvester CropSpeed and CR Twin Rotor combine Seed Terminator systems. New for model year 2025 FR Forage Cruisers, CropSpeed system is designed to allow operators to exploit the full potential of their machines in the knowledge that the risk of blockage is significantly lowered. It uses a spout-mounted radar sensor that monitors crop flow speed. Should this start to slow significantly, a warning is issued to encourage forward speed to be reduced and the risk of blockage minimised. Should ejection speed further drop, feed roll operation will immediately cease to minimise impact on the crop flow channel.

The Seed Terminator system integrated on the CR combines wide body (22in) rotors – the CR8.90/9.90 – was developed by the Australian firm of the same name. It uses multi-stage hammer mills on a barrel housing to kill weed seeds coming from the cleaning shoe and eliminate their ability to germinate on the ground. Thanks to this new feature, farmers get a new opportunity to kill weed seeds during harvesting process, reducing the use of herbicide and improving capacity to fight against resistance weed seeds. A key feature of the technology, which differentiates it from any other available, is its aggressivity, which is adjustable from the cab to the weeds infestation of the field.





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# USDA Makes Acreage Reporting Improvements to Allow Flexibility for Urban and Innovative Producers

## *Acreage Reports are Eligibility Requirement for Many USDA Programs*

Urban and innovative agriculture producers will be able to more easily participate in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs as a result of acreage reporting improvements. These improvements, implemented by USDA's Farm Service Agency, provide more flexibility for reporting acreage on a smaller scale and identifying innovative planting practices like multi-level planting or vertical farming practices.

An acreage report documents crops and where they are grown on a farm or ranch along with the intended use of the crop. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of program benefits.

"Through USDA's urban agriculture initiative and the opening of USDA offices within urban settings, our Farm Service Agency offices are more frequently engaging with urban and innovative producers," said Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator. "Filing an acreage report is an important requirement to receive many USDA program benefits, and our small-scale agricultural producers, including urban and innovative producers, will notice a simpler acreage reporting process that better reflects the scope of their unique operations."

Acreage Reporting Improvements

FSA's acreage reporting software previously allowed acreage to be reported down to .0001 acres, approximately a four-square foot area. Producers will now be able to report acreage-based crops at a minimum size of .000001 acre, approximately a 2.5-inch by 2.5-inch area.

Additional improvements will dis-

tinguish alternate growing methods such as crops grown within multiple levels of a building, or crops grown using multi-level or multi-layer growing structures such as panels or towers within a container system. This change allows the distinction of vertical farming practices. Urban and innovative producers will also have the option to report plant inventory along with their acreage-based report, allowing producers to better report the full scope of their operation.

Producers can contact FSA at their local USDA Service Center for acreage reporting deadlines that are specific to their county.

USDA Urban Service Centers  
USDA is committed to working with farms of all sizes and in all locations, including those in urban areas. USDA works with agricultural producers through a network of more than 2,300 Service Centers nationwide. To better serve urban farmers, USDA is establishing 17 new Urban Service Centers.

The Urban Service Centers are staffed by FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees and offer farm loan, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs.

To find exact locations and contact information for these Urban Service Centers or to learn how to prepare for a USDA Service Center appointment, producers can visit [farmers.gov/your-business/urban-growers/urban-service-centers](https://farmers.gov/your-business/urban-growers/urban-service-centers).

For questions, producers should call their FSA county office. Urban operations that are not located near one of the Urban Service Centers can contact one of the more than 2,300 Service Centers across the country by visiting [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).



# Create Showstopping Holiday Meals with Recipes Featuring Premium Pork

(Family Features) If you're wondering what to serve for a delightful holiday meal, look no further than pork – a perfect match for festive menus as it's easy to prepare, versatile, budget-friendly and pairs well with seasonal ingredients.

With flavorful, mouthwatering recipes like Apple Cider Balsamic Glazed Pork Loin and Stuffing-Filled Pork Chops, Coleman All Natural Meats offers trusted premium pork sourced from American farmers who humanely raise livestock with no antibiotics ever and no added hormones. All its pork is made of Heritage Breed Duroc, which is known for its tenderness, superior marbling, juiciness and flavor.

These elevated, seasonal pork recipes offer a delicious and unexpected twist your friends and family will love at your next holiday gathering.



For more recipe inspiration, visit [ColemanNatural.com](http://ColemanNatural.com).

## Apple Cider Balsamic Glazed Pork Loin

Prep time: 10-15 minutes

Cook time: 45-60 minutes

Servings: 6

1 Coleman Pork Loin (4 pounds)

salt, to taste, pepper, to taste

1 tablespoon olive oil

Glaze:

1 cup apple cider vinegar glaze

6 tablespoons whole grain mustard

4 teaspoons balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon minced rosemary

1 teaspoon minced sage

1 teaspoon minced thyme

2 teaspoons minced garlic

salt, to taste, pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons olive oil

4-6 sliced apples

Preheat oven to 350 F and line sheet pan with parchment paper. Set aside.

Remove pork from packaging and pat dry with paper towel.

Season all sides with salt and pepper, to taste.

To make glaze: In bowl, whisk apple cider vinegar glaze, mustard, balsamic vinegar, rosemary, sage, thyme and garlic. Add salt and pepper, to taste. In steady stream, slowly add olive oil to emulsify while whisking.

In large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sear pork loin 2-3 minutes on each side.

Move pork to lined baking sheet and brush on about half the glaze. Roast 30 minutes.

Remove pork from oven and spread sliced apples around pork loin. Brush remaining glaze over pork and apples. Bake 20-30 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 150 F.

Let pork loin rest at least 10 minutes before slicing.



## Stuffing-Filled Pork Chops

Prep time: 10-15 minutes

Cook time: 30-45 minutes

Servings: 6

Stuffing:

1 small box biscuit mix

1 stick butter

2-3 stalks finely diced celery

1 finely diced onion

1 teaspoon poultry seasoning

1-2 cups chicken broth

1 bag cornbread stuffing mix

2 eggs, beaten

salt, to taste, pepper, to taste

6 Coleman Natural bone-in or boneless pork chops oil

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 teaspoon minced sage

1 teaspoon minced thyme

1 teaspoon minced rosemary

To make stuffing: Bake biscuits according to package directions 1 day ahead. Dry biscuits will absorb more broth.

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In skillet, melt butter then add celery and onions. Saute until onions are translucent then add poultry seasoning and half the broth. Set aside to cool.

In bowl, combine stuffing mix, crumbled biscuits and eggs. Add onion mix to bowl and mix well. Add leftover broth if mixture is too dry. Set aside.

Slit each chop on rounded side, cutting almost through to bone, to create deep pockets for stuffing.

Season chops with garlic, sage, thyme and rosemary. Fill each chop with stuffing mixture. Use toothpicks to keep chops closed.

Preheat skillet with oil over medium-high heat and sear each chop 2-3 minutes on each side.

Once chops are seared, add remaining stuffing to pan, cover with foil and bake 30-45 minutes until chops reach 140 F in center. Remove foil for last 10 minutes to brown top of stuffing, if desired.

(Source: Coleman Natural Foods)

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tduncan@precisionairsystems.com



# Exciting Update - Farm Service Agency Loan Assistance Tool Now Serves Lenders!

We are thrilled to announce that the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Loan Assistance Tool (LAT) has been updated to better support lenders in the loan application process. Previously designed to guide farm loan applicants, the LAT now includes new features tailored specifically to meet lenders' needs.

The LAT provides an interactive, step-by-step guide through the farm loan process. Initially created for farmers and ranchers to help streamline their loan applications, it now extends those same benefits to lenders. The updated tool allows users to access all resources by identifying themselves as either a producer or lender or by going straight to the farm loan application process.

With these updates, the LAT now offers lenders the tools they need to navigate the farm loan guarantee process with ease, streamlining workflows, and ensuring smoother loan origination and servicing.

Lenders play a critical role in FSA's Guaranteed Farm Loan Program, which helps family farmers and ranchers secure loans from commercial lenders. FSA guarantees loans up to \$2.25 million, offering lenders peace of mind with up to 95% protection against financial loss.

With guaranteed loans, FSA partners directly with lenders, who are responsible for loan origination, servicing, and oversight. Once a loan is approved, FSA guarantees the loan, ensuring lenders are backed by a safety net in case of losses.

Eligibility and Participation in the Guaranteed Loan Program

Lenders subject to state or federal regulatory supervision, with experience in agricultural lending, are eligible to participate in the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program.

FSA offers four specific programs for lenders to make and service these loans:

**Microlender Program (MLP)** - Lenders with experience in making small business loans can participate in MLP. The program has specific criteria, including a loss rate below 3% on small loans, experience in originating 20+ business loans, and being free of government debarment.

**Standard Eligible Lender (SEL)** - SEL is the basic entry-level program for lenders. Participants must have agricultural lending experience, regulatory oversight, and local community involvement.

**Certified Lender Program (CLP)** - Lenders under CLP enjoy streamlined loan processing and reduced documentation. To qualify, lenders must meet SEL criteria, maintain a loss rate below 7%, and have processed multiple guaranteed loans. CLP status lasts five years.

**Preferred Lender Program (PLP)** - PLP offers the highest level of loan origination efficiency. With reduced documentation and faster turnaround times, PLP is reserved for experienced lenders with a loss rate under 3% that have met both SEL and CLP criteria. The agreement lasts five years and is granted by FSA's Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs.

For more information on the benefits of becoming an FSA lender, visit our new and improved Loan Assistance Tool!

## USDA Announces Early Release of Select Commodity Tables for Agricultural Projections to 2034

On November 7, 2024, at 3 p.m. EST, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will release selected tables from the upcoming USDA Agricultural Projections to 2034 report prepared in support of the President's annual budget process as defined in the Budget Control Act. These tables will include 10-year projections for major U.S. crops and livestock products and will be followed in February 2025 by USDA's Agricultural Projections to 2034 report that will include a full discussion of the commodity supply and use projections and projections for farm income and global commodity trade.

These projections, commonly referred to as the "USDA Baseline," assume that current laws affecting federal spending and revenues remain in place throughout the projection period and do not attempt to predict global policy or political outcomes, abnormal weather events, or other external shocks that could affect market outcomes. Instead, they reflect USDA's assessment of how markets would evolve under current conditions, existing laws, and normal weather patterns. Rather than serving as a prediction of the future, they are intended to serve as a neutral benchmark for measuring the effects of proposed legislation or external developments that could

have enduring effects on agricultural markets.

These projections use the Oct. 11, 2024, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report as the starting point and macroeconomic forecasts developed in Aug. 2024.

The data will be simultaneously posted in MS Excel tables to the Office of the Chief Economist's (OCE) website and will be uploaded to the Economic Research Service's (ERS) Baseline database at USDA ERS - Agricultural Baseline Database.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2024

14-17: American Agri-Women 2024 50th National Convention. Come celebrate our 50th anniversary in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin! Details coming soon, stay tuned! For information visit: [www.americanagriwomen.org/events](http://www.americanagriwomen.org/events)

21: CAWG's 50th Anniversary Celebration. A Half-Century of Advocacy and Achievement. We invite you to join us in commemorating this extraordinary milestone. The celebration will begin with a social reception, featuring wines from throughout the Golden State, followed by a plated dinner and program. The evening promises to be filled with camaraderie, reflection, and celebration as we honor the past, revel in the present, and collectively envision a promising future for California winegrape growers. As we gather to celebrate, we extend a special invitation for your thoughtful consideration in sponsoring this landmark event. We deeply appreciate the enduring partnerships that have shaped CAWG's journey, and your presence would undoubtedly enhance its significance. Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Sacramento, CA. EVENT CONTACT: Jenny Devine | [jenny@cawg.org](mailto:jenny@cawg.org) | 916.432.0133

## DECEMBER 2024

4-6: 108th Annual CCA/CCW Convention. Grand Sierra Resort and Casino 2500 E 2nd St, Reno, NV, United States More details to be updated in the coming months.

12: Virtual Community Meeting on 2023 AMN Report: DPR is hosting a virtual meeting to provide information on the 2023 air monitoring results for communities where monitors are located (Oxnard, Santa Maria, Shafter and Watsonville). The meeting will be available in Spanish and English. Visit DPR's website to view the full 2023 Air Monitoring Report.

## JANUARY 2025

28-30: Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. For further details please visit the website: [www.unifiedsymposium.org](http://www.unifiedsymposium.org)

To list your special event in California Farm Equipment send details to CFEM, PO Box 1128, Visalia, CA. 93279. or email to: [info@cfemag.com](mailto:info@cfemag.com).

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## Advocating for Sustainable Water Solutions

# DWR Previews New Water Year

by Department of Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) previewed the new Water Year which started October 1 by highlighting preparations for more extreme weather events this season following a record hot summer across much of California and a looming La Niña pattern.

Over the past decade, climate extremes have posed significant challenges to water managers, especially the extreme hot and dry conditions that frequently persist well past summer months and into the fall. California saw that with above-average temperatures in October and no rain in the current forecast. At the same time, the water that California does receive will arrive from more powerful storms, and hotter temperatures will mean less winter precipitation falls as snow and more will arrive as rain, increasing flood risk.

“California has experienced the full range of climate challenges in recent years from extreme drought to severe flooding and we will be seeing more of that in the future,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “To meet these dramatic challenges, California is starting this water year with more accurate forecasting and additional investments in flood protection and groundwater recharge.”

DWR and partner agencies are making California more climate resilient, taking actions to protect and boost California’s water supplies by taking an all-of-the-above approach to creating a resilient water supply in the face of a changing climate.

Investments in Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and improved data collection on hydrological conditions across the state through DWR’s \$7 million California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) will allow California to incorporate the best available science and data into its water management decisions.

California is also investing in protecting Californians from extreme weather events. Floodplain restoration and flood infrastructure projects such as the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project and the Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project will work with nature to improve wildlife habitat while reducing flood risk to hundreds of thousands of Californians.

California is also starting this water year with significant

progress in bringing groundwater basins across the state closer to long-term sustainability, protecting drinking water supplies against the impacts of climate change. Last winter, DWR launched the Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Initiative, which supports local groundwater recharge efforts that increase the volume of flood flows diverted from local waterways to recharge areas and expand local capacity to divert and receive future flood flows. DWR has invested over \$100 million in groundwater recharge projects since the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law in 2014.

While Lake Oroville, the State Water Project’s largest reservoir, is currently 101 percent of average for this date, the latest outlook from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center shows a 71 percent chance of La Niña conditions emerging this fall. While seven of the 10 La Niña events this century resulted in dry years, research also suggests that even as the climate grows hotter and drier overall, the precipitation that California does receive will arrive in stronger storms, increasing the risk from flooding.

“California experienced record heat and dry conditions this summer, drying out the landscape and putting our hydrology behind before the water year even starts,” said State Climatologist Dr. Michael Anderson. “While there is still a lot of uncertainty around how La Niña could impact the state this year, we know we can count on it to include extreme conditions.”

The record dry conditions this summer broke multiple records across the state for consecutive days of triple digit temperatures. In the critically important Sierra Nevada watersheds, precipitation this fall will be vitally important to ensure the winter snowpack can translate into runoff that fills our reservoirs, which provides a third of the water used in California.

In addition to the preview of the new Water Year, DWR released the 2024 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Summary Report. The summary report, which includes water shortage information at the supplier level, as well as regional and statewide analyses of water supply conditions, finds that all suppliers have assessed that they will have adequate supplies to meet demand in the coming year.



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Valley Tractor  
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### Federal Government

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Bureau of Land Management  
.....www.blm.gov

Farm Service Agency  
.....www.fsa.usda.gov

National Weather Service  
.....www.nimbo.wrh.noaa.gov

### Organizations

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.....www.almonds.com

California Assn. of Winegrape Growers  
.....www.cawg.org

California Cattlemen's Association  
.....www.calcattlemen.org

California Dairy Research Foundation  
.....www.cdrf.org

California Poultry Federation  
.....www.cpfif.org

California Raisins  
.....www.calraisins.org

California Rangeland Trust  
.....www.rangelandtrust.org

California Strawberries  
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Far West Equipment Dealers Association  
.....www.fweda.com

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### State Government

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Department of Conservation  
.....www.consrv.ca.gov

Department of Food and Agriculture  
.....www.cdfa.ca.gov

Department of Pesticide Regulation  
.....www.cdpr.ca.gov

Department of Water Resources  
.....www.dwr.water.ca.gov

### Universities

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Davis Agriculture Department  
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The Weather Channel  
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# USDA Invests more than \$11 Million to Support Resiliency in U.S. Dairy Industry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced \$11.04 million in funding to support dairy businesses and producers under the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBI) grant program, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The initiatives support small and mid-sized dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products.

"USDA is committed to helping America's dairy industry remain competitive as they work hard to provide necessary, nutritious dairy products to communities nationwide," Vilsack said. "Through the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, we aim to help the dairy industry access new and better market, spur innovation, and create economic growth. To date, the Initiatives have invested over \$64 million into more than 600 projects that are increasing dairy supply chain resiliency, creating new markets, and expanding economic growth in rural economies."

This year's funds are being awarded noncompetitively to the four current DBI Initiatives at California State University, Fresno, the University of Tennessee, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, and the University of Wisconsin. The initiatives will use the funding to provide valuable technical assistance and subaward funds to dairy farmers and businesses across their regions, supporting them with business plan development, marketing, and branding, as well as increasing access to innovative production and processing techniques to support the development of value-added products.

This year's DBI projects include:

In California, Oregon, and Washington, the Pacific Coast Coalition will use \$690,000 in new funding to continue revolutionizing the dairy sector by helping farmers tap into higher-value uses for milk, such as artisanal cheeses and organic dairy products. The Coalition's workforce training program will ensure dairy businesses remain competitive, allowing producers to diversify markets and income.

In the Southeast, the University of Tennessee will use \$3.45 million to support farmers across 12 states, enabling them to integrate innovative practices such as on dairy innovation, product safety, farm sustainability, and workforce development to improve financial outcomes and diversify the dairy supply chain.

In the Northeast, Vermont's Dairy Business Innovation Center will use \$3.45 million to extend its reach. As of August 2024, this initiative has provided \$31 million in support for 333 projects, ranging from farm modernization to energy efficiency improvements, all aimed at boosting resilience and efficiency across the region's dairy sector.

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance in Wisconsin will use \$3.45 million to continue to empower dairy farmers and processors in the Midwest with grant programs and technical assistance, focusing on expanding market opportunities and supporting value-added dairy product innovation.

For more information, visit the AMS Dairy Business



Innovation Initiatives webpage. Dairy farmers and businesses interested in the program must contact the appropriate initiative to be considered for direct technical assistance or a subaward.

AMS supports U.S. food and agricultural product market opportunities, while increasing consumer access to fresh, healthy foods through applied research, technical services, and congressionally funded grants. To learn more about AMS's investments in enhancing and strengthening agricultural systems, visit [www.ams.usda.gov/grants](http://www.ams.usda.gov/grants).

AMS administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country and globally. AMS services and its significant grant investments create opportunities by supporting American farmers, ranchers and businesses across the supply chain, and drive economic development in small towns and rural communities.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

Get the latest Agricultural Marketing Service news at [www.ams.usda.gov/news](http://www.ams.usda.gov/news).



# Registration and Housing has Opened for the 2025 Unified Wine & Grape Symposium

The Unified Wine & Grape Symposium has opened its registration and housing for 2025. Hosted by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) and the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), the event will take place at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center from January 28-30, 2025, in Sacramento.

A preview of the educational sessions includes the popular State of the Industry and a 2.5-hour session dedicated to exploring the promotion of wine, highlighting both the legal boundaries and creative approaches. In winemaking, sessions will include tastings and in-depth explorations of Sauvignon blanc and no/low-alcohol winemaking. For grapegrowing, sessions will address threats from exotic pests to exploring the regenerative ag toolbox. Marketing and PR sessions will provide live AI demonstrations and an opportunity to learn how to be an influencer. Business and operations sessions are brimming with insights on hot topics, direct-to-consumer (DTC) sales growth practices, new technologies, and ways to master the 3-tier System.

This year, the Workshop in Spanish will feature the Mexican Baja California wine region with winemakers, growers, professionals, and academics presenting the latest innovations in the Americas and Europe. The session will also include a guided wine tasting. This new, dynamic approach aims to provide a global industry perspective, presented entirely in Spanish, and invites everyone to network, learn, and taste. Leticia Chacón-Rodríguez of the University of California, Davis, calls this workshop a unique meeting for those who live and work with Spanish-speaking wine and grape professionals of all positions. "It's the one time we get to meet with

other professionals with similar language and diverse cultural backgrounds; where we can share our stories, successes, and challenges in a safe place." For a comprehensive daily schedule and session descriptions, visit the Unified's 2025 Symposium Schedule page.

Additionally, Unified is the premier destination to discover the latest in vineyard and winery technology and equipment during the two-day trade show on Wednesday, January 29, and Thursday, January 30. With 675 exhibitors and more than 850 booths spanning the size of three football fields, anything and everything wine-related can be found on the trade show floors.

"From novice wine enthusiasts and vineyard laborers to generational farmers and tenured wine researchers, Unified is the event people choose to attend year after year for a reason," says Natalie Collins, president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and co-sponsor of the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. "We have a comprehensive program that equips attendees with practical tools they can immediately apply and exposes them to inspiring speakers who offer a glimpse of what's possible. The Unified is complemented by the trade show, where you can spend two days getting lost in the unbelievable innovation, energy, and vastness of the industry coming together."

Built with the collective input of growers, vintners, and allied industry members, the Unified Symposium has served as a clearinghouse of information important to wine and grape industry professionals for 30 years. The Unified Symposium also hosts the industry's largest trade show in America. For more information and to register, visit [www.unifiedsymposium.org](http://www.unifiedsymposium.org).

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