



# California Farm Equipment Magazine

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Solutions for a changing world!

## The VINE announces call for startups to apply for field-trial support



Gabe Youtsey (left), chief innovation officer with UC ANR and founder of The VINE, says that field trials are essential for validating new innovations in the agri-tech sector and a new program from The VINE will help support those endeavors. Photo by Mike Hsu

### Validation of Innovation Program provides supportive ecosystem for startups

By Hanif Houston

The VINE, an initiative by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, is now accepting applications for its VINE Validation of Innovation Program. The program aims to support innovation in the agri-tech sector, particularly in climate-resilient solutions for California food systems.

Made possible with support from a UC Climate Action grant, the program is inviting startups to apply, with a focus on providing comprehensive support for field trials – a critical stage for any agri-tech venture.

"Field trials are vital for validating new innovations in the agri-tech sector," said Gabe Youtsey, chief innovation officer with UC ANR and founder of The VINE. "The VINE VIP aims to provide a supportive environment for carrying out these essential tests, bridging the gap between innovative concepts and real-world application."

Elif Ceylan, co-founder of Open-Gate Partners and head of the VINE VIP, also stressed the importance of field trials.

"Field trials serve as a crucial phase where promising ideas either succeed or require adjustment," Ceylan said. "We are committed to prioritizing this stage to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of emerging agri-tech solutions."

The VINE VIP offers more than field trials. It provides a supportive ecosystem for startups, including industry connections, access to a broad network of farmers and experts, comprehensive validation results and market entry support. The program is a unique accelerator that pairs startups with project partners in the agri-tech industry, facilitating Proof of Concept projects and commercialization trials for industry-defined challenges in California agriculture.

By connecting startups with farmers, academics and industry experts, the program aims to validate, advance, adopt and amplify innovative technologies, reducing technological risks and accelerating sales through its extensive industry network.

See *Field Trial Support* page 7



# New database helps Californians understand proposed groundwater plans

*Sustainable Groundwater Management Act allows for flexibility in local conservation strategies*



By Pamela Kan-Rice

Assistant Director, News and Information Outreach

To achieve groundwater sustainability under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, demand management – policies that encourage water conservation – will be necessary, says Ellen Bruno, University of California Cooperative Extension specialist in quantitative policy analysis at UC Berkeley.

A key feature of the state's approach to SGMA is that local groundwater sustainability agencies can develop their own plans for achieving sustainable groundwater use, allowing for local flexibility and experimentation.

Reflecting the open-ended nature of the law, Groundwater Sustainability Plans across the state include a variety of water conservation strategies. Many, but not all, GSPs include tools such as allocations, taxes or fees, pumping restrictions, or efficiency incentives. Understanding these policy choices is important because they will influence the economic costs of SGMA.

To help people understand groundwater sustainability plans for their area, Bruno and UC Berkeley Ph.D. student Arthur R. Wardle have created a database. They record and explain the demand management proposals made in the state's 118 submitted groundwater sustainability plans and make these data publicly available in a new online platform called the SGMA Demand Management Action Database (SGMA-DMAD.com).

"The site allows for bulk download of the data we collected," Wardle said. "Users can also locate a specific groundwater sustainability agency on a map of California

to see what demand management strategies that agency is proposing."

The Demand Management Action Database is the first easily navigated collection of the demand management strategies being proposed across California.

Many GSPs include over 1,000 pages, reflecting the many criteria they are required to satisfy. Among these pages are discussions of hydrogeologic features of the relevant groundwater subbasin, projections of future water demands and supplies, water budgets and other information necessary for the development of an effective management plan. Only one small section of the GSP, usually taking up only about a dozen pages, explains the management actions the agency is proposing to achieve sustainability.

"GSPs are an imperfect guide to what will actually happen as groundwater agencies implement SGMA," Bruno said. "The plans laid out in GSPs are subject to change. However, submitted GSPs are the best publicly available evidence of what steps groundwater sustainability agencies plan to take in meeting their SGMA obligations."

GSPs often distinguish between plans that will definitely be undertaken and plans that are provisional, subject to external approvals, need for additional funding, or are simply being left in the planning stage due to uncertainty over future water needs. The Demand Management Action Database includes information distinguishing between plans that are or will be implemented, versus those that remain uncertain.

"Some plans are still undergoing review and approval from the state," Bruno said. "But even for the plans that have been approved, they have until 2040 to actually achieve their sustainability goals – or 2042 for basins not in critical overdraft – so I'm sure there will be adjustments to these proposals over time."

In evaluating the role of demand management in submitted GSPs, the authors categorized demand management actions into a few broad categories – allocations, taxes/fees, pumping restrictions and efficiency incentives – each with a good deal of variation within them.

For each GSP, the Demand Management Action Database shows whether some policy fitting into each of these buckets is discussed in the GSP, along with details and page numbers for people wanting to know more about how a specific GSP is implementing each policy.

For those wanting to conduct their own analysis, the site also includes a download button enabling the entire database to be accessed at once. This data is free to use with proper citation

Anyone interested in SGMA governance is invited to explore the site and send questions, comments or concerns to Arthur R. Wardle at [arw@berkeley.edu](mailto:arw@berkeley.edu).





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# California Avocado Growers' Stormy Season Winds Down



*The California avocado crop for next season has already experienced its bloom and set stages.*

Mother Nature continues to test the resilience of California avocado growers this year, the latest test being heavy rainfall and winds from Tropical Storm Hilary and a moderate earthquake in the Ojai area on the same day.

Fortuitously for many California avocado farmers, these events will not impact this year's harvest because most of the fruit was picked before the storm.

"This year's crop of premium California avocados is about 90% harvested," said California Avocado Commission President Jeff Oberman. "Fortunately there have been no reports of damage due to the Ojai earthquake, however certain growing regions received as much as 6-inches of rain in one day. Farmers will need time for the groves to dry out to fully assess the impact of this rare tropical storm."

Oberman, who joined the California Avocado Commission in October 2022, said that this season has had its challenges and rewards. Growers welcomed more rain than expected, which is beneficial to the health of the trees. However, they had to brave tough market condi-

tions and below normal temperature during the early and peak season. As expected, peak availability during the 2023 season occurred from April through July, but some groves and sections of groves have fruit still to be picked. Late season market conditions have improved, but the storm that raged through California had the potential to pack another wallop.

"California avocado growers' resilience is inspiring," said Oberman. "They are committed to building and maintaining a sustainable California avocado industry by using environmentally friendly farming practices, ensuring worker well-being, contributing to healthy communities and maintaining economic viability. We expect the remaining crop to be available for retailers and foodservice operators who have chosen to feature it for the Labor Day holiday."

The California avocado crop for next season has already experienced its bloom and set stages. As growers conclude one harvest they are evaluating if this recent storm will have any impact on next year's harvest and carefully nurturing the next year's Golden State avocados.

## California Farm Equipment

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# Climate adaptation assistance for Ag-off-road vehicle incentive program promotes purchase of zero-emission equipment

The California Air Resources Board has launched the Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project (CORE) to help businesses and fleets invest in the most advanced zero-emission off-road freight, agricultural, harbor craft and construction technologies.

The program will offer vouchers of up-to \$1 million to help cover the costs of equipment and infrastructure. Additional funds and priority funding are available if the equipment is operated in a pollution-overburdened community (refer to program guidelines) or if the equipment is purchased by a small business.

The following equipment is covered by the program:

- Agricultural equipment
- Airport cargo loaders
- Construction equipment
- Container-handling equipment
- Forklifts (greater than 8000 lbs. lift capacity)
- Ground power units (GPU)
- Harbor craft
- Landscaping equipment
- Mobile power units (MPU)
- Mobile shore-power cable management systems
- On- and off-road terminal tractors
- Railcar movers
- Rubber-tired gantry (RTG) cranes
- Shore-side electric vessel supply equipment, including hydrogen fueling
- Transport refrigeration units
- Wide-body aircraft tugs

Please see this link for more information about the CORE Project: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/clean-off-road-equipment-voucher-incentive-project>

## Field Trial Support

*continued from page 3*

Startups interested in joining the VINE VIP can apply until Sept. 16, 2023. Detailed information about the program and the application process is available on The VINE's website at [thevine.io/vip](http://thevine.io/vip).

The VINE is an initiative of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, dedicated to fostering agriculture, food, and biotech innovation in California. Our mission is to support industries and entrepreneurs while promoting technology innovation and commercialization for sustainable and equitable food systems. We connect entrepreneurs with public and private sector resources, encourage collaborations to address industry challenges, and promote regional capacity for global innovation as an economic opportunity.



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# 'Fall' In Love with Family-Favorite Autumn Recipes



"Photos Courtesy of (National Watermelon Promotion Board /Getty)"

## Watermelon Bourbon Glaze with Grilled Flank Steak

Servings: 6

- 1 1/2 cups watermelon juice (approximately 2 1/2 cups chopped watermelon, blended)
- 2 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/4-1/2 cup bourbon
- 2 pounds flank steak or London broil
- 1/4 teaspoon cornstarch

In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, reduce watermelon juice to 2/3 cup. Toward end of reduction, add garlic. Remove from heat, cool 10 minutes then add soy sauce, brown sugar, hot sauce and bourbon. Mix well.

Place watermelon-bourbon glaze in large zip-top bag. Add steak and massage to cover meat. Close bag and refrigerate 3-4 hours.

Heat grill to high heat. Remove steak from plastic bag and gently shake to remove excess glaze.

Grill steak 4-6 minutes; turn, grill 4-6 minutes, depending on thickness of steak. Remove from heat. Steak should be pink in center.

Allow steak to rest on platter or cutting board 10 minutes.

Mix small amount of watermelon-bourbon glaze with cornstarch. In small saucepan over medium-high heat, add cornstarch mixture to remaining glaze and simmer 3-5 minutes. Reduce to medium heat until mixture thickens. Remove from heat.

Cut flank steak on bias into thin strips. Drizzle watermelon-bourbon glaze over top.

**W**ith temperatures cooling and cravings leaning toward comforting flavors, fall offers a perfect time for families to explore adventurous twists on favorite foods. As you and your loved ones rework the menu for autumn, turn to versatile ingredients that provide fresh tastes and new ways to enjoy classic recipes.

One star ingredient that can be used for appetizers, main courses, sides, snacks and desserts alike is watermelon. In fact, using the entire watermelon (rind included) means you've discovered a sustainable way to create nutritious meals without food waste.

Consider these simple, delicious ways to use the entire watermelon in your kitchen.

Sponsor: National Watermelon Promotion Board

### Watermelon Flesh

In the fall, whole watermelon is still available in many areas. You can also find mini watermelon in the fresh cut produce section at many local grocers. The flesh is often the favorite (and most-used) part of the watermelon. Served on its own as a hydrating snack or as part of a recipe for tasty entrees, the flesh offers something for nearly every appetite so no watermelon goes to waste.

### Watermelon Juice

Watermelon is 92% water, making it a sweet choice for staying hydrated. Even if your watermelon is overripe, don't throw it out – instead, juice or puree it to retain value and nutrition. Use it to sweeten this Watermelon Bourbon Glaze then drizzle over a perfectly grilled flank steak and serve with mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables for an ideal fall meal.

### Watermelon Rind

The rind is often thrown out – many people don't realize you can eat it, too. The rind absorbs flavors added to it and adds an unexpected texture to this Watermelon Walnut Currant Chutney. Try serving over brie with crackers or simply dip with naan or baguettes.

Find more flavorful fall solutions to avoid food waste at [Watermelon.org](http://Watermelon.org).



### Watermelon Walnut Currant Chutney

Servings: 16

- 4 cups watermelon, juiced
- 2 cups watermelon rind (white part), diced small
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 medium white onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves, ground
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest

1 lemon, juice only

- 2 tablespoons currants
- 2 tablespoons roasted walnuts
- 1 wheel brie cheese, for serving
- crackers, for serving

In saucepan over medium heat, reduce watermelon juice to 2 cups. Combine with watermelon rind, apple cider vinegar, brown sugar, white onion, garlic, nutmeg, cloves, lemon zest, lemon juice, currants and walnuts; simmer until almost dry. Chill and serve over brie with crackers.



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# Revolutionizing Agriculture: The Success Story of Viramontes Farm in Deming, NM



In the heart of Deming, New Mexico, Cole Viramontes is redefining the landscape of agriculture with his innovative approach to farming. Five years ago, faced with challenges like burning fields and heavy expenditure on fumigants, Cole took the reins at Viramontes Farm and embarked on a transformative journey that has not only boosted yields but has also nurtured the soil and fostered sustainability.

One of the foremost hurdles that Cole and his team encountered was the persistent issue of field burning. Despite investing substantial resources in fumigants, their efforts seemed to be in vain as they were still plagued by 20-30% field loss. It was a concern that resonated with farmers across the globe—how to protect crops while maintaining the health of the soil underneath. In a bold move, Cole decided to shift gears and seek an alternative solution.

The turning point came when they discovered Wormgold Solution, a natural soil biology replenishing system based on earthworm castings. The first year of implementing this innovation yielded astounding results. What was once considered their "worst field" with nearly 30% verticillium dahliae infestation (the fungal pathogen that had plagued their chili peppers) saw a dramatic reduction to under 5% as the soil health improved. Earthworms had been absent in the fields returned everywhere. This marked the beginning of a remarkable transformation in the farm's productivity and soil health.

Cole's enthusiasm about the newfound remedy is palpable. He raves about the impact of Wormgold on the chili pepper plants. Lateral branching proliferated, and the

number of fruiting sites skyrocketed. The plants adorned themselves with an abundance of blooms, outpacing even the most optimistic expectations. Yields soared, and it was clear that Wormgold had brought about a revolution in crop production.

However, Cole's goals were not limited to sheer production numbers. With a visionary perspective, he recognized the imperative of nurturing the soil for long-term success. The emphasis shifted from immediate gains to the overall health of the soil. This transition not only helped to reduce inputs, making fertilizers more efficient, but it also extended the shelf life of the produce. The issue of premature maturation and decay was effectively addressed, ensuring that their chili peppers, pumpkins, and watermelons retained their freshness and durability.

A pivotal moment occurred during a challenging period when the farm was struck by hail. The plants were damaged, and the need to rejuvenate them was pressing. Cole turned to Wormgold once again. The results were nothing short of remarkable—recovery was swift, and not only did the damaged plants rebound, but they also produced more pumpkins after the application. This incident solidified the role of Wormgold as a rejuvenating elixir for their crops.

In Cole's eyes, pumping nutrients into the soil is merely one piece of the puzzle. The real challenge lies in ensuring the longevity of the soil's health. This realization has propelled him to adopt a holistic approach that emphasizes soil health as a foundation for sustainable farming. Cole recognizes that without robust and resilient soil, the pursuit of high yields becomes an ephemeral achievement.

What sets Viramontes Farm apart is not just their embrace of innovative solutions but also their partnership

*See Revolutionizing Agriculture next page*





# Revolutionizing Agriculture

continued from previous page



with Rio Gro, the providers of Wormgold. Cole attributes their continued collaboration to the personal touch Rio Gro brings to the table. It's not about simply throwing products at a problem but rather about collaboration, analysis, and shared solutions. The relationship transcends transactional business—it's about mutual growth and the pursuit of excellence.

Cole's perspective extends beyond his own success. He views his purchase of products, like Wormgold, as investments in the broader agricultural community. Every step he takes is geared towards improving the industry as a whole. It's not just about Viramontes Farm; it's about contributing to the larger tapestry of sustainable agriculture.

In the heart of the southwestern United States, Cole Viramontes and Viramontes Farm stand as a testament to the transformative power of innovation and sustainable practices. With Wormgold as their ally, they've conquered the challenges of field burning, enhanced soil health, and fostered a sense of unity within the agricultural ecosystem. Cole's journey showcases that with a visionary outlook and a commitment to collaboration, the potential to create a better and more sustainable future for farming is within reach.

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# Deion Sanders Owns His Prime With California Almonds This Season

*The Pro Football Hall of Famer and now college football coach shares daily practices that can help with exercise recovery.*



recover with the right stuff,” says Sanders. “It’s all about consistency! I’m partnering with California Almonds to share how almonds help me stay PRIME, all the time. IT DON’T STOP, BABY!”

Catch Coach Prime in action with California Almonds at the beginning of the NCAA football season with advertisements airing on national and cable TV, on CBS, Fox, ESPN and CBS Sports, social media and more. For more inspiration on how to Own Your Prime from Coach Prime himself, visit Almonds.com and follow California Almonds on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

About California Almonds

California Almonds make life better by what we grow and how we grow. The Almond Board of California promotes natural, wholesome and quality almonds through leadership in strategic market de-

**P** rime Time is now! Hall of Fame athlete and now collegiate coach, Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders, and California Almonds are teaming up for a partnership of a lifetime to help consumers own their PRIME. Being in your prime is a mindset, and the grind to own your prime never stops. That’s why Coach Prime and California Almonds are encouraging individuals to be smart about recovery. Almonds are rich in nutrients that can help with exercise recovery – making them THE food to own your prime.

A perfect exercise food, almonds may improve your recovery response from physical activity. Initial research, funded by the Almond Board of California, conducted among 64 U.S. adults ages 30-65 who are occasional exercisers found that most study participants who ate almonds experienced reduced fatigue and tension during muscle recovery, increased leg and lower back strength, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery<sup>1</sup>.

Coach Prime knows hard work means being strategic about recovery, which is why he adds almonds to his routine for their exercise recovery benefits. Prime Time never ends whether you’re a weekend warrior or a competitive athlete – there’s no “off the clock,” so you have to keep that energy, confidence and consistency up, something Coach Prime instills in his team.

“You can’t achieve your PRIME unless you put in the work...DAILY! In order to BE YOUR BEST YOU, you gotta

development, innovative research, and accelerated adoption of industry best practices on behalf of the more than 7,600 almond farmers and processors in California, most of whom are multi-generational family operations. Es-



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# AGCO's Fendt and Luke Bryan Collaborate to Harvest Limited-Edition Peanuts and Support the National FFA Organization

*Fendt & Luke Bryan's Boldly Grown Peanuts, available in three flavors hand-selected by Bryan, launched August 31, exclusively at BoldlyGrownGoods.com.*



AGCO Corporation (NYSE: AGCO), a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology, and country music superstar Luke Bryan are preparing a tasty encore after fans went “nuts” for Fendt & Luke Bryan’s Boldly Grown Popcorn last summer.

Introducing Fendt & Luke Bryan’s Boldly Grown Peanuts, a limited-edition packaged snack that includes peanuts harvested by Fendt farmers. The snack was inspired by Bryan’s Georgia upbringing as the son of a peanut farmer and his love for his Fendt® 724 Vario® tractor.

Available in three bold flavors hand-selected by Bryan — Homegrown Honey Roasted, Sizzlin’ Sriracha Ranch and Down South Dill — Boldly Grown Peanuts will be available for sale exclusively on BoldlyGrownGoods.com for \$5.00 per can (plus shipping) while supplies last.

“Collaborating with Fendt to make peanuts for my fans means so much because I owe a lot of my work ethic and success to the lessons I learned helping out my dad at his peanut mill,” Bryan said. “Operating my Fendt 724 Vario really takes me back to those early years, though our tractors were nowhere near as powerful or capable as my Fendt!”

Once the limited supply of Boldly Grown Peanuts sells out, Fendt will donate \$50,000 to the National FFA Organization, the premier youth organization that prepares members for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. Fendt donated \$25,000 last year after Boldly Grown Popcorn sold out.

“From sponsoring Luke Bryan’s Farm Tour to creating a packaged peanut with Fendt farmers, AGCO has made

it clear that everything we do is about making farmers our top priority,” said Eric Hansotia, AGCO’s chairman, president and CEO. “We’re thrilled to pay homage to an essential aspect of Luke’s upbringing, and this substantial donation to the FFA also allows AGCO, Luke and his fans to help FFA prepare tomorrow’s farming leaders.”

Fendt is an official sponsor of Luke Bryan’s Farm Tour, an annual outdoor concert series staged on actual farms throughout the country.

For more information about Fendt, visit Fendt.com and follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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#### About AGCO

AGCO (NYSE:AGCO) is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of agricultural machinery and precision ag technology. AGCO delivers customer value through its differentiated brand portfolio, including core brands like Fendt®, GSI®, Massey Ferguson®, Precision Planting®, and Valtra®. Powered by Fuse® smart farming solutions, AGCO’s full line of equipment and services help farmers sustainably feed our world. Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, USA, AGCO had net sales of approximately \$12.7 billion in 2022. For more information, visit [www.AGCOcorp.com](http://www.AGCOcorp.com). For company news, information, and events, please follow us on Twitter: @AGCOCorp. For financial news on Twitter, please follow the hashtag #AGCOIR.

#### About Luke Bryan

Country music superstar and television personality Luke Bryan has released 30 No. 1 hits, garnered nearly 20 billion worldwide streams and has more RIAA certified digital single certifications than any other Country artist of all time with 81.5 Million. His headline concert tours have played sold-out shows for millions and millions of fans inclusive of 36 stadium concerts, Farm Tours, Spring Break shows, and eight sold-out ‘Crash My Playa’ destination concert events. Bryan has won 50+ major music awards including five wins as Entertainer of the Year. Additional awards include six recognitions as a CMT Artist of the Year, NSAI Artist/Songwriter of the Year, the first-ever recipient of the ACM Album of the Decade Award for Crash My Party, seven CMT Music Awards, five Billboard Music Awards, and four American Music Awards—as well as being named Billboard’s Top Country Artist of the 2010s, the Most Heard Artist of the Decade by Country Aircheck, and the Artist Humanitarian Recipient by the Country Radio Broadcasters. Luke wrapped season 6 on ABC’s American Idol in May.



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## Join Agricultural Advocates Nov. 1-5 in Sacramento for the American Agri-Women Annual Meeting

American Agri-Women (AAW) will hold their 48th Annual Meeting in the heart of downtown Sacramento, California, Nov. 1-5, 2023. The host group, California Women for Agriculture (CWA), has planned colorful tours and informative speakers for convention attendees.

The event will be held in Old Town Sacramento at the Embassy Suites. Tours for attendees and guests will explore the diverse agriculture of northern California. The line-up of guest speakers, business sessions and informative workshops is designed to provide leadership and advocacy awareness training for the membership and guests. AAW is the nation's largest coalition of women in agriculture with members in 42 states. Additional information about AAW and registration details can be found at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).

This marks the fourth time that California Women for Agriculture has hosted an AAW Annual Meeting and the second time the event has been held in Sacramento.

"We are excited to host our affiliates and the AAW leadership team in our state's capitol," said current CWA President, Sharron Zoller. It provides CWA with a wonderful opportunity to showcase our State's Capital and the historical backdrop of Sacramento's Old Town District sets a wonderful setting for the events and learning." California Women for Agricul-



American Agri-Women's Annual Meeting host hotel, Embassy Suites Riverfront Promenade, in the shadow of Sacramento's iconic Tower Bridge. Photo by Stephen Leonardi

ture hosted the event in San Diego (79'), Sacramento (90'), Monterey (05').

American Agri-Women (AAW) is the national coalition of farm, ranch, and agribusiness women's organizations and state and commodity affiliate organizations. AAW's Vision for the 2023 Farm Bill can be found at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). AAW promotes the welfare of our national security through safe and reliable food, fiber and energy supply. Since 1974, AAW members have worked together to educate consumers, advocate for agriculture, and offer networking and professional development opportunities.

# New Holland Enhancing T9 with PLM Intelligence™ Tractor Series for 2024 – A Fusion of Power, Efficiency, Comfort and Technology

- *New models feature upgrades that touch all facets of the T9 tractor, from horsepower to operator ergonomics, to technological advances like dual IntelliView™ displays.*
- *All T9 tractors will boast a FPT Cursor 13L engine to increase rated and peak power with single stage and two stage turbos.*



Unique advancements are in store for the new Model Year 2024 (MY2024) New Holland T9 with PLM Intelligence™ (PLMi) tractors. A fresh model update, boosted power, improved efficiency and a revamped cab with cutting edge technology and amplified comfort are all part of the package. All these enhancements elevate the T9 tractors' reputation for industry-leading performance and safety.

Designed to reset industry benchmarks, the new T9 with PLMi tractor models for 2024 boast a comprehensive range of upgrades that reinforce its position as the go-to high horsepower choice for those seeking uncompromising performance, comfort and technology.

"These enhancements exemplify the New Holland commitment to pushing the boundaries of tractor innovation. With increased horsepower levels and an array of advanced features, the updated T9 lineup delivers better performance, from the cab to the field, to meet the evolving needs of our customers," states Ken Paul, product marketing manager at New Holland. "With customer well-being in mind, we've modernized the overall comfort and design of the cab to reduce stress and help operators focus on the acres ahead."

#### Unbeatable Power with New Horsepower Levels

The Model Year 2024 upgrades mark the arrival of new horsepower levels for the T9 series, tailored to meet the ever-evolving demands in the agricultural sector. Equipped with upgraded FPT 13L cursor engines, the T9 series delivers heightened power and superior fuel efficiency. T9 models previously represented the rate SAE engine horsepower but will now be changed to the metric horsepower to align the T9 with the rest of the New Holland high horsepower lineup.

Of the six models for 2024, the T9.470, T9.520 and T9.580's engines have been changed to an electronic variable geometry turbo (eVGT) to boost horsepower, improving fuel economy by 2% and increasing transient response by up to 35%. The three other models, which are wide-frame models (the T9.615, T9.655 and T9.700), sport two-stage turbocharging — fixed geometry, first stage and wastegate second stage.

To accommodate diverse farming needs, Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) has been increased across all six of the new T9 models. The GVW amplifies the load-carrying capacity, empowering operators to take on a variety of tasks with ease.

#### Elevated Comfort Features for Prolific Performance

The New Holland commitment to operator comfort shines through in the Model Year 2024 updates. Redesigned with premium comfort features, including a new headliner, overhead console and RAM mount rails, the cab interior presents a haven of ergonomic excellence. These updates help operators stay productive, even during extended work hours, thanks to the new comfort features.

The updated cab top styling integrates convenient overhead grab rails, blending safety seamlessly with style. The thoughtful addition enhances operator stability and confidence during challenging tasks such as cleaning exterior windows. Improved door handles are also included in the model upgrades for more effortless opening and closing.

New Holland recognizes the long hours operators spend in the field, especially at night. With the addition of LED beacons, operators can have peace of mind knowing the all-new work light options will enhance visibility, ensuring seamless operations even during low-light conditions. The new LED lights promote a 20% increase in visibility, the best lighting package New Holland has to offer.

Paying close attention to their surroundings is imperative for operators when completing any task in the field. However, it can be a stressful endeavor to not have forward visibility in the cab. To further improve visibility, the Model Year 2024 T9 tractors will now come equipped with a thinner exhaust and the removal of the J tube between the Diesel Oxidation Catalyst and the Selective Catalyst Reduction, increasing operator visibility by 10%. In addition, by eliminating the J tube and reducing exhaust size, this helps streamline emissions control by preventing urea deposits in low-load application

#### Farming Technology Advances in the Updated Series

The T9 with PLM Intelligence series showcases New Holland's commitment to providing customers with cutting-edge technology. The inclusion of the dual IntelliView™ 12 monitor option provides customers and operators with seamless access to critical data without having to toggle tractor and precision outputs on one screen. By doing this, customers and operators can optimize their in-field performance and ensure more precise decision-making. One screen will come standard on all T9 tractors, but customers have the option to add a second display at purchase or installed at a later date.

A premium sound option is also available on all 2024 T9 models, ensuring operators can work in a pleasant work environment with high-quality audio. The cab package will have eight channel amplifiers, two tweeters, a premium sound-specific cab post cover and attachments for device mounting. Along with access to AM and FM radio networks, the stereo system meets the needs of operators with all interests.

The new T9 tractor models for 2024 represent a strong step forward in meeting and exceeding the needs of high horsepower operators, from the technology stack to power and performance, to high-level of comfort necessary for long days in the field.





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# Brightmark and Chevron Achieve First Gas Milestone with Florida's Largest Family Dairy

## Larson Family Farm's Okeechobee Site Marks the First Renewable Natural Gas Project in Florida for the Venture



Larson Family Farms, Okeechobee County, Florida

Brightmark RNG Holdings LLC, a joint venture partnership between Chevron U.S.A. Inc., a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation (NYSE: CVX), and Brightmark Fund Holdings LLC, a subsidiary of Brightmark LLC, announces the delivery of the first renewable natural gas (RNG) from its Larson Project in Okeechobee County, Florida. The Larson Project is comprised of four lagoon anaerobic digesters located at Larson Family Farms. This marks the joint venture's inaugural RNG project in the state and builds on the joint venture's extensive network of projects across the U.S. to produce dairy RNG for lower carbon intensity transportation fuel.

The Larson Project captures methane from cow manure through the process of anaerobic digestion and converts it to renewable natural gas. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG), the second most abundant GHG, and is responsible for roughly 17.3% of global emissions.

The produced RNG is used as transportation fuel and the remaining solids are transformed into organic fertilizer. In addition, recaptured water returns directly to the farm or site where the digester is located for reuse. The project delivers several environmental benefits, such as odor mitigation and air quality, soil stabilization, and nutrient control, improves the economics of dairy farming, and reduces the carbon intensity of agricultural practices.

"This 'first gas' milestone with Larson Family Farms is a testament to the power that a circular solution like anaerobic digestion has to dramatically reduce methane emissions and promote economic development in local

communities," remarked Bob Powell, Founder and CEO of Brightmark. "Our collaboration with Chevron and Larson demonstrates the continued growth of the RNG market propelled by the agricultural and food waste industry."

"We are excited to achieve this milestone in our first joint renewable natural gas project in Florida with Brightmark and a notable farming family," said Nuray Elci, general manager of renewables in Chevron's Americas Products business. "These projects support production of affordable and reliable energy and help accelerate lower carbon solutions."

Brightmark aims to reduce GHG emissions and achieve significant improvements in water quality by adopting economically viable technologies and practices throughout the industry. Brightmark recently reached a substantial company milestone, reducing more than 500,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e through its RNG portfolio of nearly 30 projects across 40

farms nationwide. With this project, Brightmark is able to reduce over 57,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e from being released into the atmosphere every year. That is equivalent to planting over 75,000 acres of forest every year.

"Our continued partnership with Brightmark demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of this project for it to be sustainable and beneficial to farmers like us," stated Woody Larson, Founding Rancher, Family Tree Enterprises (owner of Larson Family Farms). "The value of the RNG produced balances the offsets associated with production while maintaining the health of the farm and its animals."

For more information on Brightmark's renewable natural gas projects, please visit [www.brightmark.com](http://www.brightmark.com).

Source: Brightmark



Bob Powell, Founder and CEO of Brightmark (center) and the Larson Family, Okeechobee County, Florida



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# USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act.

“USDA continues to make progress on our goal to provide producers access to the tools they need to help get back to a financially viable path and ultimately succeed as thriving agricultural businesses,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The financial assistance included in today’s announcement will provide a fresh start for distressed borrowers with guaranteed farm loans and will give them the opportunity to generate long-term stability and success.”

Since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law by President Biden in August 2022, USDA has provided approximately \$1.15 billion in assistance to more than 20,000 distressed borrowers as a part of an ongoing effort to keep borrowers farming, remove obstacles that currently prevent many borrowers from returning to their land, and improve the way that USDA approaches borrowing and loan servicing in the long-term. The financial assistance announced today will provide qualifying distressed guaranteed loan borrowers with financial assistance similar to what was already provided to distressed direct loan borrowers. Based on current analysis, the financial assistance announced today will assist an estimated approximately 3,500 eligible borrowers, subject to change as payments are finalized.

An FLP guaranteed loan borrower is distressed if they qualify under one of the options below. FLP guaranteed borrowers who qualify under multiple options will receive a payment based on the option that provides the greatest payment amount:

Payment of any outstanding delinquency on all qualifying FLP guaranteed loans as of Oct. 18, 2022. This includes any guaranteed loan borrowers who did not receive an automatic payment in 2022 on that loan because they were not yet 60 days delinquent as of Sept. 30, 2022, as well as guaranteed borrowers that became delinquent on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan between September 30, 2022, and Oct. 18, 2022.

Payment on a qualifying FLP guaranteed loan for which a guaranteed loan borrower received a loan restructure, which modified the guaranteed loan maturity date, between March 1, 2020, and Aug. 11, 2023. The payment amount will be the lesser of the post-restructure annual installment or the amount required to pay the loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.

Payments on certain deferred amounts on qualifying FLP guaranteed loans, not to exceed \$100,000, for guaranteed borrowers who received a deferral or another type of payment extension, for at least 45 days, between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2022, from their guaranteed lender on that qualifying guaranteed loan in response to COVID-19, disasters, or other revenue shortfalls. The Inflation Reduction Act payment amount will be the lesser of the most recent deferral or extension amount on the qualifying FLP guaranteed loan, or the amount required to pay that loan in full. The guaranteed loan must not have been paid in full prior to Aug. 11, 2023.

This assistance is only available for FLP guaranteed loan borrowers who did not or will not receive an initial payment on the same FLP guaranteed loan under Inflation Reduction Act assistance announced in October 2022.

Distressed guaranteed borrowers qualifying for this assistance will receive a United States Department of the Treasury check that is jointly payable to the borrower and the lender. These borrowers will also receive a letter from FSA informing them of Inflation Reduction Act assistance they will receive as well as instructions to make an appointment with their lender to process the payment and apply it to their qualifying guaranteed loan accounts. Guaranteed lenders will receive an email in the coming days informing them of this assistance and any next steps. Lenders will also receive letters informing them which borrowers will receive assistance and the amount of assistance they will receive.

Any distressed guaranteed borrowers who qualify for these forms of assistance and are currently in bankruptcy will be addressed using the same case-by-case review process announced in October 2022 for complex cases.

FSA will also provide relief to qualifying FLP guaranteed loan borrowers determined to be distressed borrowers based on liability for remaining federal debt subject to debt collection and garnishment after the liquidation of their guaranteed loan account as of July 31, 2023. This will allow some borrowers to potentially return to farming. Guaranteed borrowers who qualify for this assistance will have their federal debt paid automatically by FSA and will receive a letter informing them of the payment made on their federal debt.

All letters to qualifying guaranteed loan borrowers will contain instructions for opting out of assistance if a borrower chooses to do so.

## Important Tax Information

Similar to other USDA Inflation Reduction Act assistance, payments provided to borrowers and payments to be applied to FSA farm loan accounts will be reported to

*See Financial assistance page 29*



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# New UC studies estimate production costs for coastal lettuce, broccoli



*Production costs are available for bunched broccoli and broccoli crowns.*

By Pamela Kan-Rice

California Central Coast growers and others now have help estimating costs and potential returns for growing lettuce and broccoli. Four new cost studies for lettuce and broccoli grown in Santa Cruz, San Benito or Monterey counties have been released by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Cooperative Extension and the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

“These studies provide growers with a baseline to estimate their own costs, which can help when applying for production loans, projecting labor costs, securing market arrangements or understanding costs associated with water and nutrient management and regulatory programs,” said Brittney Goodrich, UC Cooperative Extension specialist and study co-author.

The cost studies model a management scenario for a 1,500-acre coastal vegetable operation, where lettuce and broccoli are rotated with other cool season vegetable and berry crops. Each study describes the cultural practices used to produce each crop including land preparation, soil fertility and pest management, irrigation and labor needs. Harvest

costs are also shown.

Six tables show the individual costs of each operation for lettuce and broccoli, material input costs, and cash and non-cash overhead costs in a variety of formats. A ranging analysis shows potential profits over a range of prices and yields.

The 2023 sample cost studies to produce and harvest romaine hearts lettuce, wrapped iceberg lettuce, bunched broccoli and broccoli crowns can be downloaded from the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics website at <https://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>.

For a detailed explanation of the assumptions and calculations used to estimate the costs and potential returns for each crop, readers can refer to the narrative portion of each study.

Sample cost of production studies for many other commodities grown in California are also available on the website.

For more information, contact the co-authors: Jeremy Murdock in the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at [jmmurdock@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jmmurdock@ucdavis.edu), or UC Cooperative Extension farm advisors emeriti Laura Tourte at [ljtourte@ucanr.edu](mailto:ljtourte@ucanr.edu) and Richard Smith at [rifsmith@ucanr.edu](mailto:rifsmith@ucanr.edu).

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

19-21: FIRA USA 2023 hits the ground with farming robots in Salinas, CA. The California Rodeo Salinas is set to become the hub of agricultural innovation as it hosts the 2023 edition of FIRA USA. The three-day event will bring together the AgTech automation community for a showcase of the latest robotic farming solutions, exhibitions, presentations, discussions, and networking opportunities.

## JANUARY 2024

23-25: 2024 Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. Program features sessions and a two-day trade show. Safe Credit Union Convention Center, Sacramento, CA.

## FEBRUARY 2024

13-15: World Ag Expo® is one of the largest Agricultural Expositions in the world with more than 1,200 exhibitors on 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space! The show offers a wide range of agricultural-related exhibitors and seminars. While you can learn more about innovative agricultural projects, you can also network, try, and buy. See the future of agriculture at World Ag Expo®! For more information go to: [worldagexpo.com](http://worldagexpo.com)

## APRIL 2024

19-21: California Antique Equipment Show. Welcome to the best show in the West for old iron! FAMILY FUN AROUND EVERY CORNER. Visit agriculture’s past by learning about tractors, engines, equipment, and more. Located right off Highway 99, the International Agri-Center® is easy to get to. For more information call 559.688.1030 or 800.999.9186.

[antique@farmshow.org](mailto:antique@farmshow.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).

# Geospatial data product to show crop rotation patterns introduced by USDA

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture unveiled a geospatial product called Crop Sequence Boundaries (CSB) that offers public access to national-scale visual crop rotation data for the first time. The new tool was developed by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS), two of the department's statistical scientific research agencies.

CSB is a cutting-edge map of agricultural fields that provides crop acreage estimates and historical planting decisions across the contiguous United States. The open-source product uses satellite imagery and other public data to allow users to analyze planted U.S. commodities, enhancing not only agricultural science and research, but providing producers an innovative resource to help make farming decisions.

"CSB gives farmers a chance to look at area farmland and see how remote sensing is capturing planting decisions," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "Farmers will be able to use eight years of historical crop rotations to enhance their farm records or look at the management history of land that they might have recently started operating. They can also look at how their planting decisions compare in their regions."

New farmers or farmers considering renting land could also use CSB to decide which crop to plant based on past rotations, such as corn to soy, and researchers can conduct analyses at the field level, such as studying conservation practices for a particular field. The tool fills a gap between existing data sources, offering a more comprehensive picture and data in one place that is not provided by most other field level products.

CSB incorporates technological advances in satellite imagery and high-performance cloud computing with Google Earth Engine. It is one of several tools that NASS

and its partners have developed over the years to support agricultural analyses and to make data more accessible and valuable to the public.

Kevin Hunt, a senior geographer at NASS, said having a representative field to predict crop planting and acreage for the upcoming season based on common historical crop rotations is beneficial as a supplement to producer-supplied data. ERS Economist Maria Bowman noted that ERS is using the product to study changes in farm management practices, such as tillage or cover cropping, over time. This will help USDA agencies understand the impacts of conservation programs that provide financial support for these practices.

This product represents an automated and repeatable method for estimating fields from public data. "For researchers, CSB is useful because many farm decisions are made at the field level," said ERS Administrator Dr. Spiro Stefanou. "CSB represents an advancement in agricultural research by using high performance cloud computing to promote competitiveness by making information on planting decisions more accessible to everyone."

The CSB data sets for 2015 to 2022 are available for download and can be viewed at the state and county-level using an interactive map.

This new tool supports strategies outlined in USDA's recently released Science and Research Strategy, including improving and expanding new tools for understanding crop production to supplement other USDA spatial tools like COMET – Planner Global. USDA science is envisioning new ways to look at old challenges and everyday decisions to support our nation's farmers and ranchers.

For NASS data and access to CSB and other geospatial resources, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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## California Department of Food and Agriculture Now Accepting Proposals For 2023 Ag Plate Grants

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The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is accepting proposals for the 2023 California Agriculture Special Interest License Plate (CalAgPlate) grant program.

This program will provide an estimated \$250,000 in grant to promote agricultural education and leadership activities for students at the K-12, post-secondary, and adult-education levels, with the objectives of increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition, the introduction of young people to potential careers in agriculture, and public engagement to enhance understanding of agriculture and food production.

CDFA's Ag Vision plan, which centers on growing opportunity for all Californians via agriculture, recognizes the importance of ag education and ag literacy to the

contribution of informed citizens in the development of policies that support healthy and competitive agriculture and food systems. Grants from the CalAG Plate Program help advance these objectives.

Proceeds for the grant program are generated through the sales of specialized, agriculture-themed license plates offered by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Funding is available on a competitive basis for state-adopted Agricultural Education Programs (Education Code Section 52450-52454), government agencies, and non-profit organizations that administer agricultural education programs. The application deadline is Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. PT.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program website: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/calagplate](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/calagplate)



# American Agri-Women Announces Road to Influence Inaugural Cohort

Six dynamic women will make up the inaugural Cohort of the American Agri-Women (AAW) Road to Influence. The Road to Influence (RTI) is a new program developed by AAW designed to be a bold and innovative personal development experience for members. The program is intended to identify and move beyond limiting beliefs and behaviors, ultimately resulting in stronger leaders for AAW and beyond. The initial cohort kicked off their journey on August 24 in conjunction with the AAW event, Leading, Empowering & Aspiring toward Progress (L.E.A.P.) in Reno, Nev. L.E.A.P. which was opened to all AAW members.

Through a combination of virtual and in-person sessions, participants will develop critical skills in areas such as communication, collaboration, driving vision and purpose, trust, managing conflict, and persuasion. In person sessions will be held in conjunction with AAW events through the 2024 AAW Convention in Wisconsin and the program will culminate in a capstone project designed to bring value to AAW, its state and industry affiliates, and members.

"AAW has a vision to create a one-of-a-kind development program for members," said AAW Leadership Development Team Lead Sara Reid Herman. "Road to Influence is the culmination of an 18-month effort of a team of established leaders within the organization to identify the core competencies we want to develop in our membership. We are confident this program will strengthen and refine those skills within the culture of our organization."

AAW is grateful for sponsorship from key industry alliances such as John Deere, Syngenta, Valent, and AAW Past President Mitzi Perdue to make this vision a reality. These partners will provide financial support, curriculum consultation, and additional resources to bring the program to fruition. In addition, AAW will partner with learning and development professional Sarah Hummell to provide key course content and program facilitation.

Initial Cohort members:

Debbie Bacigalupi - Co Owner, BaciBeef and Ranch Hand, Cold Springs Ranch, Montague, Calif.

Vikkie Becker - Co Owner, Becker Farms, Alexander, Ill.

Jenny Hitner - Owner, Timber Town Real Estate & Century Forest Management, Monroe, Ore.

Ally Moreau - Business Analyst, American National Insurance Co., Feura Bush, N.Y.

Donnell Scott - Food Labeling Professional, AIB International, Manhattan, Kan.



Chrissy Wozniak - Founder, North American Ag, Cape Coral, Fla.

About American Agri-Women

American Agri-Women (AAW) is the national coalition of farm, ranch, and agribusiness women's organizations and state and commodity affiliate organizations. AAW's Vision for the 2023 Farm Bill can be found at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). AAW promotes the welfare of our national security through safe and reliable food, fiber and energy supply. Since 1974, AAW members have worked together to educate consumers, advocate for agriculture, and offer networking and professional development opportunities. Go to the AAW website for more information and to join [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). Find AAW on social media at: Facebook.com/AgriWomen/, Twitter.com/Women4Ag/ (@Women4Ag) and Instagram.com/americanagriwomen/ (@americanagriwomen). #standupspeakout4ag

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.....www.diamondaequipment.com

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.....www.dolktractorcompany.com

Donahue Corporation  
.....www.donahue-trailers.com

Farmers Tractor  
.....www.farmerstractor.net

Garton Tractor Inc  
.....www.gartontractor.com

Grasshopper  
.....www.grasshoppermower.com

Hanford Equipment Company  
.....www.kubota.com/DealerWeb/kubota/  
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Hesston by Massey Ferguson  
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.....www.precisionairsystems.com

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.....quality-mc.com

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Rubicon Equipment  
.....www.rubiconequipment.com

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.....sanjoaquintractor.com

Sonsray Machinery  
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South Kern Machinery  
.....www.kernmachinery.com

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.....www.valley-tractor.com

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.....www.wilkinsoninternational.com

### Manufacturers

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.....www.nikkelironworks.com

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.....www.smithweldingshop.com

### Farm Shows

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.....www.antiquefarmshow.org

Colusa Farm Show  
.....www.colusafarmshow.com

World Ag Expo  
.....www.worldagexpo.org

### Federal Government

Army Corps of Engineers  
.....www.wetland.usace.mil/

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

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

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

### Organizations

Almond Board of California  
.....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.cpif.org

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

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

California Strawberries  
.....www.californiastrawberries.com

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

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.....www.schuil.com

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# Innovation Contest and Seminar Applications Open for 2024

World Ag Expo® showcases the latest in innovation and education. Exhibitors and ag experts can now apply to put their mark on the 2024 show via the Top-10 New Products Contest and the Seminar series.

The Top-10 New Products Competition at World Ag Expo® has introduced the world to autonomous sprayers, handheld feed analyzers, electric tractors, and more. The show is now on the lookout for the next 10 standout products and services. Previous award winners have pointed to the Top-10 New Products Contest as a catalyst for success.

“Winning our first Top 10 award when we debuted GUSS at the 2018 World Ag Expo® gave us instant publicity across the agricultural industry,” shared Gary Thompson, COO and Co-Founder of GUSS Automation. “The media attention that came from it drove awareness to our customer base which helped generate our first sales. We feel truly honored to have been named a Top 10 winner three times now and will continue to present our new innovations for this prestigious award.”

The Top-10 New Products Contest application is available now at <https://bit.ly/wae24top10app>. Entrants must be exhibitors at the 2024 World Ag Expo® and products released anywhere in the world between February 10, 2023 and February 15, 2024 are eligible. The application deadline is October 31, 2023 and winners will be announced in December 2023.

Educational seminars at World Ag Expo® are included with the price of admission and feature some of the most knowledgeable professionals working in agriculture. Each year, tracks include Dairy & Livestock, Tech-

nology, Irrigation & Water, Demonstrations, and more.

Occurring each day of the show, educational seminars are held in the Seminar Center on the southeast side of the grounds. Sessions are either 25 or 55 minutes and include a Q&A session. Exhibitors, universities, government agencies, and invited speakers share their expertise at no cost to help improve producer information and practices.

The Seminar application is available now at <https://bit.ly/wae24seminarapp>. World Ag Expo® provides seminar space and AV equipment for each session. The seminar schedule and speaker information will be available online, in the show app, and in the printed show guide. The application deadline is October 31, 2023 and speakers will start to be confirmed in November 2023.

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 on 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.

Limited exhibit spaces are still available for agriculture companies. To learn more about World Ag Expo® and request space, please visit <https://www.worldagexpo.com/exhibitors/>.

International attendee ticket packages are on sale now. General admission and ag tour tickets go on sale October 2, 2023. Attendees can purchase tickets and plan their visit at [www.WorldAgExpo.com](http://www.WorldAgExpo.com).

## Financial Assistance

*continued from page 20*

the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Borrowers receiving this assistance will receive a 1099 form from FSA. Please note that payments over \$600 are subject to Federal and State Income Taxes and will be reflected on your annual 1099 form. Borrowers are encouraged to consult a tax professional with all tax-related questions regarding any Inflation Reduction Act assistance received. USDA also has tax-related resources at [farmers.gov/taxes](http://farmers.gov/taxes).

### Individual Requests for Farmers Seeking Assistance

In addition to the automatic payments announced today for distressed guaranteed loan borrowers, FSA continues to accept and review individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment on a qualifying direct FLP loan. All FSA direct borrowers should have received a letter detailing the eligibility criteria and process for seeking this type of assistance, which is available even before they become delinquent. As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may

seek a cash flow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility.

FSA direct borrowers also received a letter detailing an opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their qualifying direct FLP loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts.

Borrowers can submit requests for extraordinary measures or cash flow-based assistance in person at their local FSA office or by sending in a direct request using the [farmers.gov/22006](http://farmers.gov/22006) assistance request portals at [farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance](http://farmers.gov/loans/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance). All requests for assistance must be received by Dec. 31, 2023.

As USDA learns more about the types of situations financially distressed farmers are facing, the Department will continue to update borrowers and the public about new assistance for distressed borrowers. USDA will also provide regular updates about its progress in deploying this funding to farmers who need it.

# Nationwide Study on 30 U.S. Farms Shows Positive Economic Impact of Soil Health Management Systems

The Soil Health Institute and National Association of Conservation Districts announced the results of a nationwide study that demonstrates how improving soil health can help farmers build resilience and improve profitability across a diversity of soil types, geographies, and cropping systems.

"We know practices like cover crops and no-till benefit the environment by storing soil carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving water quality," said Dr. Wayne Honeycutt, President and CEO of the Soil Health Institute. "However, investing in soil health is also a business decision. This project provides farmers with the economic information they need to feel confident when making that decision."

This multi-year and data-driven collaboration among the Soil Health Institute (SHI), the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assessed the economics of soil health management systems (SHMS) for a range of crops including canola, chickpea, corn, cotton, dried bean, grain sorghum, millet, pea, peanut, rye, soybean, sunflower, walnut, and wheat. Some of the operations also raised dairy cows, beef cattle, chickens, and hogs. SHI and NACD conducted extensive interviews with 30 farmers with an established history of successful implementation of a wide range of SHMS, including cover crops, no-till, reduced till, strip till, planting green, rotational grazing, livestock integration, and manure incorporation across 20 states. Interviews were designed to learn about farmers' experiences with adopting those systems and to evaluate their economics by comparing the costs and benefits before and after practice adoption.

"Increasing the efficiency as well as resilience of farms and farm communities has never been more import-

ant," said Jeremy Peters, NACD Chief Executive Officer. "We recognize that farmers must weigh the costs, risks, and overall benefits when introducing new practices into their operations. This project shows that soil health management systems are both feasible and profitable. Conservation Districts can provide hands-on technical assistance to producers to design a system of practices that make sense for their land, while helping enroll producers into programs that offer financial incentives that fit their business model."

Key findings include:

Across 29 farms, SHMS increased net farm income by an average of \$65/acre (1 organic farm was excluded due to high revenue from price premiums).

On average, when implementing SHMS, it cost producers \$14/acre less to grow corn, \$7/acre less to grow soybean and \$16/acre less to grow all other crops.

Yield increases due to SHMS were reported for 42% of farms growing corn, 32% of farms growing soybean, and 35% of farms growing other crops.

Farmers also reported additional benefits of adopting SHMS, such as decreased erosion and soil compaction, earlier access to fields in wet years, and increased resilience to extreme weather.

"Soil health management practices help producers increase profits, reduce costs, and limit risks while conserving our nation's resources," said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby. "The results experienced by these 30 diverse farmers from across the country show the financial benefits of implementing soil health management systems across many different production systems, and highlight how critical voluntary conservation programs are to the viability of U.S. agriculture."

For more information about the economic case studies, including videos, producer narratives and fact sheets, please visit: <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/our-work/initiatives/economics-of-soil-health-systems-on-30-u-s-farms/>

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\*\* Offer available through December 31, 2023. Available on new Case IH Maxxum series tractors. This offer may be combined with other offers, but is not valid on prior purchases. A valid Farm Bureau® Membership Certificate is required, which may be obtained at [fbverify.com/case](http://fbverify.com/case). See your participating Case IH dealer for details and eligibility requirements. Not available in all states. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. FARM BUREAU®, the letters FB, the FB National Logo, and the State Farm Bureau Logo are service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation used under license by Case IH.

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**CNH**  
INDUSTRIAL | CAPITAL

**CASE IH**



## All Plants Grow Stronger and Healthier with Wormgold!

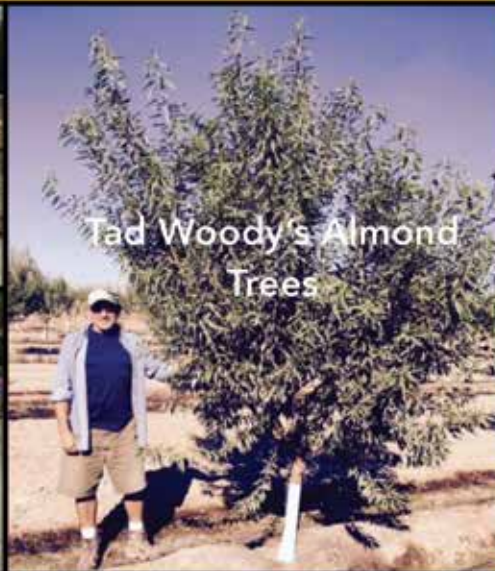


Torrey Hills Park Soccer Field



3 WEEKS AFTER APPLICATION

Turf and Hay



Tad Woody's Almond  
Trees



Neighboring Farm  
with No Wormgold

Two One Year Old Almond Trees Side by Side



Matt Willem's  
Blueberries



Jim England's  
Avocados



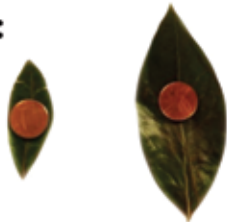
Jim England's Avocado Farm After Wormgold:  
from 125 lbs/Tree to 1,000 lbs/Tree

Harvest Length:

12 Weeks

Leaves Are

5x Bigger!



ASK US ABOUT OUR 4, 25/50,  
250, & 1,000 GALLON  
WORMGOLD BREWERS!

George Hahn  
george@wormgold.com

# WORM GOLD®



California Vermiculture, LLC

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

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