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2025 “We Believe in Growing” Scholarship Application Opens Presented by E.M. Tharp & World Ag Expo®

Applications are now open for the “We Believe in Growing” scholarship, presented by E.M. Tharp and World Ag Expo®. The scholarship was created to support agriculture education and inspire students from the Central Valley to pursue careers in agriculture.

The scholarship is available to high school seniors from Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties. To be eligible, students must plan to attend a four-year college or university and pursue a degree in agriculture. Two students will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship, distributed over four years at \$2,500 per year. **The deadline to apply is January 17, 2025.**

“E.M. Tharp takes great pride in sponsoring the We Believe in Growing Scholarship,” said Casey Tharp, Vice President/General Manager of E.M. Tharp, Inc. “As we enter our 18th year in sponsoring the scholarship with World Ag Expo®, we recognize the importance of supporting our youth and we know they are our future in agriculture.

During these economic times, we feel it is more important than ever to continue supporting our students in agriculture.”

To be considered for the scholarship, students must complete the application, submit two letters of recommendation, provide a copy of their high school transcripts, and be graduating from high school during the 2024-2025 school year.

“Agricultural education is the cornerstone of our organization’s mission,” said Jerry Sinift, CEO, of International Agri-Center®. “We would like to thank E.M. Tharp for their continued partnership in hosting the scholarship again in 2025.”

Download the application online at <https://bit.ly/WAEScholarship>. Send completed applications to: E.M. Tharp, Inc., “We Believe in Growing” Scholarship, 15243 Road 192, Porterville, CA 93257, Attn: Kerissa Chapman.

Scholarship winners will be announced in early February and recog-

Startups get help to speed new tech to California farmers



Representatives of Gather demonstrate how the Gather Rover can transport harvested grapes in a vineyard at The VINE Connect Field Day in November.

Program that helps startups and companies scale technologies for California agriculture accepting applications

By Hanif Houston

UCANR Innovate, the innovation arm of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, has opened applications for its VINE Connect program. Developed in partnership with Farmhand Ventures, the program empowers startups and established companies to scale their technologies in California, addressing key challenges for the state's farmers. Deadline to apply is Jan. 8, 2025.

California farmers are at the heart of global food production, but staying ahead requires constant innovation. To meet this challenge, VINE Connect bridges the gap between innovation and application by helping entrepreneurs tailor proven technologies for farmers to ease weed control, harvest and other farming tasks.

Each year, the VINE Connect program runs three cohorts, each centered on different focus areas within California agriculture. More than 20 solutions are selected annually to participate in a three-month cohort designed to accelerate market adaptation. Participants benefit from a workshop series on field trial readiness, opportunities to present their technologies during a field demonstration day, and extended network opportunities to connect with key stakeholders in California's agrifood sector. Eligible participants may also qualify for future innovation grants to support technology development, field trials or relocation to California.

"VINE Connect is all about bridging the gap between innovative ideas and the real-world challenges facing agriculture," said Hannah Johnson, industry lead at UCANR Innovate. "We're helping great technologies find their place in California's farms and fields, creating solutions that work for farmers and the entire food system."

"Programs like VINE Connect are critical for supporting entrepreneurs as they adapt their technologies to the unique needs of California's agriculture industry," said Connie Bowen, Founder of Farmhand Ventures. "It's about building solutions that are both impactful and sustainable while ensuring they have the potential to grow and attract future investment."

The VINE Connect program is part of UCANR Innovate's broader initiative, The VINE, which is dedicated to advancing agricultural innovation across California. Through a market-driven approach, The VINE collaborates with

farmers, industry leaders and community groups to identify practical challenges and develop targeted solutions specifically for California.

The initiative operates through two complementary tracks: VINE Build and VINE Connect. VINE Build focuses on transforming early-stage University of California prototypes into viable startups, while VINE Connect supports the market adaptation of any proven technologies to meet California's unique agricultural needs. Together, these programs promote collaboration, sustainability and inclusive growth across one of the world's most essential agricultural regions.

"The VINE is about connecting the dots between innovation and agriculture," said Gabe Youtsey, chief innovation officer at UC ANR and head of UCANR Innovate. "Together, these programs form a complete ecosystem for transforming agricultural challenges into opportunities, helping farmers, startups and communities thrive in California's dynamic landscape."

Applications for the VINE Connect program are open now and will close on Jan. 8, 2025. For more information or to apply, visit <https://thevine.io>.

UCANR Innovate is the innovation arm of University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, dedicated to driving agriculture, food, and biotechnology innovation in California. We connect people, ideas, and resources to tackle real-world challenges and drive progress that empowers entrepreneurs, strengthens industries, and secures a thriving, inclusive future for California's agriculture, its workers and its communities.



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Preparing soil for winter can protect soil health



Katharina Ullmann, Organic Agriculture Institute training and technical assistance coordinator, left, and Andrew Brait, field day panelist from Full Belly Farm, view results of soil health test.

By Judith Epele, UC Bonnie Reiss Leading on Climate Fellow

Farmers placed clumps of soil into metal mesh baskets, submerged the baskets into jars of water, then watched to see if their soil held together. The slake test, conducted at the Soil Health Field Day in Woodland, measured soil health. Healthier soil, which contains more organic matter and bioactivity and can better support plant growth, stays intact.

"Participants said that it was particularly useful to see the slake test on a variety of soils to better understand the nuance of how soil health management practices such as cover cropping and reduction of tillage intensity could affect soil aggregation," said Sonja Brodt, UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program coordinator for agriculture and environment, who attended the field day alongside Vivian Wauters, SAREP project scientist.

Technical assistance providers, farmers and other soil health professionals gathered at the Center for Land-Based Learning on Nov. 19 to learn about preparing soil for winter with a specific focus on how soil health impacts soil structure, as well as the ability for water to move through soil as opposed to puddling or running off a field.

"Soil with stable aggregates can withstand this submersion and stay intact, whereas a soil with poor aggregation will fall apart in the water," Wauters explained.

This in-field test can produce dramatically different results, where poorly aggregated soil colors the water, while the stable, aggregated soil will leave the water column relatively clear.

Farmers were invited to bring their own soil samples to perform slake tests at the field day. Kabir Zahangir, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service regional soil health specialist, compared soils from different management practices and discussed how to assess aggregate stability and soil

water infiltration.

Margaret Lloyd, UC Cooperative Extension small farms advisor for the Capitol Corridor, and Lindsey Kelley, UCCE small farms community education specialist, discussed regional benchmarks for soil health.

Attendees also heard from experienced growers Scott Park of Park Farming Organics and Andrew Brait of Full Belly Farm, who described how they assess soil health on their farms.

By collaborating with others, Brodt said farmers and researchers are achieving benefits through learning together in real time. "We will also be able to benefit from aggregating soils data from across regions to begin to develop a statewide soil health database, which is a critical step in order for researchers to be able to determine relationships between farming practices and soil health outcomes under California conditions in the future," she said.

Slake tests can be performed on soil from one's own backyard, garden or farm to better understand the health of the soil. Additionally, the NRCS principles of soil health – minimized disturbance, maximized biodiversity, maximized soil cover and maximized living roots – can be applied across all scales, though the specific practices will vary based on the type of yard or farm as well as the local climate and soil type.

Brodt and Wauters, who coordinate the California Farm Demonstration Network, emphasize that it's important to have local examples of innovative conservation practices across the state so people can see what is working to protect and enhance the soil health in their specific region. They encourage farmers and technical assistance providers to visit <https://www.calfarmdemo.org/> to find local farms that are showcasing innovative practices. Farmers interested in being a farm demonstration site are also encouraged to contact Brodt (sbrodt@ucanr.edu) and Wauters (vwauters@ucanr.edu).

They hope to continue to support the learning and sharing of knowledge around climate-smart farming practices to help California's farmers adopt climate beneficial practices.

"CDFA has funding programs, such as their Healthy Soils grants, that farmers in our network can apply for to help cover the costs of implementing soil health practices," Brodt said.

Current work on the California Farm Demonstration Network is funded through a University of California Office of the President Climate Action Grant.

Healthier soil holds together when dunked in water. Slake tests can be performed on soil from one's own backyard, garden or farm to better understand the health of the soil.



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The Power of Propane: A Sustainable Future for Farming

By Michael Newland, director of agriculture business development at the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC)

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SOIL STEAMER

All Photo's Courtesy Of Propane Education & Research Council

The agricultural industry has always been at the forefront of innovation. Whether adopting new crop varieties, precision farming methods, or state-of-the-art machinery, producers are constantly finding ways to optimize their operations. A growing number of producers in the U.S. are discovering that propane-powered equipment is an ideal solution to achieving sustainability, cost savings, and operational efficiency.

Sustainable Agriculture

As our country continues to shift toward more renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources, propane is at the forefront of opportunity. Clean, American-made propane is an approved alternative fuel under the Clean Air Act, allowing producers to spend less time worrying about emissions compliance and more time running their operations.

Propane-powered engines produce up to 24 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline and 11 percent fewer emissions than diesel engines. Propane also burns cleaner, which results in fewer deposits on engine components and extended equipment life. For example, propane irrigation engines typically cost 20 to 40 percent less than diesel models of comparable power and can save farmers 40 percent or more on fuel costs. Meanwhile, grain dryers running on propane are 50 percent more efficient than older models, helping farmers reduce drying times and preserve crop quality.

Propane's non-toxic properties also make it safer for the environment. Unlike diesel, it won't degrade over time, ensuring consistent performance while reducing waste. It also won't contaminate soil or water, making it an ideal choice for eco-conscious operations.

From irrigation engines to grain dryers, propane-powered machinery is reliable and sustainable. It offers uninterrupted power to keep engines and operations running smoothly.

Soil Steam Technology: A Game-Changer in Soil Health

One of the latest additions to the propane-powered lineup is soil steam technology. Producers looking to eliminate soil pathogens and weed seeds can now leverage the power of propane to create a more sustainable and effective solution for soil sanitization.

This cutting-edge method offers a chemical-free alternative for eliminating soil pathogens and weed seeds, making it a desirable option for organic farmers or those aiming to minimize chemical use. Researchers from UC Davis and the University of Arizona report that heating soil to 150-160°F for 15-20 minutes controls more than 90 percent of certain problematic weeds.

Propane's role is vital in this new technology — it powers the equipment to generate the necessary heat with minimal emissions. The benefits of this technology extend beyond weed control, as it helps improve the soil's health by eliminating the need for synthetic chemicals that could harm soil quality. This method also offers the sustainability stamp of approval by reducing overall emissions since propane burns cleaner than diesel or gasoline and meets organic standard compliance.

Versatility Across Applications

Many operations across the country utilize propane in some applications, but producers might be surprised to learn the extent of farming applications that are now available with propane. In addition to propane-powered grain dryers and irrigation engines, propane can be used for a variety of agriculture heating solutions as well as for flame weed control, soil steaming, poultry house sanitization, and more.

Flame weeding systems powered by propane offer a chemical-free method for controlling herbicide-resistant weeds, preserving soil structure while reducing labor costs. Additionally, propane's unique ability to maintain temperatures within .5 degrees make it an invaluable fuel source for livestock and poultry producers, as well as greenhouse operations. In addition, farmers save 25 percent or more with propane water heating versus electricity.

On top of all of these daily uses for propane, propane-powered backup generators ensure uninterrupted power for farms in remote areas for seamless operation even during power outages. With propane, farmers can work anywhere without being tethered to traditional energy grids or systematic issues.

Financial Incentives

I know that for farmers across the U.S., decisions can come down to how they affect their bottom line, and I'm here to tell them that adopting propane-powered equipment isn't just an investment in sustainability — it's a smart financial decision.



IRRIGATION ENGINE

On top of lower upfront costs compared to their diesel counterparts, and their reduced maintenance needs further increase savings, farmers utilizing propane can also take advantage of additional savings available through programs like the Propane Farm Research Program. Sponsored by PERC, this incentive program offers rebates of up to \$10,000 for purchasing qualifying propane-powered equipment. These incentives make transitioning to propane-powered systems even more accessible, allowing farmers to cut costs while upgrading to state-of-the-art technologies.

Beyond cost savings, propane's price stability provides an edge over fluctuating diesel and gasoline prices, giving farmers more control over their operational budgets.

A Future Fueled by Propane

Propane-powered equipment continues to redefine the agricultural landscape by delivering reliability, efficiency and sustainability. With innovations like soil steam technology and a growing array of versatile applications, propane is a cornerstone for farms looking to optimize operations while reducing their environmental impact.

Whether you're an organic farmer or a conventional grower seeking smarter solutions, propane-powered technology provides the tools to cultivate a cleaner, greener future. By choosing propane, today's farmers are not just improving their bottom lines — they're investing in a more sustainable future for agriculture.

To learn more about the benefits of propane-powered equipment, visit Propane.com.



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Walnuts are a "Healthy" Food According to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration

New definition reinforces more than three decades of health research supporting walnut consumption



Walnuts meet the updated definition for a "healthy" food based on the important role they play in recommended dietary patterns, according to the much-anticipated announcement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) detailing a new definition for foods that can be identified or labeled as "healthy."¹

This announcement, originally previewed in 2022 on the heels of the historic White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, is a significant step toward ensuring food labeling is consistent with the most up-to-date nutrition scientific evidence and Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) recommendations to support individuals and families in building healthy eating patterns.

"The inclusion of walnuts in the new "healthy" definition affirms consumers' belief that walnuts are a healthy food.* It also aligns with decades of nutrition research reinforcing the important contributions walnuts can make in a healthy lifestyle," shared Robert Verloop, chief executive officer for the California Walnut Commission. "It's simple. Just adding walnuts to Americans' daily diet can potentially have wide-ranging positive impacts."

The 2020-2025 DGA encourage consumers to choose foods that are nutrient-dense, such as nuts, including walnuts. However, close to two-thirds of Americans do not meet the recommended intake for nuts and seeds.^{2,3}

Encouraging walnuts as a substitution for food choices higher in saturated fat can help support recommendations to replace intake of saturated with unsaturated fats, as strongly advised by the recently-released 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report.⁴ The total fat in walnuts (18g) is mostly comprised of polyunsaturated fats (13g/oz), including omega-3 ALA (2.5g/oz), an essential fatty acid with potential to support heart health and cognition.⁵⁻⁷ Walnuts are the only tree nut to provide an excellent source of omega-3 ALA.⁸

"In my 20 plus years of practicing nutrition at a major medical institution, I have seen trends go in and out for what the public considers healthy. But what has always been foundational is the role plant-based foods like walnuts play in supporting health. Walnuts are one nut I find consistently meets the variable needs of patients in my practice," states Kristin Kirkpatrick, MS, RDN and author. "In practice, I focus on evidence-based approaches to reducing chronic disease risk, weight management, and improvements in metabolic health."

Walnuts qualifying as a "healthy" food is just one major milestone in a series of similar recognitions. A recent ruling, earlier in 2024, by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), 'Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans,' will make it easier for schools to serve plant-protein rich meals and snacks that include walnuts. Using ingredients like walnuts can help reformulate meal favorites to be healthier, while also supporting vegetarian diets and other food preferences. Additionally, for the first time, states are now allowed to include walnut butter as part of the latest WIC program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) package updates.

These new inclusions and acknowledgements of the role of walnuts in healthy dietary patterns are due, in part, to the more than 30 years of evidence-based global health and nutrition research funded by the California Walnut Commission. This growing body of research has uncovered many potential benefits of consuming walnuts within healthy dietary patterns across various ages and life stages to maximize health and well-being, including promising research into heart health, cognition, cancer, gut health, body weight, and reproductive health.

Walnuts are extremely versatile and convenient, adding nutrition to dishes at every meal, as well as simple snacks. For more information about the nutritional benefits of California walnuts, along with delicious recipe inspiration, please visit walnuts.org.

About the California Walnut Commission

The California Walnut Commission (CWC) represents more than 4,600 California walnut growers and nearly 70 handlers, grown in multi-generational farmers' family orchards. California walnuts, known for their excellent nutritional value and quality, are shipped around the world all year long, with more than 99% of the walnuts grown in the United States being from California. The CWC, established in 1987, promotes usage of walnuts through domestic and export market development activities as well as supports health research with consuming walnuts.

To explore recipes and learn more about California walnut growers, industry information and health research, visit walnuts.org.

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National Ag Day March 18, 2025

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) announced March 18, 2025, will be National Agriculture Day with the theme of "Together We Grow."

Activities planned for March 18 feature a virtual Ag Day program, and in-person events in Washington DC. A core leadership team of college students will participate in the DC events, along with representatives of national farm and commodity organizations, representatives of the food, fuel, and fiber communities.

Jenny Pickett, ACA President says students from AFA, 4-H, FFA, and MANNRS participated in 2024 National Ag Day. "Students are interested in advocating on behalf of agriculture and their future roles in the industry. Their participation in National Ag Day activities provides a glimpse of the future of agriculture. It's exciting to learn from the students what they think agriculture will be like in the years ahead, and how their involvement will shape the industry and America as a whole."

"More and more, students and individuals are finding careers in agriculture. The industry needs scientists, biologists, food safety technicians, livestock nutrition specialists, arborists, conservationists – one doesn't have to be a farmer or have a direct on-farm job to be involved in the agriculture industry," Pickett says.

2025 National Ag Day marks the 52nd year of the nationwide effort to share real stories of American agriculture, and remind citizens that agriculture affects everyone. "From the food we eat

and the fuel for our vehicles, to the fiber in the clothes we wear, and the oil used to make kids' crayons, agriculture touches everyone in some way," Pickett says.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food, fiber, and fuel products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

In addition to the events on March 18, the ACA will offer the Ag Day Essay Contest. Interested students would create video essays on the topic of Food Security = National Security. The winning video essay will be presented on National Ag Day.

Sponsorship opportunities for Ag Day 2025 are available. Visit www.agday.org for more information, or contact Pickett to discuss sponsorship opportunities, or with any additional questions.

Agriculture Council of America, a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, organizes the annual activities which are part of a national effort to increase the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

Feeding Grazing Cattle Seaweed Cuts Methane Emissions by Almost 40%



Beef steers graze on a ranch in Dillon, Montana. The machine nearby releases a seaweed supplement while also measuring the cattle's methane emissions. (Photo: Paulo de Méo Filho / UC Davis)

Findings offer solution for more climate-friendly cattle farming

By Amy Quinton

Seaweed is once again showing promise for making cattle farming more sustainable. A new study by researchers at the University of California, Davis, found that feeding grazing beef cattle a seaweed supplement in pellet form reduced their methane emissions by almost 40% without affecting their health or weight. The study was published Dec. 2 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

This is the first study to test seaweed on grazing beef cattle in the world. It follows previous studies that showed seaweed cut methane emissions 82% in feedlot cattle and over 50% in dairy cows.

How much methane do cattle produce?

Overhead view of the machines that dispense the seaweed supplement and measure the grazing cattle's methane emissions

Overhead view of the machines that dispense the seaweed supplement and measure the grazing cattle's methane emissions. The solar panels power the machines. Photo by Paulo de Méo Filho, UC Davis

Livestock account for 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with the largest portion coming from methane that cattle release when they burp. Grazing cattle also produce more methane than feedlot cattle or dairy cows because they eat more fiber from grass. In the U.S., there are 9 million

dairy cows and over 64 million beef cattle.

"Beef cattle spend only about three months in feedlots and spend most of their lives grazing on pasture and producing methane," said senior author Ermias Kebreab, professor in the Department of Animal Science. "We need to make this seaweed additive or any feed additive more accessible to grazing cattle to make cattle farming more sustainable while meeting the global demand for meat."

Difficulty in reducing methane emissions from cattle

Kebreab said that daily feeding of pasture-based cattle is more difficult than feedlot or dairy cows because they often graze far from ranches for long periods. However, during the winter or when grass is scarce, ranchers often supplement their diet.

For this study, researchers divided 24 beef steers (a mix of Angus and Wagyu breeds) into two groups: one received the seaweed supplement, and the other did not. Researchers conducted the 10-week experiment at a ranch in Dillon, Montana. Since these were grazing cattle, they ate the supplement voluntarily, which still resulted in a nearly 40% cut in emissions.

Most research studies to reduce methane emissions using feed additives have taken place in controlled environments with daily supplements. But Kebreab noted in the study that fewer than half of those methods are effective for grazing cattle.

"This method paves the way to make a seaweed supplement easily available to grazing animals," said Kebreab. "Ranchers could even introduce the seaweed through a lick block for their cattle."

Beef steers graze on a ranch

Beef steers graze on a ranch in Montana. Photo by Paulo de Méo Filho, UC Davis

Kebreab said pastoral farming, which includes large grazing systems, supports millions of people around the world, often in areas vulnerable to climate change. This study suggests a way to make cattle grazing better for the environment, while playing a role in fighting climate change.

A related article in the same PNAS issue highlights the need to improve the efficiency of livestock production in low- and middle-income countries using better genetics, feeding and health practices. UC Davis Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist Alison Van Eenennaam, the article's author, said it is the most promising approach to meet the global demand for meat while limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Other authors of the seaweed study include UC Davis postdoctoral researchers Paulo de Méo Filho and John-Fredy Ramirez-Agudelo.

The research was supported by Matador Ranch in Dillon, Montana.

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Friends of the California State Fair Opens Annual Scholarship Application

Program awards more than \$40,000 in scholarships to California residents pursuing post-secondary education

By Friends of the California State Fair

The application period for the 2025-26 Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is now open to graduating high school seniors and current college students in the state of California.

Through this program, Friends of the California State Fair will award scholarships of \$1,000 to \$2,500 scholarships across twelve categories such as agriculture, art, business, culinary/hospitality/event planning and trade school. Eligibility criteria vary by category but every candidate will be evaluated on academic achievements, community involvement, volunteerism and essay responses.

In addition to the category winners, the Ironstone Concours Foundation/Friends of the California State Fair selects one exceptional candidate as the overall winner to receive a \$5,000 scholarship. In 2024, this recognition went to Teagan Wunschel, a cattle rancher now studying Animal Science and Ag Communications at California State University-Chico.

"As a fifth generation rancher I've been immersed in the world of ranching from an early age. But, it was my decision to venture into showing cattle that introduced me to a

new level of learning about the importance of breed improvement and advocacy that inspired in me a love of the beef industry that extended

our ranch and has driven me to pursue an education where I hope to focus on bovine genetics and breed improvement," said Wunschel in her scholarship application. "I will use my degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Communications to advocate for agriculture in California and help push for new and improved breeding that can produce a more sustainable product for consumers while also benefiting producers."

The scholarship application deadline for the 2025-26 academic year is March 3, 2025. Learn more and find a link to the online application process at calexpostatefair.com/participate/friends-of-the-ca-state-fair/scholarship.

The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is a collaborative effort spanning more than 30 years between the Friends of the California State Fair, the California Agricultural Advisory Council and the State Fair Gala Committee.



CAWG Celebrates 50 Years of Advocacy for California Winegrape Growers

The California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) proudly commemorates its 50th anniversary, marking half a century of steadfast advocacy and leadership on behalf of California winegrape growers. Since its incorporation on December 16, 1974, CAWG has been dedicated to representing the interests of growers and advancing the sustainability and long-term success of California's wine industry.

CAWG hosted a celebratory event in Sacramento on November 21 to honor this milestone. The occasion brought together growers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to reflect on the association's history and achievements. The evenings program featured remarks from past and present CAWG leaders, a historical retrospective on the evolution of California's wine industry, and a toast to the future of winegrape growing in the golden state. The celebration also recognized the contributions of CAWG's founding members and the ongoing support of its growers, associate members, and industry partners.

"CAWG's 50th anniversary is a testament to the resilience, innovation, and dedication of California's winegrape growers," said CAWG President Natalie Collins. "As we celebrate this milestone, we also renew our commitment to advocat-

ing for policies and programs that support the long-term viability of our members and the broader wine industry."

CAWG has played a critical role in shaping industry policies, fostering collaboration, and promoting the state's winegrape growers as leaders in sustainable farming practices. Over the past five decades, CAWG's efforts have included championing progress related to water resources, labor policy, pest management, and wildfire recovery.

As CAWG looks ahead to its next 50 years, the association remains focused on driving innovation, sustainability, and economic growth for California's winegrape growers. With California producing over 80% of the nation's wine, CAWG's work continues to be integral to the success of an industry that contributes \$73 billion annually to the state's economy.

We invite you to relive CAWG's rich history through a special 50-year anniversary video, thoughtfully produced to highlight the milestones, achievements, and enduring legacy of the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

For more detailed information about CAWG's 50th Anniversary Celebration and history, please visit the associations newly launched Substack page: <https://substack.com/@cawg>.



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World Ag Expo® Announces 2025 Top-10 New P

The results are in for World Ag Expo's® 2025 Top-10 New Products Contest. The winners will be showcased February 11-13, 2025 during the World Ag Expo® in Tulare, California.

The impressive field of new products was submitted by exhibitors, showcasing innovations ranging from simple solutions to advanced technologies. The competition was evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of farmers, ranchers, and industry professionals.

Contest winners will be honored at the show and prominently highlighted throughout the event. Recipients will be noted on show maps, identified with "Top-10 Winner" flags at the show, and recognized during an awards session at World Ag Expo® Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

The competition is conducted annually by the International Agri-Center® in conjunction with World Ag Expo®, which draws more than 1,200 exhibitors and an estimated annual average of 100,000 individuals from 60 countries. Exhibitors must nominate their products for judging by the October 31 deadline to be eligible.

3 in 1 Orchard Brush Rake-Shredder-Blower by HCL Machine Works Dos Palos, CA USA



Self-propelled OMC Brush Shredder with a front mounted orchard brush rake and a rear mounted blower. This machine does 3 tasks in one and does it more efficiently than ever before. Space SS65 | hclmachineworks.com

Garford Electric Weeder by Garford Farm Machinery Brooklyn Park, MN, USA



The Garford Electric Weeder brings electric weeding technology to salad, brassica, and vegetable crop applications. It has been developed from a collaboration between the UK manufacturer of technologically advanced mechanical weed control products Garford Farm Machinery, and the UK electrical weed control manufacturer RootWave.

It represents an industry solution, combining best-in-class power electronics, imaging, and artificial intelligence to create an unrivaled weed control solution for row crops.

The new agreement sees the two manufacturers co-develop new weeding technology and products, integrating electrical weeding into precision-guided toolbar systems, for high-value and high-intensive crops.

The next generation of electrical weeding technology uses electricity to boil weeds and their roots, providing better weed control at a lower cost than chemical herbicides. With full and systemic control, the technology kills weeds above and below the ground without leaving residues harming health, soils, biodiversity, or crops. Space 2016, 2017 | Garford.com

ARA, The Ultra-High Precision Sprayer by Ecorobotix Pasco, WA, USA



The Ecorobotix ARA Ultra-High Precision Sprayer represents a transformative advancement for the agriculture industry. Powered by Ecorobotix's Plant-by-Plant AI Software, ARA's high-definition cameras scan fields to detect and distinguish weeds from crops, applying treatments with remarkable precision, covering an area of just 2.4x2.4 inches. This adaptable system can be used year-round—even at night and in windy conditions—delivering various crop protection products (herbicides, insecticides, etc.) and fertilizers with up to 95% reduction in product use. Space: S54 | ecorobotix.com

FlexiRiser Pump Puller by Water Well Rentals/Hose Solutions Scottsdale, AZ, USA



The FlexiRiser is our hydraulic, trailer-mounted spool system designed to install and retrieve submersible pumps at the push of a button. This unit will be at the show.

Space K26 | HoseSolutions.com

Autofill by Oxbo, Lynden, WA, USA



AutoFill is an innovative, integrated technology available on Oxbo 7440 and 7450 Berry harvesters, with a limited release in 2025 and full release in 2026. AutoFill is designed to reduce labor costs by up to 75% and increase harvest efficiency by automating labor-intensive tasks such as de-stacking and filling lugs. AutoFill improves efficiency when harvesting for fresh or processed and in all tonnages. Space: N32 | oxbo.com

Product Contest Winners

Vulcan T380 by FarmWise Labs, Inc. Salinas, CA, USA



The Vulcan T380 is an advanced AI-driven weeder specifically developed for the tomato processing industry, marking FarmWise's first foray into broader-acre crop solutions. This next-generation, machine learning-powered precision weeding and cultivation tool addresses the industry's demand for more efficient and cost-effective weed management practices.

The T380's foundation model has been meticulously trained over the years using a comprehensive dataset of shadow-free, high-resolution images of tomato plants at various growth stages and under diverse soil and weed pressure conditions. By harnessing this extensive image library alongside FarmWise's cutting-edge computer vision and precision control systems, the Vulcan T380 achieves remarkable accuracy in predicting tomato stem locations and eliminating weeds at operational speeds of 2–4 mph.

With a flexible intervention window spanning several weeks, the T380 empowers growers to realize significant per-acre savings through superior weed management—providing an efficient alternative to manual labor, and conventional cultivation methods. The tomato industry is now poised to reap the benefits of AI-driven weeding innovation.

Space N39 | farmwiselabs.com

Pelican Spray by Pyka Alameda, CA, USA



Pelican Spray is an autonomous electric crop spray UAS designed and built by Pyka in Alameda, CA. Pelican Spray uses a combination of precision spray and drift reduction technologies to optimize chemical output and reduce costs for growers. The aircraft is fully automated, can be easily controlled from a laptop computer, and can fly and spray both during the day and at night. Newly redesigned for 2025, the next-generation model boasts a heavier payload, higher productivity, and commercially proven reliability in the field—delivering unmatched value to growers worldwide.

Space SS63 | flypyka.com



Pollination Insight Platform (PIP) by BeeHero Del Rey, CA, USA



BeeHero's Pollination Insight Platform (PIP) uses patented, plug-and-play in-field sensors and AI to provide powerful data-backed insights into pollination activity (bee visits to flowers, bee behavior, and environmental conditions) in permanent tree crops, seed, row, and specialty crops, such as berries, canola and more.

Space 2013 | beehero.io

Seppi Miniforst Pick Up CL 175 by Seppi M. and Gearmore, Inc. Chino, CA, USA



Engineered to boost soil health and vineyard management efficiency, the Seppi Miniforst CL175 stands as a testament to our commitment to sustainable agriculture. Equipped with unique dual feed rotors, this advanced shredder effortlessly grabs, feeds and mulches branches and prunings of all sizes. Built to tackle all species of wood, shredding up to 8-inch diameter material, then dispersing the organics back onto the soil where they will decompose more quickly, enriching the soil health while simplifying vineyard pruning management. The Seppi Miniforst CL175 provides vineyard operators with a streamlined, eco-friendly solution for efficient pruning management.

Space P24, P26 | seppi.com

Synergy Blower by Flory Industries Salida, CA, USA



The Synergy Blower is a hydraulically driven berm blower that has been integrated into the Flory VR700 Side Mount Shaker. It was designed to clean berms during the almond and walnut tree shaking process. Eliminating an entire sweeping pass, it reduces passes by up to 50%, resulting in less dust, cleaner windrows, reduced equipment usage, and lower labor demands. The hydraulically powered fan and damper are easily and quickly controlled from the cab to suit specific orchard conditions, providing growers with a practical and efficient harvesting solution.

Space N18, N20, N22 | goflory.com

Will importing workers lead to importing crops?



Photo credit: Steve Boucher, UC Davis

Workers pack lettuce in the field. The changing demographics of U.S. and Mexican farmworkers are linked with worker shortages. A UC study finds the H-2A visa program offers a solution but with steep costs.

Rising farm labor costs could shift more U.S. crop production to Mexico

By Ria DeBiase, Communications Director,
Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics

A dwindling and aging agricultural workforce, coupled with higher labor costs, have added pressure on U.S. farms over the past decade. A recent study by University of California agricultural economists Alexandra Hill and James Sayre explores these changing trends in U.S. and Mexican farmworker demographics and the potential implications for U.S. farms.

They found that the incentives to enter the United States under the H-2A visa program for farmwork far outweigh the incentives to immigrate for farm work without proper work authorization. However, because these H-2A workers come at a steep cost to employers, this could mean that several crops with high labor costs may increasingly move production to Mexico in a quest to reduce costs.

Over the last two decades, several trends have led to a shortage of domestic crop workers in the United States. A major contributing factor is that fewer immigrant farm workers are migrating to the United States from Mexico. This trend is generally driven by a declining share of Mexican citizens working in agriculture as the country's economy moves into manufacturing and service industries, coupled with declining birth rates, rising education levels, and increases in U.S. immigration enforcement.

The H-2A program — which provides legal authorization

for foreign workers to engage in temporary work on U.S. farms — is the one source of foreign crop labor that is on the rise. Employers are required to pay H-2A workers either the local minimum wage or the local H-2A minimum wage (called the adverse effect wage rate, or AEWR), whichever is higher. The H-2A AEWR is often four to five times higher than the average farmworker wages in Mexico, leading to a substantial wage gap that helps pull Mexican workers into U.S. farm work.

“While the high costs associated with the H-2A program will pull in workers, they may also push farms out of the United States,” said Hill, assistant professor of Cooperative Extension at UC Berkeley.

This is due to the fact high H-2A wages are reducing the profitability of U.S. farms that employ H-2A workers, particularly in states such as California and Washington, which have a greater number of high-labor crops, such as fruits and nuts. Mexico's lower labor costs and suitable climate for fruit and vegetable crops allow the country to

have an increasing competitive advantage compared to states like California, which have increasingly high AEWRs.

Mexican production of some of these high-labor crops has increased dramatically over the last two decades: From 2003 to 2022, the value of blueberry production grew 2,600-fold, raspberries grew 140-fold, and strawberries 13-fold. Large increases in exports of these crops from Mexico to the United States have occurred over this same period, confirming that high-labor crops are at a greater risk of losing market share to Mexico.

To learn how the changing demographics of U.S. and Mexican farmworkers could affect U.S. agricultural production, read the full article by Alexandra E. Hill and James E. Sayre: “As Mexican Farmworkers Flock North, Will U.S. Farms Head South?” ARE Update 28(1): 9–12. UC Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, online at <https://giannini.ucop.edu/filer/file/1730229662/21163> or in Spanish at <https://giannini.ucop.edu/filer/file/1732133779/21191/>.

ARE Update is a bimonthly magazine published by the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics to educate policymakers and agribusiness professionals about new research or analysis of important topics in agricultural and resource economics. Articles are written by Giannini Foundation members, including University of California faculty and Cooperative Extension specialists in agricultural and resource economics, and university graduate students. Learn more about the Giannini Foundation and its publications at <https://giannini.ucop.edu/>.



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A Clean Energy Boost for Multitasking Lands

Wild Energy Center Report Outlines Challenges, Opportunities of Voltaic Landscapes



A mixture of wildflower species attracts pollinators around and beneath solar panels at a UC Davis ecovoltaic project.

(Rebecca R. Hernandez, UC Davis) Katherine E Kerlin

by Kat Kerlin

As California faces pressure to grow both food and energy while protecting biodiversity — all on a finite amount of land — a trend is emerging in the field of clean energy: multi-use solar projects, or sustainable voltaics.

A report, released by the Wild Energy Center, a program of the Energy and Efficiency Institute at the University of California, Davis, defines such projects and describes the challenges and opportunities they present for the state's landscapes.

A defining moment

The authors term these projects “voltaic landscapes for sustainability,” which generate solar energy while cultivating additional outcomes:

- “Agrivoltaic solar farms” produce crops.
- “Rangevoltaic solar ranches” host grazing livestock, such as sheep.
- “Ecovoltaic solar parks” increase habitat for biodiversity and other ecosystem services.

“We are excited to define and present these three unique opportunities in a manner that can effectively catalyze their development,” said Wild Energy Center Director Rebecca R. Hernandez, a professor in the UC Davis Department of Land, Air and Water Resources. “For example, most people understand that national parks preserve natural resources, and thus using the term ‘park’ to describe an ‘ecovoltaic solar park’ that has restored native biodiversity mirrors that long-standing naming convention. Similarly, if I were to visit a ‘farm,’ I would assume it grows some type of crop. We can expect the same from an agrivoltaic solar ‘farm.’”

Expanding capacity and inclusion

The report empowers multi-use solar leaders to showcase options beyond conventional solar energy development to stakeholders, including developers and policymakers, who may not be aware of their benefits. The report also includes best practices for each multi-use solar type based on scientific evidence and expertise from the Wild Energy Center's

partners.

The report suggests that including experts beyond engineers, developers and financiers is most effective to realize multi-use voltaic landscapes. For example, a rangevoltaic solar ranch designed and operated in collaboration with graziers could ensure that livestock will have appropriate fencing, healthy forage and access to clean water.

Other topics in the report range from environmental justice and enhancing community engagement to increasing soil health and reducing herbicides.

The authors also present results from a roundtable discussion with five solar industry stakeholders to identify common benefits and barriers to sustainable voltaics.

“We need to solve multiple problems at once: We need to produce low-carbon energy and sustainable food, all while increasing habitat for biodiversity,” said Hernandez. “There is a lack of off-the-shelf guidance on how exactly to do this. We want to give those in the driver's seat more legitimacy and a bit more capacity for boldness. This is the future energy landscape we desire and need.”

Support and interest, but cost concerns

The solar industry professionals who shared their perspectives had experience with grazing sheep alongside solar and were interested in expanding into other voltaic landscapes, such as cattle grazing, beekeeping and row crop production.

They also noted strong public support for multi-use solar energy development. For example, a 2022 study found nearly 82% of respondents were more likely to support solar energy development in their community if it incorporated agricultural production.

Additional costs were their main concern. While incorporating multi-use solar projects into the early planning stages of a project can help minimize costs, the report said adoption incentives and regulatory rewards may be most effective in encouraging those considering sustainable voltaic landscapes to take the leap.

Practical support

The Wild Energy Center aims to quantify a range of added costs involved with developing agrivoltaics and ecovoltaic systems to offer practical support to the industry. The center also continues to investigate questions around voltaics and pollinators, soil carbon and public opinion.

“We want to get this research into the hands of communities and developers,” said co-author Ben Finkelor, executive director of the Energy and Efficiency Institute at UC Davis. “Then, they can have a conversation using a common language while understanding the tradeoffs so we can continue to develop best practices.”

The report and other science communication efforts by the UC Davis Wild Energy Center are funded through a California Climate Action Seed Grant awarded by the UC Office of the President to increase public access to the latest scientific research.

Additional co-authors include Thomas Patten, Yudi Li, Michael O. Levin, Daphne Condon, Noah Z. Krasner, Nick Tew, Uzma Ashraf and Elliott Steele of UC Davis.



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To limit bird flu spread, keep wild birds away from poultry, livestock



Wild waterfowl carry the virus that causes avian influenza. Knowing when wild birds are close to farms, farmers could help prevent birds from mingling with their domestic animals and passing along the virus.

By Pamela S Kan-Rice

Assistant Director, News and Information Outreach

Every winter, millions of migratory birds fly south to warmer locales, passing over California Central Valley dairies and poultry farms. Many of these wild waterfowl are carrying the virus that causes avian influenza, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's wild-bird surveillance, says Maurice Pitesky, University of California Cooperative Extension poultry specialist in the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis.

Bird flu has killed millions of birds and disrupted milk and poultry production. In California, highly pathogenic avian in-

fluenza H5N1 has been detected in commercial and backyard flocks of poultry and dairy cows and, more recently, poultry and dairy workers have become infected.

"This is the largest animal disease outbreak we've ever had whether you look at geography – we've had six or seven continents affected – or whether you're looking at species," Pitesky noted. "From a public health perspective, it's important for us to sound the alarm before this becomes a bigger problem."

To contain the disease, USDA is testing milk for the avian influenza H5N1 virus and farmers are supplying poultry and dairy workers with personal protective equipment.

To avert future outbreaks of avian influenza from infecting livestock, Pitesky recommends reducing the overlap of waterfowl habitat with farms that raise animals. This would help prevent birds from mingling with the domestic animals and passing the virus to cows, pigs and poultry.

Knowing where waterfowl roost can help farmers and other stakeholders make informed decisions about protecting their flocks and herds.

Based on their research, Pitesky and his colleagues have developed the Waterfowl Alert Network to provide data about locations of waterfowl roosting and feeding. The network uses data from satellites, weather radar and land-based environmental sensors. Farmers and agricultural agency personnel can use it to assess the risk wild birds pose to farms. This information can be used to identify risky habitat in close proximity to farms with the goal of shifting habitat away from farms. This might entail, for example, flooding fields that would provide waterfowl habitat in an area at a greater distance from farm animals.

"One thing we need to consider in the medium- to long-term is the concept of waterfowl habitat shifting away from food animal production," Pitesky said. "We know how to do this. This approach would allow us to optimize food security for our livestock and poultry while also providing habitat for waterfowl, which are vital to our ecosystem."

CDFA Announces Vacancies On Feed Inspection Advisory Board

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announces three vacancies on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB). This board makes regulatory and enforcement recommendations to CDFA to help ensure that commercial feed inspections contribute to a clean and wholesome supply of milk, meat and eggs.

The FIAB vacancies are for three commercial feed industry representatives. Board member applicants must hold a current California Commercial Feed License. The term of office for board members is up to three years. Board members do not receive compensation, but they are entitled to necessary travel expenses.

Individuals interested in a board appointment must submit a resume and a completed Prospective Member Ap-

pointment Questionnaire (PMAQ). The PMAQ is available on the CDFA website at: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/PMAQ_Feed_IAB.pdf. Both the resume and PMAQ are due by February 7, 2025.

Send resume and PMAQ via email to Brittnie.Williams@cdfa.ca.gov or by mail to:

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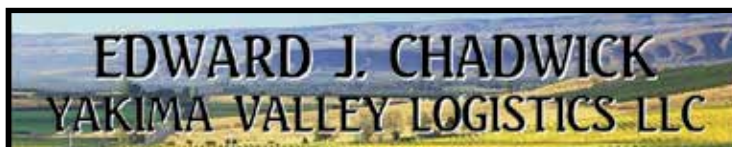


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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2025

28-30: Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. For further details please visit the website: www.unifiedsymposium.org

FEBRUARY 2025

4-6: The Oldest Farm Show in the West- The Granddaddy of Farm Shows Celebrating 60 Years of Agricultural Excellence! For 60 years now, the Colusa County Farm Show has been a one-stop shop for all things agriculture, celebrating innovation from across the country. With free parking and free admission to all attendees- farmers, suppliers, and buyers meet to explore the latest in modern farming equipment and techniques. Join us for an unparalleled opportunity to stay ahead of the curve and revolutionize your farming practice! The Show is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on FEB. 4th & 5th, and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, on FEB. 6th, 2025. Colusa County Fairgrounds, 1303 10th St. (Hwy. 20) Colusa, CA 95932 (530) 458-2641 ceo@colusafairgrounds.com

11-13: World Ag Expo 2025, the largest annual agricultural show of its kind. The International Agri-Center® Tulare, CA. World Ag Expo® provides a platform of networking, education, and business in one of the most productive ag counties in the United States. For information email: info@farmshow.org, or call 559.688.1030, 1.800.999.9186

15-17: AgSafe ACTIVATE22 Annual Conference, Monterey CA. Focused on the industry's most vital resource, it's people. With more than 50 sessions being offered in English and Spanish. Info: Phone: 209-526-4400 Fax: 209-526-4404 Email: safeinfo@agsafe.org Website: www.agsafe.org

APRIL 2025

11-13: California Antique Farm Equipment Show™ Volunteers started the equipment show about 30 years ago because they wanted somewhere to go where they could appreciate vintage equipment. QUESTIONS: Contact the International Agri-Center® 559.688.1030 or 800.999.9186. Email: info@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.

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USDA Makes Investments to Strengthen American Farms and Businesses, Increase Competition and Lower Costs

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that USDA is making domestic fertilizer production investments in nine states to increase competition, lower fertilizer costs for American farmers and lower food costs for U.S. consumers.

“When we invest in domestic supply chains, we drive down input costs and increase options for farmers,” Secretary Vilsack said. “Through investments to make more fertilizer, USDA is bringing jobs back to the United States, lowering costs for families, and supporting farmer income.”

USDA is awarding more than \$116 million through the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program (FPEP) to help eight facilities expand innovative fertilizer production in California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

FPEP is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation and provides funding to independent business owners to help them modernize equipment, adopt new technologies, build production plants and more.

Through the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program, USDA has invested \$517 million in 76 fertilizer production facilities to expand access to domestic fertilizer options for American farmers in 34 states and Puerto Rico. These investments will increase U.S. fertilizer production by 11.8 million tons annually and create more than 1,300 jobs in rural communities.

Examples of projects being announced are listed below.

In California, Biofiltro USA Inc. will use a \$2.3 million grant to construct a new facility in Kingsburg to process manure from dairy cows by using vermifiltering techniques. The project will yield more than 33,000 cubic yards of composted fertilizer alternative annually and benefit farmers within the region.

In Georgia, Reve Solutions Inc. will use a \$1.3 million grant to expand a biosolid fertilizer composter and will help increase capacity through additional equipment and working

capital for two production locations. Through this expansion, Reve Solutions is expected to generate over 30,000 tons of fertilizer nutrient and create five new jobs

In Kansas, the Farmers Cooperative Association will use a \$2.3 million grant to expand an existing dry fertilizer facility with additional storage and processing capacity. The project will improve the efficiency of order processing but also expand services to include dust suppression to reduce run-off. Through this investment, the facility will increase its dry fertilizer production to 24,500 tons per year.

FPEP was created to combat issues facing American farmers due to rising fertilizer prices, which more than doubled between 2021 and 2022 due to a variety of factors such as war in Ukraine and a lack of competition in the fertilizer industry.

The Administration committed up to \$900 million through the Commodity Credit Corporation for FPEP. Funding supports long-term investments that will strengthen supply chains, create new economic opportunities for American businesses and support climate-smart innovation.

Investments in this program also have advanced the President’s Investing in America agenda to grow the nation’s economy from the middle out and bottom up and to promote fair and competitive markets for American farmers and ranchers.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the Rural Data Gateway to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural America. To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the GovDelivery Subscriber Page.

CDFA Announces Vacancies On New Market Enforcement Advisory Committee (MEAC)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking nominations to fill 12 vacancies on the newly created Market Enforcement Advisory Committee (MEAC).

The recent passing of Senate Bill 1270 established the formation of the MEAC. The MEAC shall advise the Secretary and make recommendations on, among other things, all matters pertaining to the Market Enforcement Branch (Branch) licensing programs, including setting appropriate fees for those programs.

The mission of the Branch is to objectively enforce laws enacted to ensure confidence and stability in the agricultural marketplace and to protect against unfair business practices between producers, handlers, and processors of California farm products. The Branch accomplishes this

through licensing activities, outreach, administrative actions, and criminal and civil prosecutions.

The MEAC shall consist of up to 12 voting members, which shall include a balanced representation of growers, processors, and produce dealers, or representatives from organizations that advocate on behalf of these industry groups.

Nominees must submit a Nomination Form and email it to marina.martin@cdfa.ca.gov, or mail it to CDFA Market Enforcement Branch, Attn: Marina Martin, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814. Nominations must be received/postmarked no later than January 15, 2025.

Additional information is available at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/meb/meac/> or by calling 916.900.5016.



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.....www.coastaltractor.com

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Garton Tractor Inc
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Grasshopper
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Hanford Equipment Company
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Hesston by Massey Ferguson
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.....www.masseyferguson.us

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Sonsray Machinery
.....www.sonsraymachinery.com

South Kern Machinery
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.....www.valley-tractor.com

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.....www.WoodlandTractor.com

Wilkinson International
.....www.wilkinsoninternational.com

Manufacturers

McIlroy Equipment
.....www.mcilroyequipment.com

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Smith Welding & Machine Shop
.....www.smithweldingshop.com

Farm Shows

Antique Farm Show
.....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.cpfif.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

Real Estate

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Valley Real Estate
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State Government

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.....www.usda.gov

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

Berkeley Agriculture and Resource Dept.....are.berkeley.edu

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.....www.agecon.ucdavis.edu

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The Weather Channel
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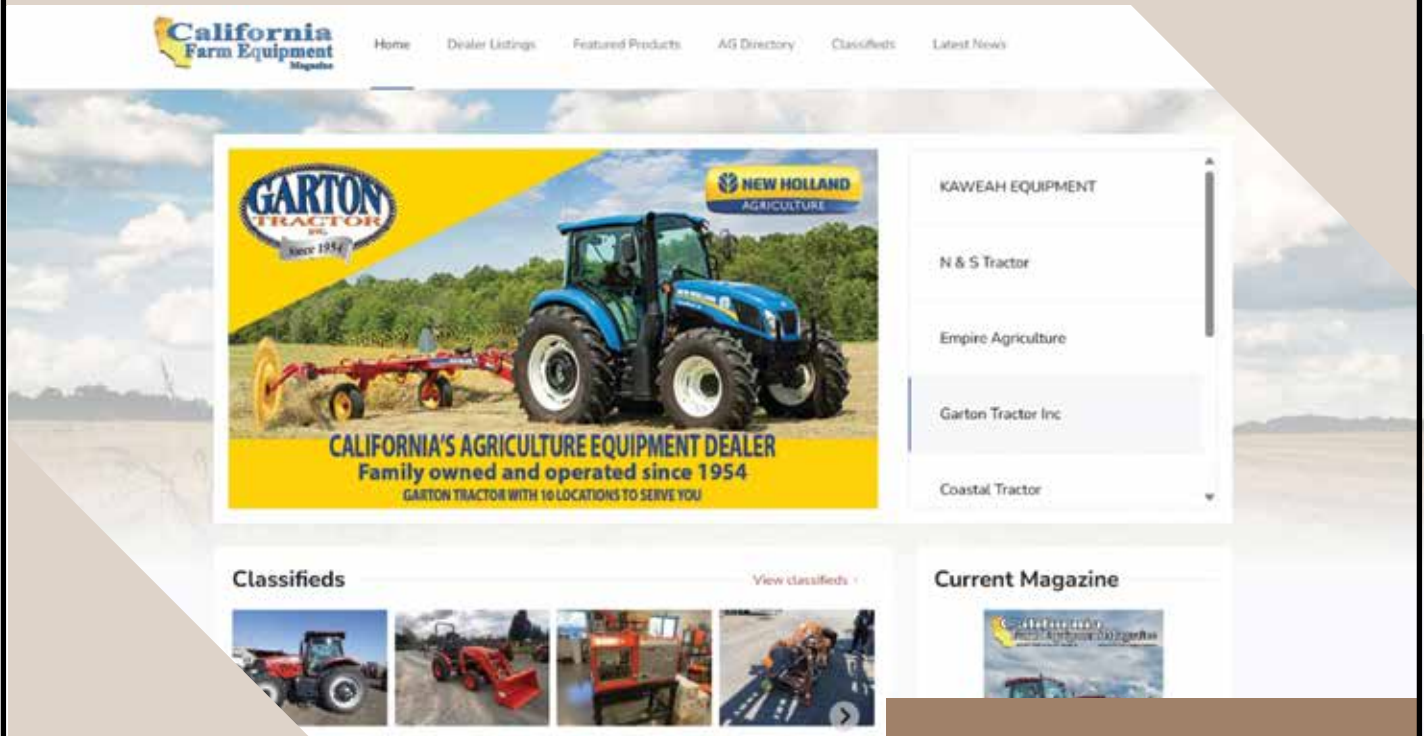
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Don Curlee creator of "Ag at Large" column has passed away.



Don Curlee January 6, 1929 - July 17, 2024

Born January 6, 1929, in Tulare, CA, to Charles Clayton Curlee and Lavinier Victoria Curlee. He attended schools in Tulare and San Bernardino, graduating from Tulare Union High School in 1946. He then attended Visalia College and Fresno State University, where he graduated with a degree in journalism in 1951. He was sports editor and editor of the campus newspaper at Visalia College, and sports editor of the campus newspaper at Fresno State during his time there.

His first job, at age 15 when he lived in San Bernardino, was delivering ice - working on the weekends so he would have "wheels" for going out. He was on the baseball team at Fresno State University from March through October from 1945-1951 and was the co-captain of the team when they won the 1951 State Championship. With that team, he is in the Fresno State Hall of Fame.

After graduation, he married Marilyn J. Moore of Fresno, and accepted a job in the atomic energy program in Paducah, Kentucky. His uncle Jack was the construction manager and he and Marilyn lived there for three

years, giving birth to their eldest daughter. He returned to Fresno in 1954 to join public relations counselor Ed Boles as account executive. He was named executive director of the Northern California Chapter, American Institute of Architects in San Francisco in 1959, and later became editor of Western Fruit Grower magazine. During this time he had relocated with his wife and four children to South San Francisco where they remained until 1974. He was named executive assistant at the Council of California Growers and later managed a trade association of table grape growers in Delano.

He returned to the Valley, and began farming

in Clovis, CA (pomegranates) as well as starting his own company, Don Curlee-Public Relations in 1976. He was an accredited member of the American Institute of Public Relations. He created the "Ag at Large" column which appeared for 20 plus years in the Visalia Times-Delta and (for at least part of that time in the Tulare Advance Register), also the Hanford Sentinel and the Porterville Recorder, the Marysville paper, and the Capital Press (Salem, Oregon), the Madera Tribune and others from time to time. He sold his first free-lance article to a trade magazine while in college, and contributed articles to trade and golf business magazines for more than 40 years.

He was an avid golfer throughout his life, and at 89, "shot his age" while at his favorite course - Airways in Fresno. He also ignited his love of racing in his later years as he acquired a midget race car, which he refurbished, tuned up and raced in the "Old-Timers" races, locally. He accepted Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade when he was 20 and was active in church his whole life, instilling the love of Christ in his family.

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