



# June Means Dairy Delight

By Katherine Andes

In Kings County, June means Dairy Month and this June is no different! Dairy month is filled with activities and special honorees.

This year Anthony and Teresa Evangelo and family are being honored as the 2011 Dairy Family. Both Anthony and Teresa come from dairy families. Anthony's career began like most dairymen. From the time he could walk, he followed his grandfather and uncle around the dairy barn. By age 11, he was milking cows with his uncle in Stratford. He married Teresa in 1979. In 1983, they began their own operation on a leased facility on 13th Avenue in Hanford, partnering with her parents, Myron and Natalie Dutra. In 2008, they bought their parents shares. Currently, they milk 500 cows.

Their three grown sons and their spouses, Tony and Carolina, Matthew and Lauren, and Jacob, all have degrees from Cal Poly in agriculture. And they all work in various aspects of the dairy industry. But, Mom, Teresa, stands out with her volunteer work and passion for teaching the public about the many aspects of the dairy industry.

As an example, Teresa loves giving ice cream parties to classes that participate in the dairy poster contest. She also runs the dairy food booth, which serves the soft ice cream at the Kings County Fair, a must-have for many fairgoers.

The 2011 Distinguished Dairy Couple are Tony and Betty DeGroot. At the age of 21, Tony DeGroot emigrated to the United States from The Netherlands in 1956. A short year later, he brought his fiancé, Betty, over from Holland and married her. At first he worked as a baker, but he developed an allergy to flour that refused to go away. So he and his family moved to



*Anthony and Teresa Evangelo and family*

the Central Valley and began a dairy farm with 250 cows.

Today, the De Groot's have two

Rochelle, now manage the business; but Tony and Betty still keep busy working alongside their children. The



*Tony and Betty DeGroot*

separate facilities and milk 4500 cows. They also farm 2500 acres. Their son, Tony Jr., and his wife,

DeGroots also have DG Bar Ranch, which specializes in Dressage with Dutch Warmblood horses. Tony and his wife have five children, 18 grandchildren, and 7.5 great-grandchildren. Tony has more time now, so he has returned to his first love: baking. Family and friends don't mind at all.

The local dairy industry began its celebration on June 9 at Thursday Night Market with an evening entitled "Dairy

*See Dairy Month on page 4*

## Michael Reagan WOWS! at 93rd Annual Meeting

By Katherine Andes

With over 470 tickets sold, it was virtually a sellout crowd at the Kings County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting on May 12, 2011.

Attendees were thrilled with the keynote speaker, Michael Reagan, eldest son of former President Ronald Reagan.

Michael Reagan told numerous stories about his dad and his life growing up in Hollywood. He said that being a Hollywood brat was pretty fun. But he didn't like that the other stars' kids had larger allowances than he did. Ronald Reagan only gave his son \$1 a week even up to high school.

He explained how asking his dad a simple question always resulted in a long philosophical and historical dissertation. So he dreaded asking his dad for a raise in his allowance. When he did finally summon up the courage, his dad responded with a lecture about money, how hard it was to come by, all the problems he was having supporting everyone. "By the time Dad was finished," Reagan said, "I offered him half my allowance."

His dad did promise him that if the government ever reduced his taxes, he would get a raise. Later that did happen, and his dad gave him the raise, which for the younger Reagan was an eye-opener in how lowering taxes could give the little guy more money.

Humorous stories included the time that as a ten-year-old boy, he answered the door for his mother's



*Michael Reagan*

birthday party and there stood Marilyn Monroe. "I knew there was a God," Reagan said.

A more poignant story, was about when his father was shot and nearly died. "I walked into the hospital room and Dad said, 'If you're going to get shot, don't be wearing a new suit,'" Reagan recounted.

Reagan also gave interesting political insights into his father's ambitions. Long before his father was president, in 1976, he told his son he wanted to be the one to tell the Soviets nyet (no). He was frustrated that they were always asking the United States to give up something just for better relations.

Ten years later, in 1986, at Reykjavik the Soviets wanted the United States to give up the Strategic Defense Initiative (a.k.a. Star Wars) for peaceful nuclear cooperation. Reagan had his chance. He walked around the table and told Gorbachev, "Nyet."

Michael Reagan said, "I think I was the only one on the planet who knew what the answer was going to be."

Reagan noted that these days we often hear, "Who will be the next Reagan?" He advised the audience that when looking for the "next Reagan" don't look for a politician who speaks in sound bites. Look for the man who speaks from the heart.

Reagan also touched on current issues of interest to Farm Bureau members, the insanity of the water situation and the Delta smelt, and he called high-speed rail the "railway to nowhere."

In addition to Reagan, the evening included a warm welcome from Jim Crisp, KCFB President; Presentation of the Colors/National Anthem by NAS Lemoore Color guard; an invocation by Stan Azevedo, and scholarship presentations.

Tables were extravagantly decorated by donors with one lucky guest at each table getting to take them home. A silent auction raised funds for next year's scholarships.

Jim Crisp gave the final address encouraging the sharing of experience with one another and the upholding of farm traditions.

The evening concluded with a video presentation showing the numerous activities of the Farm Bureau from the prior year.

The emcee for the evening was Louie A. Brown, Jr., a partner with Kahn, Soares and Conway, LLP.

Thanks to staff, volunteers, and sponsors for making this evening impressive, informative, and memorable.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>June</b>	
21	KCFB Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Boardroom
<b>July</b>	
7	Kings Fair Agri-Business Luncheon, Noon, Kings Fairgrounds
7-10	Kings Fair
19	KCFB Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Boardroom

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# BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## PG&E

By Katherine Andes

Kuyler Crocker, Representative, for PG&E is very busy working in the community to help develop relationships and partnerships. "I'm in my car a lot," Crocker said. "I meet with government and community officials and leaders. We work to keep open lines of communication, so they know what we're doing."

"We're also trying to be more involved with the community projects. We're helping KCAO with its food bank, and we're helping the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce's Salute to Ag program. We're also putting together a seminar for small businesses with the Lemoore chamber about ways to increase energy efficiency."

For the Farm Bureau, PG& E helped sponsor the Winter Wine Showcase, which supports the kids' Farm Day. "Education is important to our customers, and its important to us," said Crocker.

One of the biggest challenges for PG&E is meeting increased demand. "More and more farmers are pumping groundwater to irrigate crops because of environmental regulations. Farmers used to use diesel engines to run their pumps, but the air board is restrict-

ing diesel fuel usage. This has created an additional strain to our system that wasn't predicted."

Crocker said that to resolve the problem and meet the increased demand for electricity, PG&E has a number of "reconducting projects" — removing small wires and replacing them with larger wires that carry more voltage.

When asked what farmers can do to save energy, Crocker noted, "Farmers are pretty astute at using their dollars as wisely as possible and that includes their electricity usage. Sometimes there's a little generation gap, as some of the older folks may not know about our website, pge.com."

"We've given our website a facelift and its easy to understand. You can check out your usage patterns, find out about rebates, get information about pump testing ... you can even sign up for energy alerts to go to your email or phone as text messages. The alerts will tell you if you are about to enter a new rate tier, so you can think about adjusting your activities."

Crocker said that much of the information on the website is also sent out in the inserts with bills, but people don't read them. "It's a challenge for us to get information to our customers. People are tired at the end of the day and just want to pay their bill ... but it's a good idea to at least scan the insert."

As the summer season nears, Crocker said that PG&E is hard at work to try and get "ahead of the curve" in order to meet increased summer demand.



Kuyler Crocker

## THANK YOU

Kings County Farm Bureau,  
The Hanford FFA Parents Club would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your donations of a Kids Gardening Basket and a John Deere Themed Garden Basket. These donations helped the parents club fundraise over \$16,000 from both the live and silent auctions.

The Hanford High School Agriculture Program has been able to have success at the local, state and national levels for the past 82 years due to local support from community member such as yourself and keeping the agriculture program #1 in the state of California. You are truly an asset to the community of Hanford and the agriculture industry.

Sincerely,  
Lilly Pimentel  
Auction Chairperson

Kings County Farm Bureau,  
The Kings County Jr. Fairboard thanks you for your support of our "Kid's Ag Center" providing public education of agriculture along with special trophies and awards during the Kings Fair. Your donation this year is extremely appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Blomquist  
Secretary

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of your most generous scholarship. Without organizations such as yours, a great education at Cal Poly may not have been possible for me.  
Sincerely,  
Tiffany Webb

Dear Kings County Farm Bureau,  
Thank you for the scholarship. I feel honored to receive it. The scholarship money will help me pay for a portion of my tuition at Cal Poly.  
Sincerely,  
Thomas Larson

Update welcomes your comments and letters. Please mail to KCFB, 870 Greenfield Ave. Hanford, CA 93230 or email to: [kcfb@kcfb.org](mailto:kcfb@kcfb.org) KCFB reserves the right to edit content for clarity and space.



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# Kings Fair Still Going Strong

By Katherine Andes

Angie Avila knows the Kings Fair inside out. She's been with the fair since 1987. For two years, she worked part-time with the livestock entries. Then she became a full time employee working with contracts and doing accounting for the Kings Speedway. In 2004, she became the Fair CEO.

Avila is proud of the Kings Fair. She's seen numerous changes over the years, as well as challenges. One of the changes is that the fair no longer runs the speedway. That's contracted out separately to a promoter. "Financially, it works out better for the fair not to handle the racing in-house," Avila said.

## Fair Boosters

About another change, Avila said, "We started the Kings County Fair Boosters. With their help, we've made a lot of improvements to the livestock area."

As an example, she said that the Kings Fair is one of the few fairs in the state that has separate wash racks specific for three different types of animals: hogs, sheep/goats, and cattle. When she started back in the 80s, they had one wash rack and there were long lines with ducks, sheep, hogs, and cattle all sharing the same rack. "It was crazy," she said.

## Junior Fair Board

Avila is also pleased that the Kings Fair is the only fair in the whole state fair system with a *state-recognized* Junior Fair Board comprised of youth from 8<sup>th</sup> grade through college.

"Other fairs have contacted us and gotten information about how to structure their own Junior Fair Boards, but none have yet reached our standards and gotten state recognition," she said. "Because of the state recognition, Junior Fair Board members have been privileged the past 11 years to travel to the Capitol and help with Ag Day in Sacramento.

The Junior Fair Board primarily gives awards and puts on demonstrations, tours, and events during the fair. They raise funds for their activities with their community service work. "Our kids help with Farm Bureau events like Kids Day, Members Dinner, and Wine Tasting. They also help with the Kings Guild dinner, lamb BBQ, and the Farm Credit West luncheon ... the kids are fantastic!" said Avila.

## State Budget Crisis

The current economic woes of the State of California is the biggest challenge the Kings Fair faces these days. "Our annual budget is one million dollars. The state contributes about \$200,000," said Avila. "We don't know for sure, yet, but I don't think we're going to get any funds for next year."

Asked if she was concerned the state would sell off the grounds, she said, "We're not in danger. Our property isn't that valuable to the state. They really want to sell the southern California properties like Orange County, Ventura, Del Mar ..."

Avila brought up an interesting tidbit regarding the potential sale of those properties. "They're finding out that a lot of the fairgrounds have encumbrances. They were often deeded in

such a way that the property had to remain fairgrounds. If the property is not a fairground then it returns to the original donors. So a lot of the fair properties can't be sold."

Regarding the loss of state funds for next year, Avila was optimistic. "We'll have to make some changes. It will be hard, but we can survive. Besides the fair, we have other sources of income: Race Car Track, Motocross Track, Weekend Swap Meet, and Building Rentals."

Avila is already well-qualified at making-do with limited funds. She and a maintenance worker are the only full-time employees. They have some part-time help during busy seasons. To fill in the gap, Avila has recruited numerous groups to work during the fair, including ...

Parking — The Explorers of Kings and Tulare County

Ticket Takers — Hanford High Water Polo

Trash Pick Up — Lily of the Valley Church in Lemoore

Clean Up — Hanford High Wrestling

Avila said that the fair brings an impressive amount of money into the community both with consumer spending and tax revenues. Avila reported that attendance has been going up even though the fair now hits in the middle of July when it's dreadfully hot.

## This Year's Fair

This year's fair takes place July 7-10. Prices are the same as last year, but this year a new special will keep prices even lower. On Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 3 p.m. everyone \$3.00, all rides in the carnival area will be just \$1. In the same area popcorn, cotton candy, and soda will each be \$1.

Avila remarked, "Our fair is about agriculture. Before they come to the Fair, a lot of kids don't even know what a chick looks like." She also noted that a lot of local families can't afford to go to Disneyland or Magic Mountain, so the annual fair is their Disneyland.

When asked about the neater look of the carnival workers in recent years, Avila said, "We brought in a new carnival about five years ago. The owner brings in college kids from overseas. They wear polo shirts and are pretty sharp. It's brought a nicer feel to the carnival area."

Avila told of one Merced family who agrees. They travel by train every year just to attend the fair. They stay in a motel for two nights and go to the fair for three days. "They say they just love the whole feel and atmosphere of our fair," said Avila.

Avila loves how the fair brings the community together. "We're mostly a night fair. In the evening, Hanford cools off with a nice balmy breeze. So folks like to come out at night."

Avila made one final point, "Where else can you go and meet up with old friends?" When Thursday Night Market in Hanford was mentioned, she said, "Yes, that's good, but the market can't fit 35,000 people in four days." Good point.

# Agri-Business Luncheon — Sheriff Robinson to Speak

The annual Agri-Business Luncheon will kick off the Kings Fair. Kings County Sheriff Dave Robinson will be the keynote speaker.

Your \$15 ticket will include an additional ticket to return to the fair at either a different time that day or on another day.

Tickets may be purchased at the Kings Fair office, Kings County Farm Bureau, Ag Commissioners office (FSA), and the Lemoore and Hanford Chambers of Commerce.

WHEN: July 7, 2011

WHERE: Wine Garden

TIME: Noon

PRICE: \$15

## Dairy Month

from page 1

Appreciation Night." During market, information was given out to passersby from a booth, as well as free milk ... eagerly snatched up by the children.

## Coming up:

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

**Softball Game & BBQ**

Udder Guys vs. Hanford Firefighters

6 p.m. Hanford High Baseball Field

Friday, June 24, 2011

**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Dairy**

**Industry & Dairy Princess**

## Coronation

6 p.m. Hanford Civic Auditorium  
Wine & Cheese Social; Dinner  
Tickets \$25; Phone Terrie Evangelo  
583-1068

Friday, July 8, 2011

**Kings Fair Dairy Day**

8 a.m. Dairy Show

5:30 p.m. Buyer's Social (with Farm Credit West)

7 p.m. Kings Fair Dairy Replacement Sale

Kings Fairgrounds

For more information, feel free to contact Terrie Evangelo 583-1068 or Jacque DeRaadt 904-3792.

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# Stay focused on the job when using a ladder

By Mike Klimenko  
Farm Bureau Group Manager

In agriculture, most people equate ladders with the hand harvesting of fruit. While this is certainly the most predominant use of ladders, they are likely put to use on every farm and ranch in California at one time or another.



Mike Klimenko

Because they are utilized infrequently, there is a certain amount of unfamiliarity surrounding their use—and this could lead to a serious mishap if someone is careless or ignorant of basic ladder safety techniques.

In the United States, falls are the third leading cause of worker deaths, and half of these deaths resulted from falls from ladders.

Before using a ladder, it is important to first check for its structural integrity. This is particularly important if the ladder hasn't been used for awhile. Check first to be sure rails and rungs are strong, properly fastened and undamaged. Be sure to keep ladder rungs free of debris because dirt, mud and oil can easily build up. All surfaces of the ladder should be free of cracks, splits and bent edges, and the braces should be solid. If a ladder fails a visual safety inspection, it should not be used until it is properly repaired.

When it comes time to position a ladder, check first for power lines and other potential overhead hazards. Do not place ladder with its legs sticking

out into the road. Then move the ladder vertically to avoid striking others. Set the ladder on a good base of firm, even ground and keep in mind that wet and grassy areas do not provide good support. Extend the third leg so it's centered on the ground opposite the ladder. The third leg should not be extended too far or too close because the legs can slip or collapse.

When it is time to actually use the ladder, check the bottoms of your shoes for slippery debris. It is very important to not climb too high—never go above the third rung from the top of the ladder. Hold onto the ladder by the rails, not the rungs and always face the rungs of the ladder.

The most common cause of falls from ladders is overreaching. Sometimes when a person is high on a ladder and a needed object is just out of reach, the

temptation is almost overwhelming to stretch and reach out as far as possible—it seems so much simpler than climbing back down the ladder and repositioning it. But that is how accidents happen. A good rule of thumb is to keep your belt buckle inside the rails of the ladder to avoid overreaching.

When your task is completed, be sure to store the ladder properly so it will be in good working order the next time you need to use it.

Since 1943, Farm Bureau and State Fund have been business partners. When your policy comes up for renewal, if you are not insured with State Fund, please be sure to get a quote in our Farm Bureau Group Program. For more information, call toll-free at 800-773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at [www.statefundca.com](http://www.statefundca.com).

## Thursday Night Market in Hanford

By Katherine Andes

Hanford's popular Thursday Night Market, sponsored by Main Street Hanford, is impressive. From May through October, each Thursday night, about 4000-something locals and out-of-towners show up in downtown Hanford. They come to visit various vendors, let their kids romp, dance in the beer garden, visit friends, and, oh, buy fresh local produce at terrific prices.

Now in its 11th year, Thursday Night Market boasts that it is the only California-certified farmer's market in Kings County. That means that all the vendors who sell produce are selling produce they grow themselves or are from one or two other certified farmers.

Of the farm vendors, about 50% are from Kings County. The rest are mainly from Fresno and Tulare Counties, but two farmers from Watsonville also attend the market selling strawberries.

Market Manager, Summer Headley, said, "Kings county vendors generally sell a lot of stone fruit — apricots, peaches, cherries ... we do have a new vendor coming out who will be selling vegetables ... beets, large varieties of lettuce, green onions, squash, corn ... there's always lots of sweet corn at the

market."

Altogether, there are about 20–25 farm vendors each week.

For a farmer to set up, the cost is 10% of their gross sales — with a minimum of \$20 — for a 10x10 space. Spaces are conveniently arranged so that farmers can park their vehicles right next to the space and offload easily.

Right now, most spaces are taken until late June. However, if a farmer has a product that's particularly advantageous and isn't currently being sold, the market will try to squeeze him in.


According to Shelly Talbert, Executive Director of Main Street Hanford, "Thursday Night Market is wonderful for shoppers. The sellers have no storage, transportation, or stocking fees, so they can sell wholesale. Plus the produce is really fresh ... from farmer to table at great prices. Who wouldn't want that?"

If you haven't been to market in recent years — like since it was located on the Civic Auditorium lawn — you might want to give it another go. Talbert said, "We have been working to increase the variety of produce, food and family activities at the market. The increase in visitors proves that we're on the right track. It's just a wonderful evening out."

For more information, please phone Talbert or Headley at 582-9457. Or you can visit [MainStreetHanford.com](http://MainStreetHanford.com).




23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL  
**SALUTE TO AGRIBUSINESS**



**KAREN ROSS**  
Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture


California Agricultural Secretary Karen Ross will be the honored guest at this year's Salute to Agribusiness reception and dinner. Please make plans to attend today.

**Wednesday, June 22**  
5 p.m. Reception. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres  
6 p.m. Remarks by Secretary Ross  
6:30 p.m. Dinner reservations available



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# KCFB 2011 Annual Meeting



Michael Reagan and Don Giacomazzi visit during dinner.



2011 Scholarship award winners, left to right, YF & R Scholarship award winner, Marlena Maciel, KCFB Scholarship award winners, Bryn Anne Boyett, Kelsey Escobar, Thomas Larson, Mason Lewis, Tiffany Webb, and Lindsay DaFonte.



Senator Michael Rubio and his daughter Ilianna.



President Jim Crisp welcomes attendees to KCFB's 93rd Annual Meeting.

## On the Waterfront

By Don Mills

The Spring storms have continued to keep the snowpack growing and the reservoirs in flood release mode to vacate space for the summer snowmelt when it warms up. Flood releases on the Kings and San Joaquin rivers likely will last into the middle of June. Trying to put all of this extra water to beneficial use has been a real challenge. Crop irrigation demands this spring are lower due to the rainfall, and the peak crop use gets pushed back because of cooler than normal temperatures. We have done as much groundwater recharge as our current systems allow, but still water has left the Valley headed to the ocean.



At the peak of Kings river releases we were losing about 7,500 acre feet a day. So every day and a half, we lost enough water to satisfy the city of Hanford for one year. In three days we lost what the city of Visalia uses in a year. The San Joaquin river in 10 days was losing what Fresno uses in a year. We all know that additional surface water storage is desperately needed, but until we win the electoral lottery, it won't happen soon. Temperance Flat has been studied since 1939 and gets a glimmer of hope every few years, only to run into politics and environmental opposition. The last time

the Kings river folks dusted off the studies to build Rodgers Crossing, our own State Senator, who's name starts with a "B", introduced federal legislation to permanently end any possibility of ever building a reservoir in that stretch of the river. Does anybody have a cure for stupid?

We are left to find our own solutions,

and here are a couple to think about. When we put in drip or micro sprinkler systems for more efficient water use, a dual system that filters both groundwater and canal water must be considered. It may be an additional cost, but I have seen dozens of deep wells irrigating trees the last couple of months while there was free ditch water and river water was running to the ocean. I know of one drip system using canal water for two months that isn't backwashing once

a week, so we know the ditch water is clean enough. Can any of our growers idle a few acres in these wet years and allow us to recharge water on that land? A grower could get recharge credits for this activity and if or when the State takes over control of our groundwater pumping, that grower may get paid back for the amount of intentional recharge by being allowed additional pumping. Just a couple of possible solutions within our control.



# USDA Farm Service Agency Reminders

**July 15** – 2011 Crop Year Acreage Reporting Deadline for most crops and deadline to file 2010 Production Reports for most Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops

**July 29** – 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program Signup Deadline

**August 1** – Deadline to Request a 2011 Farm Reconstitution



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## KCFB IN ACTION

### May Activities

- Conducted the following meetings/events:
  - 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting
  - Executive Committee Meeting
  - Board of Directors Meeting
  - Scholarship Committee Meeting
  - Annual Meeting Committee Meeting
- Executive Director Diana Peck attended the California High Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting in Sacramento.
- Executive Director Peck attended an Air Coalition Team meeting in Fresno.
- Executive Director Peck attended a Kings-Tulare government meeting regarding HSR.
- Executive Director Peck and IVC Program Coordinator Michelle Mello, with the Kings County Office of Education, conducted interactive video conferences with Central, Simas, and Martin Luther King Elementary Schools in Kings County; and with elementary schools in Cooksville, Tenn., Baton Rouge, La., Camden, N.J., San Jose, Calif., Wichita Falls, Texas, Springdale, Pa., and Elizabethton, Tenn.

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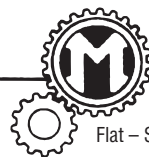
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