



INSIDE



DAIRY PRINCESS
PG. 5



PANDEMIC TRAINING
& EDUCATION PG. 7



CRIME REPORT
PG. 8

Cal/OSHA steps up COVID-19 enforcement in workplaces

With COVID-19 cases on the rise and governing bodies continuing to seek ways to flatten the curve, it's crucial for farm employers to remain informed and vigilant in a constantly changing sea of workplace regulations. Cal/OSHA is launching and strictly enforcing new guidance. Kings County Farm Bureau remains committed to helping our members navigate these unprecedented times by providing you with the latest information.

Recent developments that ag employers should be aware of include:

EMPLOYERS MUST PROVIDE FACE COVERINGS FOR EMPLOYEES

Cal/OSHA published a new poster on July 9 regarding face coverings, masks and respirators which states, in part: "Employers must provide face



coverings for workers or reimburse them for the reasonable costs of obtaining them." The poster also says that the "general public [and] most workers" should use reusable cloth face coverings. All employers should review this new guidance (see the poster on page 4).

HEAT ILLNESS & SOCIAL DISTANCING ENFORCEMENT

Cal/OSHA has shifted from an education and outreach emphasis to one of enforcement and is strategically targeting high-risk industries. They are issuing citations of violations of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) and Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP) rules. They are asserting that failure to furnish sufficient shade to allow for six-foot social distancing will be cited as a violation of both the IIPP and HIPP regulations. Employers are receiving citations starting at \$5,000.

NEW SUPPORTS FOR CALIFORNIA WORKERS

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced "New Supports for California Workers," which includes a new program called "Housing for the Harvest." Per the press release, this program "provides safe, temporary isolation spaces for agricultural and farm-workers who test positive or were exposed to the virus, which limits the risk of spread-

"Cal/OSHA" cont'd on page 4

Ag Commissioner warns of unsolicited seeds being mailed from China

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has recently become aware of a number of reports regarding "mysterious and unsolicited seeds from China and other parts of Asia." The seed packages, which are often labeled as jewelry, toys, etc., are being shipped to homeowners throughout the U.S., including here in Kings County. The CDFA is communicating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to determine any necessary actions that should be taken for shipments received in California.

The Kings County Department of Agriculture is instructing residents not to open, plant or dispose of any unsolicited seed packets received, but to contact their office at (559) 852-2830 to make arrangements for them to collect the seeds and process them accordingly.

"Invasive species can devastate the environment, displace or destroy native plants and insects, severely damage crops, and poison livestock," said Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer. "Taking steps to prevent their introduction is the most effective method

"Seeds" cont'd on page 5



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KCFB President's Message

President Trump has been a strong advocate for the ag industry



By Brian Medeiros

I recently had the unique opportunity to participate in a political interest call with President Trump. Orchestrated by AFBF (American Farm Bureau Federation), the call included 1,250 county Farm Bureau presidents from across the country. Secretary of Agriculture

Sonny Perdue was also on the call.

It's an election year, so Trump took the opportunity to highlight his ag-related accomplishments since taking office and his roadmap for moving forward, including:

- WOTUS (Waters of the United States) regulation elimination
- Expanded ethanol authorization
- Protection of the estate/death tax
- Expansion of rural broadband, which has been crucial for students doing online learning during the pandemic

- China tariffs distribution to farmers of approximately \$28 billion
- Expanded disaster relief for flood and fire
- The USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement) and how it benefits farmers
- The COVID-19 Farmers to Families Food Box Program

In typical fashion, it was touted that the Trump administration has done more for the ag industry than any other president in history. Regardless of your feelings about him, I have to agree that I can't remember another president who has been as involved with our industry as Trump has. I believe he has demonstrated an active interest in farmers and our industry. In an era of regulations that require you water the roads to keep the dust down but don't give you any water, Trump is trying to make it clearer what we can do to effectively move the industry forward. 🌾

2020 Board of Directors Nomination Roster

The following members have been nominated to serve on the Kings County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Current Director		District	Candidate	
Kevin	Robertson	1	Kevin	Robertson
Jared	Little	1	Jared	Little
Brian	Medeiros	3	Brian	Medeiros
Helen	Sullivan	3	Helen	Sullivan
Shane	Bickner	At-Large	Shane	Bickner
Todd	Fukuda	At-Large	Todd	Fukuda
Pete	Hanse	At-Large	Pete	Hanse
Brian	Potter	At-Large	Brian	Potter
Jared	Silveira	At-Large	Jared	Silveira
Steve	Walker	At-Large	Vacant	

Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

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As a Farm Bureau member, you have access to a free Prescription Drug Card program. Save up to 75% at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. Create as many cards as you need for yourself, your family and your employees (full time, part time, seasonal). All members are eligible to get pharmacy discounts through this program. The program can be used to supplement most health insurance plans including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and High Deductible Plans. It can also be used as a Medicare Part D supplement by providing discounts on non-covered drugs.

This program has "LOWEST PRICE" logic to guarantee that you pay the lowest price on your prescriptions (you pay the lower of a discount off the Average Wholesale Price-AWP, a discount calculated off MAC Pricing, or the Pharmacy Promotional/Retail price). 🌾






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"Cal/OSHA" cont'd from page 1


ing COVID-19 to their coworkers or households. It will operate in partnership with counties and local partners in the Central Valley, Central Coast, and Imperial Valley – the regions with the highest number of agricultural workers.” It goes on to say that expanded paid sick leave will provide workers financial security so they are able to stay home when sick. Similarly, workers’ compensation access helps ensure that front-line workers can quarantine and stay home from work when ill.

EMPLOYER PLAYBOOK FOR A SAFE REOPENING

Gov. Newsom’s “Employer Playbook for a Safe Reopening” outlines a number of new programs and strategies designed to assist employers with dealing with the virus in the workplace. It requires employers to implement and update a site-specific plan that identifies potential exposure risks and plans to address them, maintain a healthy worksite and provide effective employee training.




A good resource for staying apprised of new regulations is CFBF’s Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS). They regularly update their COVID-19 News & Resources page with the latest guidance at fels.net. 🇺🇸

FACE COVERINGS, MASKS & RESPIRATORS



When to Use Them to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are encouraging everyone to use cloth face coverings when around coworkers or in public to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Employers must provide face coverings for workers or reimburse them for the reasonable costs of obtaining them.

	Reusable Cloth Face Covering	Disposable Surgical Mask or Procedure Mask	Disposable N95 Respirator, PAPR, Elastomeric Respirator
Respiratory protection for the wearer	✗	✗	✓
Protects people near the wearer (Use with physical/social distancing)	✓	✓	✓
Who should use it?	General public, most workers	Surgical masks are currently prioritized for source control and other specified uses in health care facilities and other workplaces.	Health care workers, first responders, others at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19

- All face coverings, surgical masks, and respirators must cover the nose and mouth.
- Wash or sanitize hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings, surgical masks, and respirators.
- Wash face coverings after each shift and discard if they no longer cover the nose and mouth, have stretched-out or damaged ties or straps, cannot properly stay on the face, or have holes or tears.
- When removing any face covering, surgical mask, or respirator, do not touch the outside.
- N95 and other tight-fitting respirators must be fit tested to select a model and size that fits the individual and provides a reliable level of protection. At this time, they are reserved primarily for health care workers, first responders, and those exposed to other hazardous particles.

Updated 7/9/2020

Jenna Searcy crowned District 7 Dairy Princess

Jenna Searcy of Hanford was selected as the 2020 Dairy Princess for the California Milk Advisory Board's (CMAB) District 7 in a virtual crowning event on June 26.

Jenna is the daughter of Gerra Searcy of Hanford. She will be a senior at Hanford High School and plans to attend a four-year university following her high school graduation. Jenna is an active member of the Hanford FFA, the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), the Associated Student Body, and has participated on the tennis and soccer teams throughout high school. She recently won the title of Supreme Grand Champion Dairy Replacement Heifer at the 2020 virtual Kings Fair, and was a member of the 2020 State Champion Agronomy Team. Jenna plans on pursuing a career in agriculture business.

Jenna will represent District 7, which includes Kings County. As Dairy Princess, she will play an important role on the CMAB's Communications Services team in meeting community relations objectives.

Jenna will be speaking on behalf of the California dairy industry to various audiences throughout the year. In addition, she will attend a professional development training focused on presentation skills, advocating for the California dairy industry, leadership and business etiquette. 🐄



Jenna Searcy

"Seeds" cont'd from page 1

of reducing both the risk of invasive species infestations and the cost to control and mitigate those infestations."

The USDA said there is currently no evidence that this is anything more than a "brushing scam," where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boast sales. The USDA is collecting these seed packages and will be testing their contents to determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment. 🐄

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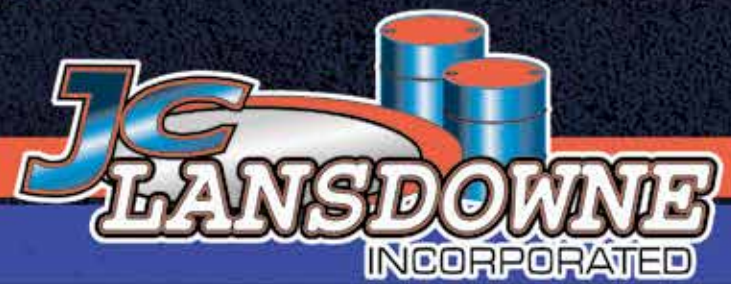
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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

Training and continuing education still required during pandemic

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez,
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

What a year COVID-19 has turned 2020 into so far! Business meetings, training seminars and conferences cancelled or held via conference call or an internet platform when possible. Our office has distributed approximately 100,000 surgical masks and now have N95 particulate respirators available (more on that at the end of the article). Many county office lobbies remain closed to the public, but we are available by appointment. Office staff is working and inspectors are in the field inspecting. I have heard other government agencies are in the field verifying employers are providing COVID-19 training. We had to cancel our pesticide handler courses, designed to provide a start to the pesticide training annually required for employees. Close to 1,000 employees annually attend the safety courses provided by our office. Now the whole burden lies with the employer. We are working on alternatives to re-start training courses.

For agriculture, deemed an essential industry, it has almost been business as usual. Fieldwork could not and did not stop, crops are being grown, cultural practices performed and crews are harvesting. As stated, the ag commissioner staff is still performing pesticide use monitoring inspections and part of the inspection is to verifying handler training. Just like when a shortage of PPE required adjustments to spraying, not being able to have employees attend a regular, scheduled training would require an employer to find a different method to comply. A YouTube search of titles on pesticide handler safety should provide a number of options that cover training required in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 6724. Our office can still provide employers with the forms and other compliance assistance handouts for training and to document training when completed. Because yes, even in a year like 2020, training is required.

A few titles to search on YouTube to help with training

Worker Protection Standard (WPS) for Pesticide Handlers

Ley de Proteccion al Trabajador (WPS) para Manipuladores de Pesticidas (subtitulos)

3M Respirator Fit Kit Test Video

Disposable Respirator Fit Test Video - Spanish

Private applicator certificate (PAC) and other licensee holders still need to complete the required continuing education hours prior to expiration of their certificate or license. Our office worked with CAPCA on a one-hour online continuing education course that will soon be available to the public. The office will provide information when it and other online courses will be available. An internet search should provide continuing education hour options in lieu of the hours from cancelled seminars and conferences. We do not foresee any lenience from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) on continuing education hour requirements.

Ag commissioners throughout California received surgical masks for distribution to the agriculture sector with hopes of slowing the spread of COVID-19 amongst the essential ag community. We have now received limited supplies of N95 particulate respira-



tory protection masks available for those applications when the label requires use. The use of an N95 particulate respirator when required by the label would require the user of the N95 be trained, a medical evaluation completed and fit tested performed. If the employee has already been trained and medically evaluated, then the new N95 being used would still require a fit test.

So far, 2020 has not been the best year. I am not sure what the second half of the year will be like, but if you have employees handling pesticide, the ag commissioner's office is here and available to help. We can schedule an appointment to go over your specific situation. In many cases, this can be accomplished by phone, if not utilizing proper Center for Disease Control (CDC) and county recommendations, we can schedule an in-office or on the farm meeting.

Should you have any questions or need assistance please call the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's office at 559-852-2830. 📞



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Kings County Rural Crime Report

Conex boxes being targeted by thieves

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Sgt. Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force is busy, as usual. Our unit has conducted several investigations this month and made several arrests.

Taylor Farms was the victim of numerous hemp thefts. We were able to obtain a license plate from one of their surveillance cameras. The suspect, Gilberto Villarreal, was identified and we located all of the stolen hemp at his residence in Lindsey. Villarreal was located the next day and arrested on two felony charges.

The suspect who has been responsible for all but one of our recent chemical thefts has also been arrested. Jesus Gaxiola was arrested by the Fresno County Rural Crime Task Force on our warrant and fresh charges of grand theft.

Members of our unit conducted a burglary/motor vehicle theft investigation that occurred at the Bickner residence. Seven motorcycles were stolen from a barn on the property. As a result of a thorough investigation, members of our unit were able to locate five of the stolen bikes at several locations throughout the county. A total of three arrests were made and we still have one more suspect to contact and arrest. I would like to recognize my guys for the outstanding job they have been doing.

We are currently investigating several Conex box thefts that have occurred over the past three months. The latest occurrence took place on 7th Avenue where

were suspects broke into a Conex box at the manure digester site. The suspects in this investigation used a forklift to open the box and remove several power tools and a welder. This is the same method used in the other Conex box thefts.

The same suspects in the Conex investigation also committed a theft at the solar farm on Nevada and Highway 43. We believe the suspects in these investigations have been doing the same thing in Tulare County. We are meeting with the Tulare County Rural Crime Unit to share information and come up with a game plan to locate and arrest all of the suspects involved.

We remind everyone to please give us a call if you see any suspicious activity or have questions. We are still stamping equipment with OANs upon request. Thanks once again for your support. 🙌

Task Force Sergeant Rod Shulman: 559-469-4004

Detective Carlos Santos: 559-904-6893

Detective Ben Moore: 559-589-3629

Detective Kody Holt: 559-369-8928



Legislative Committee Update

KCFB board of directors takes positions on proposed legislation

Kings County's Farm Bureau's newly formed legislative committee met in July. During the meeting, a recommendation was made, seconded and passed without opposition encouraging the Board of Directors to take positions on two bills. The board voted to oppose Assembly Bill 2959 and support Senate Bill 3811.

Here are summaries of the proposed legislation:

AB 2959 - Solid Waste: Byproducts from the Processing of Food or Beverages

Committee's position: Oppose

AB 2959 (Calderon) would limit the types of facilities that California farmers, ranchers and dairymen and women could pick up food byproducts from to be used for animal feed.

In order to meet the state's organic waste recycling goal, local jurisdictions have the authority to implement exclusive franchise agreements with waste haulers to pick up organic waste from businesses and residences in that city/county. Current law, however, provides an exemption for food byproducts from various facilities to be used for animal feed. If passed and signed into law by Governor Newsom, AB 2959 would limit this exemption. Specifically, it would prohibit producers from self-hauling or through a hauler, picking up food byproducts from grocery stores, restaurants, retail and commercial facilities. This bill will:

- Limit access to food byproducts used for animal feed for no public policy benefit. In addition to grocery stores, restaurants and retail locations, farmers couldn't source from "commercial" establishments which could mean all businesses in the state.
- Reduce the availability of affordable, nutrient-dense, in-state feed for California livestock producers. This will require producers to rely on imported virgin feed or grow more feed in California.
- Disrupt longstanding relationships between local business and farmers/ranchers that have offered and utilized these byproducts for animal feed for decades, and at times, generations.

SB 3811 - Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act

Committee's position: Support

The Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act (SB 3811), introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein, would authorize \$800 million in federal funding to repair critical canals in the San Joaquin Valley damaged by land sinking from over pumping of groundwater, known as subsidence, and for environmental restoration.

If the canals are not restored to their original capacity, 20 percent of the farmland



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Kings County launches \$5 million small business assistance program

Kings County officials have approved a program to roll out \$5 million in small business assistance. Eligible small businesses can receive up to \$20,000 to cover COVID-19 operating expenses and future expenses related to the pandemic.

Eligible businesses include for- and non-profits with 25 or less full-time employees. Applicants must attest that, at a minimum, their business partially shut down to comply with executive orders during the pandemic.

Applicants may use the funding for the following purposes:

- Payroll and benefit costs
- Unemployment insurance costs incurred by the employer if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act
- Rent or mortgage payments to avoid eviction or foreclosure
- Unpaid utilities
- Inventory or supplies required to safely reopen the business, including PPE, disinfectants, sanitizers, etc., and expenditures to adapt spaces for outdoor services

There will be two phases of the Small Business Assistance Relief. The first phase, which is open from August to October, will only be available to small businesses. The second phase, open from October to December, will include non-profits. Non-profits are still encouraged to apply when the application is released; however, their application will not be reviewed until Phase 2.

Pending the availability of funding, an anticipated 250 Kings County small businesses are anticipated to receive assistance.

The Kings County Job Training Office and Kings County Economic Development Corporation are slated to administer the program countywide in partnership with multiple other organizations that are assisting in the effort.

Once finalized, the application packet will be available online, and upon email request to info.KingsJTO@co.kings.ca.us. If you would like to be added to the contact list to receive a copy of the application packet as soon as it is ready, please email malisa.simon@co.kings.ca.us. 📧

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“Legislative Update” cont’d from page 8

– approximately 1 million acres
– might have to be retired in a region that produces \$36 billion in crops annually, including a third of the nation’s produce.

The funds would be allocated as follows:

- \$200 million for California Aqueduct repairs, which would move an additional 205,000 acre-feet per year on average.
- \$200 million for the Friant-Kern Canal, which would move an additional 100,000 acre-feet per year on average.
- \$200 million for the Delta Mendota Canal, which would move an additional 62,000 acre-feet per year on average.
- \$200 million for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement to help restore salmon populations in the river. 📧

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 Warmerdam Orchard Services 559-924-4662

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Kings Dairy Supply Inc. 559-582-9459
Summerhill Dairy 559-468-6554
 Vet Pharmaceutical Inc. 559-582-6800

EQUIPMENT DEALERS & REPAIR

Hanford Equipment 559-582-0443
 Lawrence Tractor Co. 559-582-9002
 Linder Equipment Co. 559-685-5000
Quality Machinery Center 559-707-1638
 Quinn Company 559-992-2193

FARM SUPPLY

AgSeeds Unlimited 559-923-1800
 Evangelho Seed Co. 559-324-9554
 West Valley Supply 559-924-3442

FARMS & RANCHES

Gary Robinson 559-779-5541
 Grabow Farming 559-816-4590
J.G. Boswell Co. 559-992-5011
Keenan Farms 559-945-1400
 Miya Farms 559-309-3300
Stone Land Co. 559-945-2205
Sullivan Farming LLC 559-289-2452
Summerhill Dairy 559-804-8148
 Taylor Farms 559-584-3798

FOOD SERVICES

Avila Acres Country Gourmet 559-584-5935
 Eddie's Catering 559-707-8796
 Kings River Produce 559-587-9387
 Pizza Factory 559-992-3148
 Superior Dairy 559-582-0481

INSURANCE SERVICES

Bacome Insurance 559-584-3323
 Carl Nelson Insurance 559-584-4495
 Der Manouel Insurance Group 559-447-4600
 Golden State Crop & Insurance Services 559-587-9007
Mackey & Mackey Insurance Agency 559-583-9393
 Mitchell Insurance Services 559-713-1315
Pacific Ag Insurance Agency 559-584-3391
The Zenith 877-581-8237

IRRIGATION/PUMPS/WELLS

Carver Pump 855-622-7837
 Grabow Well Drilling Inc. 559-362-5172
 Kaweah Pump Inc. 559-747-0755
 Kings County Water District 559-584-6412
Laguna Irrigation District 559-923-4239
 Lakeside Irrigation Water District 559-584-3396
 Myers Brothers Well Drilling Inc. 559-582-9031
 Myers Well Drilling 559-906-0930
Rain for Rent/Westside Pump 559-693-4315
 Westlands Water District 559-905-6736

LABOR

Sunrise Farm Labor 559-945-2292

MANUFACTURES

Dean Beck's Machine Shop 559-582-4144
 Jim Harp's Stainless Steel Welding 559-582-6011
Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies 559-582-4417
 R-N-R Welding 559-584-0213
 Sawtelle & Rosprim Machine Co. 559-992-2117
 Smith Welding Shop 559-584-8652

PETROLEUM

Buford Oil Co. Inc. 559-582-9028
 Dassel's Petroleum 559-582-8515
 Gary V. Burrows Inc. 559-924-2064
J.C. Lansdowne Inc. 559-651-1760
 Roe Oil Co. 559-584-5690
 Valley Pacific Petroleum 559-732-8381

PROCESSORS

County Line Gin Inc. 559-854-7489
Keenan Farms 559-945-1400
Marquez Brothers International, Inc. 559-584-8000
Olam SVI 559-584-2711
 Warmerdam Packing LP 559-584-9211

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Dias Law Firm Inc. 559-585-7330
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP 559-584-6656
Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP 559-584-3337
 Kings County EDC 559-585-3576
 Zumwalt-Hansen & Associates Inc. 559-582-1056

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Pearson Realty 559-732-7300
 Sierra View Realty 559-410-5557

SOLAR ENERGY

CalCom Solar 661-234-0978
Coldwell Solar 888-705-5055
First Solar 415-935-2507
 REC Solar 717-515-4519
Recurrent Energy 415-675-1500
Renewable Solar 559-816-5088

TRANSPORTATION

E & B Bulk Transportation 559-582-9135
 Mesa Alta Transportation 559-250-1270
 Mid Valley Disposal 559-237-9425

UTILITIES

Pacific Gas & Electric 559-263-5308
 unWired Broadband 844-650-3278

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Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP
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Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients
Pacific Ag Insurance
Quality Machinery Center
Rain for Rent
Southern California Edison

Summerhill Dairy
Stone Land Co.
S&W Seed Company
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Wells Fargo Bank

Bronze

Agland Protective Services
Billingsley Tire Inc.
Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants
CalWest Rain
Central Valley Energy Coalition
Granger Water Specialties

Grower Direct Nut Company
Hanford Equipment Co.
Innovative Ag Services LLC
JP Honey Farms
Keenan Farms
Keller Motors
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.

Laguna Irrigation District
Mello Chipping
Plain Insane Graphix
Pearson Realty Inc.
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