FARRALIFE Image: Comparison of the kings county farm bureau OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU April 2023 Vol. 30 Number 4 kcfb.org

INSIDE



More than 47,000 acres of Kings County farmland affected by floodwaters

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director

The Central Valley is experiencing flooding the likes of which many of us have never seen, with the most significant impacts affecting Kings and Tulare counties. Some call this a once-in-40 or 100-year storm, while others are calling it biblical. An actual label describing the situation we find ourselves facing will not be accurate until later this year.

According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), on March 25, the snowpack at Bishop Pass in the Kings River Basin had reached 233% of average. And the National Weather Service's extended forecast reports that much of California can expect above-average chances of rainfall through at least April 11.



An aerial view of the flooding at Kings County's Cross Creek. Photo by Dusty Ference

A letter sent to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services from the Kings County Ag Commissioner dated March 28 related that more than 47,000 acres of farms and dairy land within Kings County have reported damages. Most of this flooding has happened along Cross Creek and the Tule River. Water professionals interacting with KCFB are telling us that flooding is expected through June of this year.

As a producer, you should report damages to the county and Farm Services Agency (FSA). The county needs to

"Floodwaters" continued on page 7

17th annual Farm Day teaches important lessons about agriculture

As they do every year, the ag community came together in a special way to bring agriculture to life for local third graders at Kings County Farm Day.

Thanks to local ag businesses, equipment operators, animal presenters and many other volunteers, students spent the day learning about the many facets of agriculture through interactive exhibits and hands-on experiences. In its 17th year, the goal of Farm Day is to spark an interest in agriculture while teaching local students about the importance of living in a farming community.

"Farm Day is the annual event that best exemplifies what Farm Bureau is all about," said KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference. "We hope every child who attended Farm Day left with an increased awareness of the positive contributions that agriculture makes not only to our local community and our economy, but to the world."

On March 16, 2,195 third graders and 102



Students' smiling faces reflect their excitement at Farm Day 2023. Photo by Breanna Larman

teachers from 34 Kings County schools visited exhibits that allowed them to climb on tractors, pet a variety of farm animals and learn the process of how food gets from the farm to the fork. One-hundred twenty volunteers, 48 presenters and 70 guides helped teach the next generation of consumers a number of valuable lessons about where food comes, and demonstrates that it is not grown in the grocery store. *See page 4 for more Farm Day 2023 photos.*





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Member to Member People, Products, Prosperity

Hansen Industries

By Amy D. Fienen



When Shane Hansen started Hansen Industries in 2004, he had a vision to create quality products and services to help dairies operate more efficiently and affordably. Hansen took his professional background in dairy, plumbing and water treatment, combined it with his personal commitment to integrity, character and discipline, and created a full-service dairy construction and service business.

Hansen Industries started as a one-man operation, growing to include a few core people, and eventually doubling in size in the past year to a staff of 35. They service dairies across California, as well as in Arizona and Texas. Sabrina Swan, office manager and director of marketing, said Hansen's vision of helping dairymen achieve their dreams through relationships built on trust and quality work is a philosophy shared by everyone employed at Hansen Industries.

"Having integrity is a key factor to working here," Swan said. "We feel it's important to do what we can to support the industry that feeds the world."

On the construction side of the business, Hansen Industries provides start-to-finish full-scale barn builds, remodels and expansions. Their in-house draftsman works with clients to create a plan that meets the needs of their *"Member to Member" continued on page 3*



Member to Member (continued)



Shane Hansen

individual operation. Swan said Hansen is committed to helping clients design the system that works for them.

"The start to finish attention to detail is impeccable," said Swan. "There's a lot of pride in our work and that results in a lot of trust."

At Hansen Industries, the hope is that the relationship doesn't end with the completion of a project, but that it will become a long-term partnership. Following system installations, Hansen Industries has service and maintenance programs to then help keep things well-maintained and running smoothly. Their licensed techs are available to service both Hansen Industries' systems and those that were pre-existing.

Hansen Industries keeps top of the line products in stock and handles all warranties in-house. From cow comfort and cooling to herd health, their ordering department helps clients get what they need to care for their herds.

Swan anticipates that Hansen Industries' partnerships with Kings County dairies will continue to increase as their reputation in the area develops.

"Growth is definitely on the horizon," she said. "We're always looking for the next thing to discover in supporting the dairy industry."

For more information on Hansen Industries, visit their website at hansenindustriesinc.com, or call (559) 651-1843.

The "Member to Member" feature is our way of promoting the Business Support members and Friends of Farm Bureau that help make our work possible through their financial support. Please consider doing business with companies who show their commitment to the local ag industry through their support of Farm Bureau.

WATER NEWS you can use

SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN 2023 WATER ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced an increase in Central Valley Project (CVP) 2023 water supply allocations. Irrigation water service and repayment contractors northof-Delta will now receive 80 percent of their contract total, as will south-of-Delta contractors. This is a significant increase from the 35 percent allocation announced in February after below-average precipitation. Additional atmospheric river systems have since boosted hydrological conditions and storage volumes, allowing for a more robust water supply allocation.

Since the initial 35 percent allocation, Shasta Reservoir, the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project, has increased from 59 percent to 81 percent, and San Luis Reservoir, the largest reservoir south-of-Delta, from 64 percent to 97 percent. Pine Flat Reservoir is at 78 percent capacity, and a rare flood release is releasing water from Pine Flat Dam into the Tulare Lakebed.

In the Southern Sierra Nevadas, the snowpack is at 276 percent of the April 1 average; the statewide average is 222 percent.

CAN YOU HELP WITH LIVESTOCK EVACUA-TIONS?

If the event that further flood-related livestock evacuations are needed, can you help? If you have room for additional livestock on your property, please call Dusty at (559) 303-1885 or email kcfb@kcfb.org.

HELP KINGS COUNTY ASSESS LOCAL FLOOD DAMAGE

Kings County is seeking assistance from the public to document damage resulting from the severe



weather event that occurred during the 2023 March storms. This information will be used to assist in collecting consolidated impact information and will be provided to other state and federal agencies as they assess the damage. Please visit countyofkings.com/ community/2023-flood to take the brief survey. V

AG NEWS IN BRIEF

California Court of Appeal sides with farmers in precedential water quality cases

In a legal win for California farmers, a state appeals court rejected all arguments brought by environmental groups and sided with the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Farm Bureau and others related to the Central Valley's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

In its March 17 decision, the Third District Court of Appeal addressed three cases brought by environmental plaintiffs against the California State Water Resources Control Board in which the groups challenged the adoption of general waste discharge requirements for growers within the Eastern San Joaquin Watershed.

"The Court of Appeal's landmark decision supports reasonableness and balancing in protecting water quality, while also maintaining our food supply and the economic viability of agriculture," said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson. "The court's decision is precedential and applies to irrigated lands regulatory programs throughout the state."

Johansson added, "The decision upholds farmer anonymity for nitrogen application data, the use of township-level nitrate data and surface water representative monitoring."

DAIRY PRIDE Act would address labeling of dairy alternatives

The nonpartisan DAIRY PRIDE Act was reintroduced in the Senate on Feb. 28 in response to the USDA's proposed guidance allowing nut, oat, soy, and other non-dairy products to use the name "milk." The Defending Against Imitations and Replacements of Yogurt, milk, and cheese to Promote Regular Intake of Dairy Everyday (DAIRY PRIDE) Act of 2023 seeks to address concerns related to labeling. Senators Tammy Baldwin, Jim Risch, Susan Collins, and Peter Welch aim to prevent dairy terms from being used to describe

FARM

DAY 2023







IN PICTURES







FSMA-Required Produce Safety Training

This course will satisfy the required Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Training requirements. Join us at the KCFB office for this training provided by the Food Safety Training Partnership, a cooperative effort of California Farm Bureau, Farm Employers Labor Service, and the Safe Food Alliance.

Thursday, May 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. KCFB office, 870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford Cost: \$35, which includes course materials, completion certificate and lunch

For more information and to register online, visit foodsafetytrainingpartnership.org or call 916-561-5672.



THANK YOU

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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

The benefits of exporting commodities using an export workplan

Contributed by Lynda Schrumpf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Exporting farm products is not a simple process of just taking an order and shipping the goods. When it comes to exporting a commodity derived from a living plant, there is always a chance that the commodity may contain pest like insects, weeds, and/or pathogens from the area it's grown. All regions of the world have pests indigenous to their local area. If these pests are introduced to other areas where they did not exist before, they could have devastating effects for that region, including impacting the agricultural production of the area. To help prevent the movement of these pests, countries have placed quarantines and special conditions for entry of foreign produce, plants and plant products. Countries exporting plant products must comply with all the conditions as set by the importing country.

An export workplan is a document designed to facilitate the exportation of a particular commodity or group of similar commodities from the United States to a foreign country. It ensures uniformity of the procedures among growers, packers, exporters, importers and plant health authorities from both countries.

The procedures prescribed in these workplans are used to ensure that the commodities being exported are free of specific pests. Typically, the pest exclusion strategy in the export workplan is a multiple faceted approach using mating disruption, early detection through trapping, record keeping and reporting, lot traceability, inspections of packing houses, growers and orchards.

The workplans are based on scientific research and a protocol agreed upon by the United States Department of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (PPQ-APHIS) and the Department of Agriculture/regulatory authority of the importing country.



USDA-certified Kings County ag inspectors conduct inspections for the purposes of verifying the requirements of the importing country. Contributed photo

The Agricultural Commissioner's quarantine inspectors assure that the conditions of the workplan have been met and inspections performed prior to a plant product being shipped out of California.

In Kings County, growers and exporters have participated in various export workplans in order to have access to certain, typically high value, export markets. California growers wanting to export peaches, nectarines, plums, interspecific plums, apricots and interspecific apricots to Mexico or British Columbia have participated in systems approach workplans, with each workplan having different requirements. Exports of cherries to Japan or Korea, pomegranates to Australia or

New Zealand are other examples of a systems approach to entry into high value markets.

The workplans have several benefits to growers: avoiding postharvest treatments such as chemical fumigation, expedited delivery of a perishable product through trade channels, better quality product due to less post-harvest treatments and faster delivery resulting in a high price, access to the best sciencebased risk analysis resulting in only the absolutely necessary mitigation procedures being applied, and access to high value markets.

As global trade continues to expand, the concern over invasive pest and disease introductions will also increase. To keep ahead of the threat, APHIS continually applies the latest science and technology to develop the most effective survey and diagnostic methods, diagnostic support, treatment technologies, risk

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"Ag Commissioner" continued on page 7



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"Floodwaters" continued from page 1

understand the full scope of the damages in order to request assistance from the state and federal governments, which will offer more financial recovery assistance on a broad level. The FSA provides specific aid for producers in several loss categories. It is essential to remember the FSA can only offer financial assistance for work completed after support is requested. They may send staff to view and document damages before an application is approved if the damage prevents you from feeding livestock or farming. Still, you must contact the local office for specific information. For more information on relief options from FSA, visit their website at fsa.usda.gov and read about conservation programs.

KCFB started an e-newsletter called "KCFB Flood Watch" to provide specific flood information to our members. It provides updates from the Kings County Emergency Operations Center, elected officials and agencies offering support, along with other flood-related topics. If you are not receiving those e-newsletters, visit kcfb.org and sign up. You may also leave a comment on the website or call the office if there is anything you think KCFB can do to help you or the industry.

"Ag Commissioner" continued from page 5

evaluations, and strategic program alternatives when working with our exporting partners.

If you have questions about exporting your commodities or would like more information, please feel free to contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture: agstaff@co.kings.ca.us or (559) 852-2830. Ve





KCFB's Rawhide Member Appreciation Night

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ISALIA 9

As a **thank you** to our valued members,

to our valued members, you're invited to join us at the Visalia Rawhide game

Wednesday, April 26 6:30 p.m. Rawhide Stadium Visalia

Please call or visit the KCFB office to select and pick up your tickets from the Grand Stand or Pasture sections. (559) 584-3557

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Kings County Rural Crime Report Thieves continuing to target copper wire, beehives

Contributed by Detective Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of March, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force stayed busy investigating copper wire and bee thefts in addition to fraud cases. We have continued working the investigation regarding the Toss Farms fraud/ID theft which was turned over to a federal prosecutor in Lubbock, Texas. We have continuously worked the country club burglary and recently submitted an evidence item for a DNA hit. Detectives are also working other theft cases where geofence warrants are being written. We hope the geofence warrants will reveal the identities of the suspects.

Detective Fausnett : (559) 639-8704 Detective Thomas: (559) 530-1701 Detective Holt: (559) 362-8928 Detective Coghlan: (559) 362-3078

It is imperative that if anyone knows of or hears of anyone buying or selling obviously stolen equipment to call the sheriff's office. If we do not receive calls from our Farm Bureau members and community, we may not be aware of certain crimes occurring in your area. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or any of our unit members at any time. V

"Ag News" continued from page 3

products made from non-dairy materials.

Current FDA regulations define dairy products as being from dairy animals; however, the FDA's draft guidance allows plant-based products to continue to use dairy terms despite not containing dairy, nor having the nutritional value of dairy products.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act would require the FDA to issue guidance for nationwide enforcement of mislabeled imitation dairy products within 90 days and require the FDA to report to Congress two years after enactment to hold the agency accountable for this update in their enforcement obligations. The legislation would also nullify any guidance that is not consistent with dairy standards of identity.

Cal/OSHA releases guidance on field drinking water requirements Courtesy of Barsamian & Moody

The California Department of Industrial Relations has issued guidance on a Cal/ OSHA Appeals Board decision regarding the rule that drinking water at outdoor worksites be "as close as practicable" to the areas where employees are working.

After a "complaint-initiated safety inspection" at a vineyard in St. Helena, Calif., Cal/OSHA Inspectors cited a company for a serious violation for not having drinking water as close as practicable for their employees working in the vineyard rows. An administrative law judge affirmed a citation of \$27,000, which was upheld by the appeals board. The board found employees had to climb through multiple grape trellises to access drinking water. In affirming the violation, the board clarified that the term "as close as practicable" in terms of providing drinking water to prevent heat illness means that the water must be as close as reasonably can be accomplished in order to encourage frequent water consumption.

The ALJ and Board found that the trellises were an obstacle that discouraged employees from frequently drinking water and there were other reasonable options available to the employer, such as providing a jug of water in each row where the employees were working or providing individual water bottles that employees could carry with them and refill from the jugs.

What This Means for Employers:

Employers should carefully review their heat illness prevention policies, procedures and practices to ensure they are providing drinking water to employees in accordance with Cal/OSHA's most recent guidance. Although the guidance specifically addresses grape trellises, employers should consider moving water closer to employees any time an employee needs to expend more energy than what is required to walk unobstructed to where water is stored, providing individual water jugs, or some other solution in line with the new guidance. Vi



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