



## INSIDE



AG COMMISSIONERS  
REPORT PG. 4

## Hanford High ag teacher honored with state FFA Golden Owl Award

By Lisa McEwen

It's been nearly five months since agricultural science teacher Jason Ferreira walked across an illuminated stage at the California State FFA Leadership Conference in Ontario and heard his name over the giant speakers, announcing that he had been selected as California's 2022-23 Ag Educator of the Year.

But Ferreira, who is gearing up for his 5th year at Hanford High, says he is still taking it all in. "There are little moments that I find when the excitement still hasn't worn off, to know that a group of individuals believed in me enough to choose me to represent California ag education," he said.

Ferreira is a Tulare native who grew up in a family that exposed him to production agriculture. As a child, he participated in 4-H and FFA. He is a graduate of Tulare Union High School and Fresno State.

"I firmly believe that my experiences with my family, 4-H, FFA, and good high school ag teachers sparked in me a desire to continue my legacy in agriculture," he said.

Ferreira completed his student teaching at Exeter Union High School and was hired at Hanford High School in 2018. More than 800 nominations were collected from parents, students, and community members across the state for the



*"Golden Owl Award" continued on page 3*

## New Dairy Princess Crowned Hannah Dutra of Hanford Selected as District 5 Central Dairy Ambassador

Hannah Dutra of Hanford was selected as the 2023 Dairy Princess for the California Milk Advisory Board's (CMAB) District 5 Central in a crowning event on Friday, June 30, 2023.

Hannah will represent District 5 Central, Kings County. As Dairy Princess, she will play a key role on the CMAB's Communications Services team in meeting community relations objectives.

Hannah is the daughter of Manuel and Annie Dutra, owners and operators of Dutra and Dutra Dairy. Hannah will be a Senior at Hanford High School in the fall and is an active member of her Future Farmers of America program. She has been a member of the California Scholarship Federation for the last 3 years. She is on the Hanford High School Varsity Volleyball team and has been team captain for the past year.

Hannah's duties as Dairy Princess will include speaking on behalf of the California dairy industry to various audiences throughout the year and promoting the Real California Milk Seal.

As Dairy Princess, Hannah will attend a professional development training focused on presentation skills, advocating for the California dairy industry, leadership, and business etiquette.

For more information about the District 5 Central Dairy Princess contest and events, please contact the District 5 Central chairs Debbie Raven (debiraven1@aol.com) or Jackie Giacomazzi (jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com).





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# Year 1 Strategic Plan Update

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I last wrote about KCFB's strategic plan. A lot has happened in those twelve months, and I am excited to update our membership. In 2022 KCFB's board of directors invested several extra hours working through a strategic

planning session over several weeks—the three to five-year plan identifies five primary areas of focus; Advocacy, Board of Directors, Communications and Outreach, Financial Resources, and Staffing.

Our plan is designed to work very fluidly and has performed well over the last year. So well, that the Board has worked to some degree in each focus area. This approach has worked well as it allows us to implement change, allow time for it to make a change, and evaluate its performance while continuing to work through the rest of the strategic plan.

So what does this mean for the membership? You may have noticed small changes to Farm Life and e-news,

and more are planned for the end of this calendar year. A significant change you may have seen is an increased presence on social media. These changes are essential to sharing agriculture's story with members and consumers. These changes are also tied to KCFB's advocacy efforts.

The other steps completed to date are inward facing and focus on how KCFB operates. They ensure the organization functions with sound governance, oversight, and fiscal responsibility. Any well-performing organization allocates time and energy to reviewing and evaluating its efforts, and KCFB has plans to do just that. For the first time, the Board has created an evaluation committee and tasked them with reviewing non-advocacy programs and events. Tasked with creating quantitative, measurable outcomes for each program or event, the committee will review and report their findings to the Board.

Kings County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors is committed to agriculture in Kings County. They have made a conscious effort to steward your membership dollars and the organization's efforts to maximize impact. KCFB has represented your interests for 105 years and intends to be here for the next 100 years. 🌾



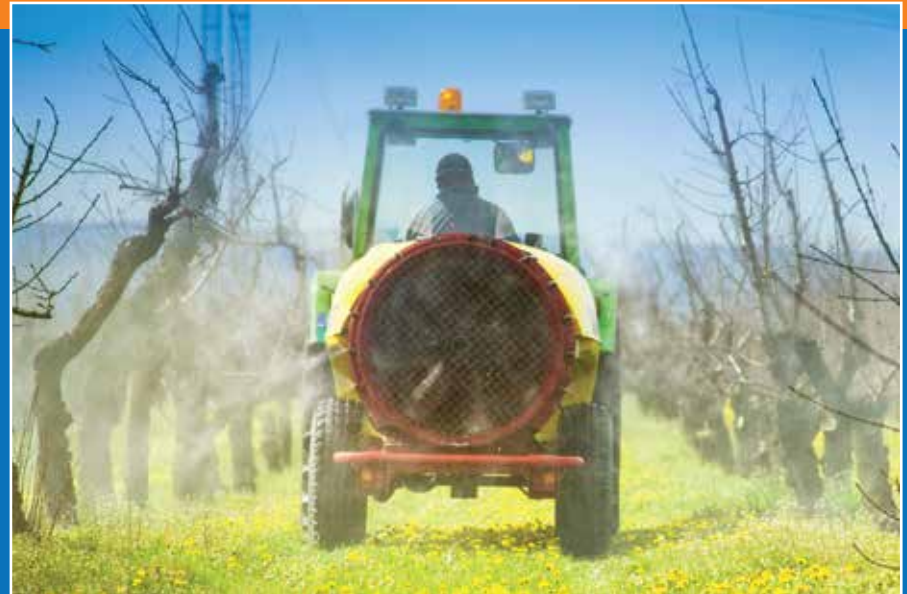
## 2023 Board of Directors Nominations

Current Director	District	Candidate
Dino Giacomazzi	1	Dino Giacomazzi
Michael Miya	1	Michael Miya
Shane Bickner	3	Shane Bickner
Brian Potter	3	Brian Potter
Todd Fukuda	At-Large	Todd Fukuda
Jon Garcia	At-Large	Jon Garcia
Keith Grabow	At-Large	Keith Grabow
Pete Hanse	At-Large	Pete Hanse
Monty Hoggard	At-Large	Monty Hoggard
Kevin Robertson	At-Large	Kevin Robertson
Vacant	At-Large	Vacant



# Haz-Mat Training *presented by KCFB & CFBF*

- **Tuesday, October 3, 2023**  
**@ KCFB office: 870 Greenfield Ave. Hanford**
- **English: 9–10:30 a.m.**
- **Spanish: 1–2:30 p.m.**
- **Limited seating is available for this in-person training.**  
**Call the KCFB office at (559) 584-3557**  
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- **For other California Farm Bureau programs and services visit [cbf.com](http://cbf.com)**



“Golden Owl Award” continued from page 1

Golden Owl Award, which is presented by California Farm Bureau, California FFA and Nationwide Insurance. Ferreira received a Golden Owl Award trophy and \$3,500 to support the development of the ag program at Hanford High.



Five other finalists were honored alongside Ferreira at the state convention, each representing the six regions of California FFA. Ferreira represented the San Joaquin Region.

What is most special to Ferreira about the Golden Owl Award is that students had the final say. He explained that at the state conference, an interview panel composed of 18 student delegates queried the six finalists.

“Those 18 random delegates were the ones who selected me to be the representative of California ag education,” he said. “As ag teachers, there’s a feeling that we’re always being compared to our peers in the profession. Ag is competitive. To have this chosen by students reminds me that ag education is here for students, not for the teachers. The students are the ones who recognize what is the best fit for an ag teacher in California.”

Ferreira understands the importance of quality training for agriculture advisors, who can then in turn provide better instruction to students. To that end, Ferreira has been a National FFA Teacher Ambassador for five years.

“I love being a high school ag teacher,” he said. “It fills my cup and every single day of my life has a purpose. I’ve come to discover as I’ve grown in my career that I also thoroughly enjoy helping teachers be better teachers.”

Since 2021, Ferreira has been a professional development facilitator for the National Association of Agriculture Educators (NAAE).

He explained that NAAE trains its facilitators to present impactful development at conferences across the country, and during this interview, Ferreira was in Iowa helping to facilitate the New Century Farmer Conference, a week-long event with 40 young agricultural producers.

The NAAE training has “helped me be a better teacher,” he said. “They train us and then send us out in the world to do this magic. I feel honored to be selected for this opportunity. I ask myself, ‘Is what I’m doing worthy? Can this benefit other teachers as well?’”

Ferreira said his mother, Mary, has always been his cheerleader. He said she dreamed of becoming an ag teacher but family responsibilities took precedence. “She reminds me of how proud she is of me that I’m taking the initiative to do

what she wasn’t able to do,” he said. “Everything I am doing she would have loved to do.”

With classes starting Aug. 17, Ferreira said he is excited for another school year.

“I want people to know that every ag teacher is a Golden Owl to students at some point in time,” he said. “Being an ag teacher is not about a title, it’s about continuing to do good for kids in whatever capacity you can. But when I walk in my classroom on August 17, the pressure will be on for me to step it up.” 🌾

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## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer

## Helpful Neighbor or Pest Control Business

Contributed by Janet Eckles

Farming is a community of neighbors who all have the same goal, to feed and cloth the nation. Kings County has a vast farmland, and our community is large. In this type of environment, we tend to want to help our neighbors when we can. This help can come in different forms, such as running a tractor through their field, pulling them out when stuck in the mud, and even doing pesticide applications for them. However, one of these can get you in trouble without the proper license.

When you are asked by your neighbor or a friend to perform a pesticide application to one of their fields, are you merely helping them or are you collecting a fee? Once money gets brought into the conversation you should stop and consider if you have the proper licensing to do pesticide work for hire. Regulations state that you must possess a pest control business license if you are a person who performs pest control for hire. Even farm managers are required to get a pest control business license if they are doing pesticide applications for hire.

If you are wanting to do pesticide work and charge for it, even if it is your neighbor or a friend, you will need to accomplish a few things first. The first step will be to apply and test for your Qualified Applicator License (QAL) with California Department of Pesticide



Regulations(CDPR) or have someone in a supervisory position who holds a valid QAL. This test is similar to a Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) but more in depth and more difficult. It is offered as a computer-based exam with testing centers state-wide. It requires you to pick categories in which you plan on working in, such as, plant agriculture or landscape maintenance. Once you have acquired this you will need to obtain a pest control business license. All of the information needed to accomplish this is available in our office or online at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/lcforms.htm>. After this is completed, you will need to register at our office as a pest control business.

Doing pest control work for hire is not just getting the licensing. You will also be required to comply with all safety and record retention requirements. Those include emergency medical care, pesticide storage, employee training, submitting pesticide use reports, completion reports, and retention of all the permits, recommendations, pesticide use reports, and training records. The Ag Commissioner's office will perform headquarters audits periodically to verify compliance. We can also come out and provide you with a compliance audit to guarantee that you know and have the information required.

So, as you are contemplating helping a neighbor for a small fee, consider whether you have all the required licensing. Without the required licensing you could be looking at a violation or even a fine. Keep in mind there is a fine line between being neighborly and acting as a pest control business. If you have questions on getting licensed or need to know if licensing is required for the work you are doing, please contact the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 559-852-2830. 📞



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# AG NEWS IN BRIEF

Last week, Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) was quoted as saying that the Farm Bill is "probably going to need an extension" when asked about the approaching September 30 deadline. The programs reauthorized in the 2018 version are set to expire by that date, meaning legislators only a little over two months to complete the large and complex legislation. As the House Agriculture Committee chairman, Thompson's remarks are the most explicit example that Congress is behind schedule on the bill. Delays with CBO scoring and the Senate's appropriations process are some of the driving factors behind the most recent challenges. It remains to be seen what an extension could look like, but a short-term stopgap could push the Farm Bill through to the end of this year.

In a rare favorable opinion, the California Supreme Court July 6 in *Kuciemba v. Victory Woodwork, Inc.*, that employers do not have a legal duty to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to members of an ill employee's household. Uncharacteristically, the Court said imposing a duty of care to non-employees would "impose

an intolerable burden on employers and society in contravention of public policy. Unfortunately, the Court also stated that such a claim is not barred by California's workers compensation law making workers comp the exclusive remedy for worker injuries and illnesses, and opened the door for policymakers in the future to impose a tort duty of care for members of employees' households.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued a final rule revising regulations concerning experimental populations of endangered species and threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Service removed language restricting the introduction of experimental populations to only the species' "historical range," which will allow for the introduction of populations into habitats outside of their historical range for conservation purposes. To provide conservation of certain species, the Service concluded that it may be increasingly appropriate to establish experimental populations outside of their historical range

if the species' habitat has undergone, is undergoing, or is anticipated to undergo irreversible decline and is no longer capable of supporting the species due to threats such as climate change or invasive species. The final rule also added language directing the Secretary of the Interior to consider adverse effects that may result to the ecosystem from the established experimental population. 🐾



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## What a year!

By Breanna Larman

*What do you call a cantaloupe in a swimming pool?  
A watermelon.*

I am very excited to be hitting my one-year mark with KCFB. Although this is my second time working in the office, my current role has been a new adventure. As the last year has unfolded my role has shifted tremendously. I have been able to take charge of event planning, social media, and content creation, committees and now taking the lead on membership, Friends of Farm Bureau sponsorships, and Farm Life. I have leaned into a new skill set and have become passionate about developing new programs for the organization to explore, member benefits, and even graphic design. I have been allowed an environment to grow and continuously learn new things to better my abilities as a part of the Farm Bureau. I couldn't do it without the help of the Executive Director Dusty Ference who I am lucky to call my boss and friend and my Board of Directors who is always there to lend a hand when needed.

In the last year, I have planned my second Harvest Classic golf tournament, my first membership appreciation night where we gave away nearly 500 tickets to fill the Rawhide Baseball stadium, attended World Ag Expo as a KCFB representative, my first Farm Day event with record-breaking attendance, flood disaster relief workshops, numerous committee meetings, and am gearing up to do it again in 2024. I am looking forward to all the new events and programs to come such as our Annual Meeting in November and attending my first YF&R convention this month.

I couldn't be more blessed to serve our members in the Kings County Agriculture Community. This year, just like many before it, has brought on new challenges. I have great respect and admiration for our hard-working members, and am excited to continue my journey with KCFB for years to come. 🙌





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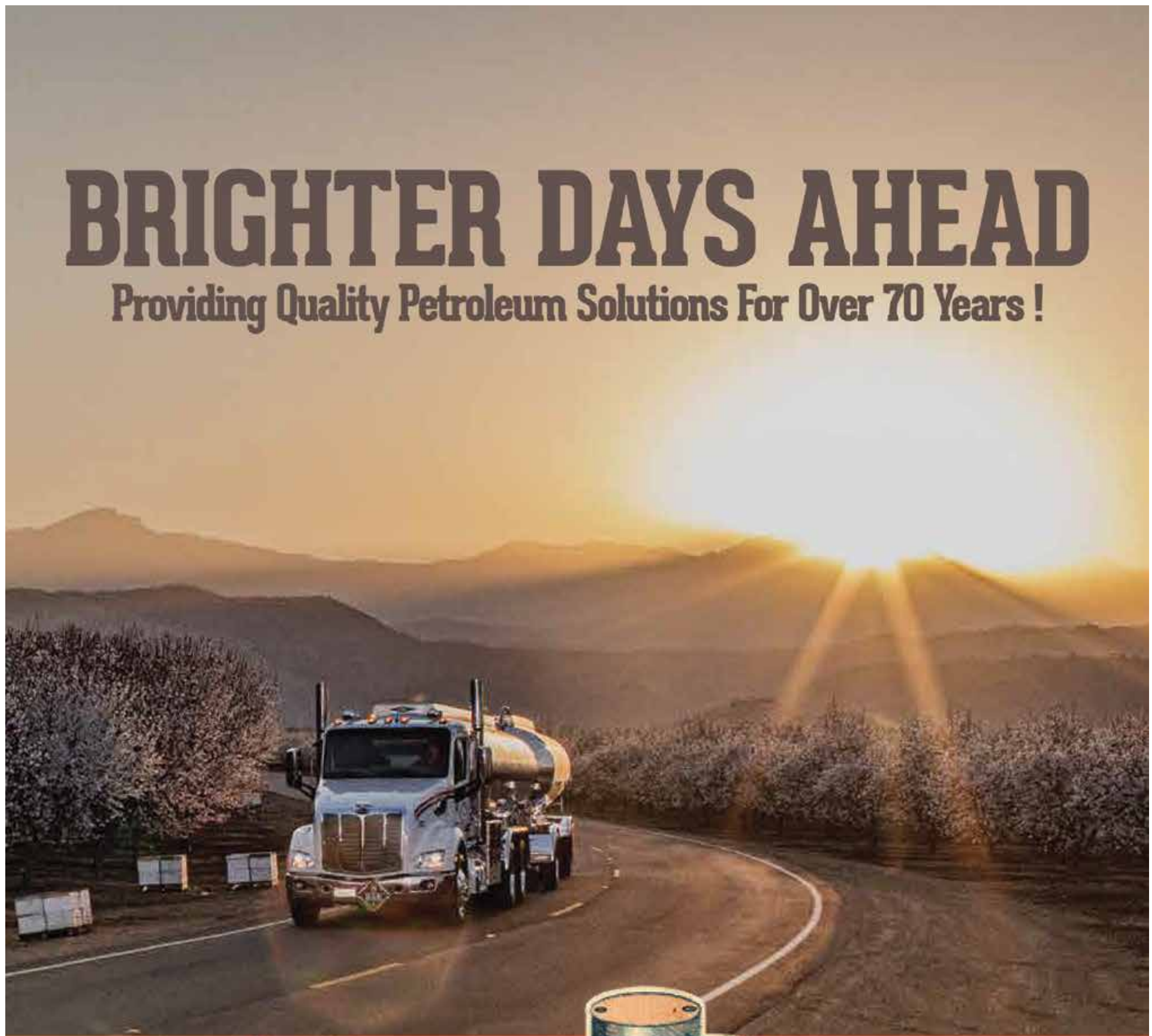
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# Kings County Rural Crime Report

Contributed by Detective Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of July, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force has been busy investigating several heavy equipment thefts, copper wire thefts, fuel thefts, hay thefts, trailer thefts, and burglaries. We recovered a stolen utility trailer in Hanford and a stolen Bobcat skid steer in Kingsburg that same morning. We have leads on several hay thefts that have been occurring on the north end of the county.

There has been a rise in heavy equipment thefts such as tractors, skid steers, etc., and UTV/ATV thefts. We encourage members to lock their equipment in secure areas. Thieves are becoming more and more brazen and are willing to steal equipment in broad daylight. If you would like an owner-applied number (OAN) stamped onto your equipment, please reach out to the Sheriff's Office and we will be more than happy to assist you.

As always it is imperative that if anyone knows of or hears of any buying or selling obviously stolen equipment, to call the Sheriff's Office. Also, please report all thefts or vandalism as soon as possible. We continue to investigate all Ag-related thefts and encourage members to call and make reports. If we do not receive calls from our members and community, we may not be aware of certain crimes occurring in your area. 🙏



Detective Fausnett : (559) 639-8704  
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