



INSIDE



WATER NEWS
PG. 7



KCFB Working for You in 2022

As we do every year, Kings County Farm Bureau's staff and board of directors spent 2022 supporting our mission of providing education, promotion and representation of agriculture. After two very difficult years for the ag industry and the world in general, we all breathed a sigh of relief as this year saw life get back to some semblance of normal. For KCFB, that meant the return of popular events and fundraisers that we missed during the past two years. Here are some of the ways we helped support and advocate for our members and the ag community this year.

- Hosted the Wine vs. Beer Showdown, the 17th time this popular fundraiser helped raise money to support KCFB's ag education programs.
- Provided feedback on the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's proposed statewide pesticide application notification system.
- After a five-year hiatus, KCFB's board of directors resurrected the Young Farmers & Ranchers committee, which has been meeting monthly.
- KCFB's Past President Brian Medeiros was appointed district director for the California Farm Bureau Federation's District 5, which covers Kings and Kern counties.
- Partnered with Nationwide to provide haz-mat transport training classes.
- Hosted 1,185 Kings County third graders for the 16th annual Farm Day, a unique, hands-on opportunity to teach the next generation of consumers about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.
- Awarded four \$1,000 KCFB scholarships to Kings County high school graduates with plans to pursue a career in agriculture after college.
- Awarded the final \$16,000 Environmental Oversight Committee Scholarship, a scholarship that KCFB has been overseeing for several decades.
- Kept members apprised of SGMA regulations and how its ever-evolving implementation will continue affecting members.
- KCFB's board of directors engaged in a strategic planning process to identify organizational priorities in looking towards the future.
- Hosted Department of Pesticide Regulation Director Julie Henderson and CDFA Secretary Karen Ross for a tour of several Kings County farms.
- Worked with the Kings County Ag Department to inform members about the importance of scheduling a compliance audit to help reduce the county's pesticide violations.
- Opposed legislation to reduce the licensing requirements for drone pesticide applications.
- Kept our members updated on constantly changing COVID-19 rules and regulations that affect employers and their employees.
- Held the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members.
- Partnered with the Kings County Economic Development Corporation to compile the county's first agriculture economic impact report, which highlights the profound impact agriculture has on the local economy.
- Awarded the Economic Development Partner Award by the Kings Economic Development Corporation for KCFB's contribution to the county's economy.
- A sold-out Harvest Classic Golf Tournament raised money to support Farm Day and other ag education programs.
- Continued providing SmartWater CSI to our members to help deter and solve ag-related thefts.
- Attended more than 35 Kings County Board of Supervisors meetings and contributed to local legislative issues. 🌱

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1831
West Sacramento, CA
95691



Purpose

Protect, preserve and enhance agriculture in Kings County

Vision

Ensure that every farmer has the right to farm and protect their heritage

Values

Our Members | Proactive Representative
Reliable | Trusted Resource

Officers

President: Kevin Robertson
Vice President: Shane Bickner
Secretary/Treasurer: Garrett Gilcrease

Directors

John Ellis	Brian Medeiros
Todd Fukuda	Michael Miya
Jon Garcia	Brian Potter
Dino Giacomazzi	Brandon Sargent
Keith Grabow	Jared Silveira
Pete Hanse	Helen Sullivan
Monty Hoggard	Frank Zonneveld

Executive Director

Dusty Ference
dusty.ference@kcfb.org

Farm Life Editorial

Amy Fienen
afienen@kcfb.org

Farm Life Advertising

Dusty Ference
kcfb@kcfb.org
(559) 584-3557

Farm Life Designer

Beth Greene

CFBF District Representative

Brian Medeiros

Contact

870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 584-3557
www.kcfb.org



Kings County Farm Bureau



@KingsFarmBureau



@KingsFarmBureau

Kings County Farm Bureau's "FarmLife" does not accept responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "FarmLife," nor does Farm Bureau accept responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than content showing authorship by an officer, director, or employee of Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

© Kings County Farm Bureau, 2022

Volunteers and presenters needed for Farm Day 2023

Farm Day 2023 is coming up on Thursday, March 16, and with it comes a unique opportunity to share your time and talents with the next generation of consumers. We need more than 200 volunteers to help make Farm Day the success it is year after year, and that includes presenters.

If you are an industry professional willing to share your area of expertise through an educational presentation, please consider joining us as a presenter. By doing so, you can help Kings County's 2,400 third graders learn basic facts about agriculture, become familiar with food and animal production, and have personal contact with farmers and livestock.

We also need volunteers to help guide classes through the various presentations, serve ice cream, and help coordinate a fun-filled field trip for all participants.

Volunteers and presenters for the March 16 event should plan to be available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Lunch will be served for all participants.

If you would like to volunteer for Farm Day, please contact the KCFB office at (559) 584-3557 or email Brett at blarman@kcfb.org.

Volunteers Needed



KINGS COUNTY
FARM DAY

Sponsors:



The Kings Fair

March 16, 2023
Kings Fairgrounds



For more information please contact Kings County Office of Education:
Ruth McFarren: (559) 589-7056 ruth.mcfarren@kingscoe.org
or Kings County Farm Bureau (559) 584-3557

Firestone

IN-FIELD SERVICE

WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

We are specially trained and fully equipped to meet your on-farm, in-field tire service and replacement needs
Call us for on-farm deliveries and on-the-spot tire repair



1-877-TRACTOR

www.gartontractor.com

Brett Garcia
Sales

4780 S. "K" Street
P.O. Box 87 • Tulare, CA 93275
(559) 686-0054 • Fax (559) 686-3718
Mobile (559) 331-3239
bgarcia@gartontractor.com

BILLINGSLEY TIRE INC

6 WEST D STREET
LEMOORE CA 93245

(559) 924-3481

www.billingsleytireinc.com



Reminder for Ag Employers: California's minimum wage increasing on Jan. 1

California's minimum wage is increasing on Jan. 1, and thanks to inflation, the increase is more than originally thought.

In 2017, California's minimum wage began a series of increases intended to raise the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2023. But when Gov. Newsom announced his \$18.1 billion Inflation Relief Package on May 12 of this year, it included an additional minimum wage increase. As a result, California's minimum wage will be \$15.50 per hour for employers of all size beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

An initiative has qualified for the 2024 ballot that proposes raising California's minimum wage to \$18 an hour. 🗳️

California Minimum Wage Increases

RATE: JANUARY 1ST	25 EMPLOYEES OR LESS	26 EMPLOYEES OR MORE
2021	\$13	\$14
2022	\$14	\$15
2023	\$15.50	\$15.50



Wine vs. Beer SHOWDOWN

GIVE THE GIFT OF WINE vs. BEER TICKETS

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Hanford Civic Auditorium
400 N. Douty St.
Hanford
21 & over

Sponsors/food & drink vendors,
contact Bre for more information:
(559) 584-3557
blarman@kcfb.org

TICKETS: kcfb.org/winevbeer
and at the KCFB officie



KCFB now accepting 2023 scholarship applications

Kings County Farm Bureau has long been a proud supporter of agriculture education, and invests in the industry's future leaders by awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. The window for the class of 2023 to apply for next year's scholarships is now open, and applications can be found at kcfb.org/scholarships.

Since the start of KCFB's scholarship program in 2007, the organization has awarded more than \$100,000 to deserving students. Scholarships are awarded to qualified students who plan to further their education at a two- or four-year accredited college, university or vocational institute and pursue a career in agriculture. The recipients are selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, determination, leadership skills and a commitment to a career in agriculture.

Scholarship applications are being accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2023. More information, qualifications and applications are available on our website, kcfb.org/scholarships. 📧



Lic. Class A & C57
#826935

Kaweah Pump, Inc.

General Engineering Contractor

SERVING:
AGRICULTURE • DAIRY • MUNICIPALITIES
INDUSTRIAL • DOMESTIC

559.747.0755

Visit: Kaweahpumpinc.com
Email: info@kaweahpump.com

DEVELOPMENT & REHABILITATION SERVICES

- Well Video Surveys
- Well Development & Yield Testing
- Up to 1000HP Development Pumps
- Well Swaging • Swabbing • Brushing
- Acid Wash & Other Chemical Treatments
- Fishing Services • Well Abandonment

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

- Agricultural Concrete Pads
- Custom Pump Facilities

MACHINE SHOP SERVICES

- Full Service Centrifugal Pump Machine Shop
- Custom Short Couple Lift Pump Fabrication
- Discharge Fabrication • Mid-Stretch Fabrication
- In-Field Welding, Pipe Repair & Fabrication

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- Complete Pump Electrical Services
- Power Company Management
- Variable Frequency Drives
- Power Relocation to New Well • Electrical Panels
- Transformer Pads • New Services • Upgrades

Serving the entire
San Joaquin Valley and
San Luis Obispo County

PUMP SERVICES

- In-House Pump Designs
- Deep Well Vertical Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Deep Well Submersible Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Custom Built Lift Pumps
- Booster Pumps • Fertilizer Injection Pumps • Domestic Pumps

Why Wait?

- Top operators are already adding solar. Why aren't you?
- Solar can save Agribusiness owners 70-75% on their power bill.
- In most cases, Ag solutions currently have a 3-5 year payback.
- Solar provides between a 20-35% return on investment.
- Ag solutions generate between \$40,000-\$50,000 annually per acre.

Make Life Better! Save More. Enjoy More.

If you're considering solar, go with the leader—Renewable Solar. We're the local leader with fully staffed teams (no outsourcing), bringing skill, scale and best-in-class solutions to maximize your Return-On-Investment. Call today.

559-410-8640 • www.RSI.SOLAR

RENEWABLE SOLAR

Exceptional People. Exceptional Performance.™

The important roles birds play on farms

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

I recently listened to a 10-lesson series called “The Role of Birds on Farms” by the Wild Farm Alliance. The lessons, designed to teach participants how to support beneficial birds and manage pest birds on farms, are given by experts in avian pest control, entomology, ornithology and conservation. They cover the latest research, tools and resources a farmer can utilize.

The following is some of the information from the lessons reviewing how to attract birds, what type of birds feed on pests, how to modify environments to attract birds, and benefits from predator birds. Research shows farmers can design habitats around crop fields that attract beneficial bird species to control insect and vertebrate pests, reducing crop damage and cost.

In 1885, Congress authorized \$5,000 to the USDA Division of Entomology to establish Economic Ornithology to study birds in the wild and ways of enhancing the survival of the species. They kept track of what birds were eating and published the findings. The results were that a large portion of most bird’s diet are crop pests. Other studies focused on observation, stomach analysis, exclusion, benefits to crops and DNA analysis. The first lessons, “Beneficial Birds Have Saved Farms Money for a Long Time,” describe a study conducted since 1976 on how birds help control codling moths in an apple orchard, increasing yields over 60 percent. Another shows that birds provide a greater benefit to almonds by removing mummy nuts from trees post-harvest versus the nut damage by birds pre-harvest, creating a positive net cost for what it would have cost to mechanically or hand remove the mummies. Results are not always immediate. A farmer might not notice the benefits immediately because colonization of the beneficial bird species can take up to three years. Benefits were greater in areas with diversified natural habitats. In agriculture, farmers do need to be able to work the land and some natural habitat is lost, but researchers believe farmers can



diversify the farm by providing or conserving natural habitat to attract different species of birds and the benefits provided will save farms money. In “complex” habitats, which include tree lines, hedgerow and riparian strips, the bird species’ richness was greater than near “simple” habitats, which are bare or weedy field edges, but even a simple T-post was shown to reduce pests, increase yields or reduce damage and cost.

Other sessions cover how many and what kinds of pests birds eat and the simple things like wooden nest boxes and perches that support birds. When analyzed, the feces of swallows and western blue birds indicate these insectivores eat herbivores like caterpillars, true buds and mosquitos, and less predator insects or spiders. In a study where live caterpillars were put out, two and a half times more caterpillars were eaten if nest boxes were placed near the field. Fifty percent of blue birds’ feces samples contained leafhoppers and sharpshooters. In a walnut orchard with severe bark cracks, researchers observed at least 10 bird species feeding on codling moth larva off the bark of the trees when supported with a bird habitat. A barn owl’s diet consists of 99% rodent pest. Farms near more local and landscaped habitat to support birds resulted in more predators. More predator birds equaled more predation in studies conducted. In

"BIRDS" continued on page 6

Ag Commissioner’s Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

Cotton Growers: Pink Bollworm Cotton Plowdown compliance deadline is Dec. 20

Contributed by Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

It’s that time of year again when we work together to ensure the 48,000 acres of cotton planted in Kings County are brought into compliance with the Pink Bollworm Cotton Plowdown regulations before the start of the host-free period. Plowdown regulations are an integral part of one of the most successful and longest running (started in 1967) integrated pest control programs commonly referred to as the Pink Bollworm (PBW) Program.

The enforcement of cultural controls, which include planting dates and host-free periods, coupled with sterile PBW moth release, pheromone treatments and the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton in Southern California has allowed this program to achieve phenomenal results, preventing the establishment of PBW in the cotton growing areas of California. The program is primarily funded by the cotton growers of California through an assessment on every cotton bale ginned. The portion of the program our office is responsible for is the surveying

of all cotton growing areas of the county to ensure compliance with cotton plowdown and the host-free period regulations. Our inspectors will be contacting you regarding any issues they find during the survey and we look forward to working together to achieve compliance.

For a field to be in compliance with the regulations, shredding and tillage, including the uprooting of stubs and incorporation of host material into the soil, must be completed by Dec. 20, 2022. Alternatively, the permit for reduced tillage was approved by CDFA again this year, and with permission from the Ag Commissioner, a reduced tillage system can be implemented by growers under certain conditions. Under the reduced tillage system, cotton destruction by shredding is still required; however, instead of full incorporation into the soil, the plants need only be tilled in a manner which dislodges the cotton plant root from the soil and ensures plant regrowth will not occur.

Requests to use the reduced tillage option must be received by the ag commissioner’s office no later than 10 days prior to beginning the use of the reduced tillage system. Please contact the Kings County Ag Commissioner’s office at (559) 852-2830 or agstaff@co.kings.ca.us to submit your request to use reduced tillage. Before your request can be approved, a meeting with an inspector will be held to determine if the manner in which the reduced tillage system is being implemented meets the permit requirements.

Upon completion of plowdown requirements, it’s important that the host-free period is maintained until the March planting date; any volunteer cotton must be destroyed. A plowdown or host-free period violation can result in a base fine of \$500 per field, plus \$5 per acre not in compliance; subsequent violations can result in a fine of \$1,000 per field, plus \$10 per acre not in compliance.

Please contact the ag commissioner’s office at (559) 852-2830 for additional information. 🐦

"BIRDS" continued from page 5

established habitats containing bigger and older trees where more predators are likely to colonize, predation is greater, especially in clear landscapes. A more diversified landscape equaled a more diverse bird community, decreased crop damage and increased yields and profits.

Research shows a monoculture landscape supported bird species considered pests. Monoculture environments supported birds such as starling or blackbirds, species that do well around humans. Starlings and blackbirds are also


associated with livestock and carry higher food safety risks. Insectivorous birds that use nesting boxes do not. The risk of these species is reduced with un-grazed semi-natural landscaped areas near the site. Different crop types required different types of landscapes. Some beneficial birds are ground gleaners or lower canopy foragers. Songbirds in strawberries are a good example. Strawberry fields near more diversified farms or landscapes experienced decreased bird cost while strawberry fields surrounded by other strawberry fields created a monoculture environment.

Sessions include management tools to control birds. Farmers most usually use frightening devices such as propane cannons or try shooting. Studies showed these devices and other deterrents did work as long as they were implemented during the appropriate time in the growing season, usually when damage is more likely to occur by birds considered pests. Employing these tools throughout the entire growing season did not increase the effectiveness, but farmers are encouraged to incorporate these practices, along with designing and conservation of natural habitat. Insect and rodent-eating birds supported by nest boxes, buildings and perches are other topics covered in the series of videos available.

The website allaboutbirds.org is a site a person can use to find out the right birdhouse tool most likely to entice the bird you want to attract. You can select a bird species for your region and habitat type. The American robin, house sparrow, European staling, western blue bird, tree swallow and ash-throated flycatcher are all insect-eating birds supported by nest boxes. The presence of raptors is correlated with decreased pest activity and increased yields. A perch placed along a levee or farm roads reduces maintenance cost and increases crop yields. The reduced ground squirrel and gopher activity cost savings is

estimated at \$7,500 per levee mile. Over the course of a year, a barn owl family of four can consume 3-4,000 mice in row crops or 3-4,000 gophers in vineyards and orchards. They usually hunt within 500 feet of the nest box, but are known to travel 1.5 miles. During the breeding cycle (February to May), a study showed gopher populations increased by 18 percent verses a vineyard with nesting boxes, which experienced a 14 percent decrease in pest populations. Raptors, hawks, falcons, eagles, harriers and kites' presence can vary by season and environment. These birds are out more during the day controlling squirrels and can influence prey behavior. They reduce the presence and pest density due to pests needing to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, resulting in less foraging and damage to crops. Farmers should avoid putting nest boxes and perches near roads or busy areas. Exclude entry of predators to boxes with guards, protect them from heat and cold, and clean them out seasonally.

The studies show farms with conserved natural habitats experienced the most benefits from birds, while farms that removed non-crop vegetation face higher levels of crop damage and foodborne pathogens. Farmers can attract beneficial birds with nest boxes and T-post if the natural habitat is not available. Overall, birds reduced crop pests like insects and rodents with no negative effect on crops themselves. They mitigate food safety risk, decrease crop damage and increase yields and profits. Other reasons to do this is to be in the vicinity and enjoy the activities of amazing creatures. You can view all the videos and learn ways to benefit your farm while creating a landscape that attract beneficial birds at wildfarmalliance.org, and click on the Resources tab for more about the role of birds on farms. If you have any questions, please contact the Kings County Ag Commissioners office at 559-852-2830. 🌿



DIAS LAW FIRM, INC.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

502 W. Grangeville Blvd.
Hanford, California 93230
Telephone (559) 585-7330
Facsimile (559) 585-7335
www.diaslaw.com

Michael A. Dias • Jonette M. Montgomery
Sarah M. Hacker • Steven E. Alfieris
Ella Floresca • David M. Lange
Dustin J. Moses

Attorneys at Law

Jimmy J. Rodriguez • Alicia D. Wrest
Of Counsel



bressler & company

Providing accounting and payroll services to save your business time and money.

559.924.1225
bresslercompany.com

OUTSOURCE YOUR ACCOUNTING TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY.

#FINANCIALFUTURE



PACIFIC AG

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
License # 0C84245

Allow us to utilize our background, knowledge, and expertise to go to work for you...

Commercial | Farm | Workers' Compensation | Tribal | Life & Health | Employee Benefits | Home | Auto & More

Hanford 559.584.3391 Corcoran 559.992.1245 Chowchilla 559.665.3434

WATER NEWS

you can use

PROPERTY VALUES REMAIN HIGH IN SPITE OF SGMA CONCERNS

By Amy D. Fienen

The implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) has raised a number of concerns for local farmers, the latest being its effect on property values. The good news is that, at least for now, the assessed value of ag land is holding steady.

Kings County Assessor/Clerk/Recorder Kristine Lee said that while SGMA may determine land use and affect the value on a parcel-by-parcel basis, she is not yet seeing any significant fallout.

“We’re not seeing a huge effect from SGMA in the market right now, but we’re watching very carefully to see what happens,” Lee said. “Overall, land values are still very high.”

Land use is changing as the result of the state’s historic drought, Lee said, and the county is seeing a substantial increase in solar farms. While the county has more than \$3.4 billion of assessed agricultural land, there is now \$79 million assessed to solar farms. As a devastating water shortage makes farming difficult, landowners are looking for alternative sources of income for their land. Solar is a far more profitable option than fallowed fields, which Lee said have increased on the county’s west side.

These changing land uses are what’s behind some of the fluctuating property values.

“SGMA and its effect on water availability will drive the land use, so the use of the land is going to control the value,” Lee said. “What really depends to us when making assessments is the use of the land. Solar or dry farming will assess differently than crops needing water.”

As the included graphic shows, 40 acres of land will have drastically different valuations based on whether it’s farmed, fallowed or used for solar.

The three value sets the county uses when making annual assessments are:

1. the Proposition 13 value. Prop 13 establishes base year values, restricts the rate of increase on assessments to two percent annually, and limits property taxes to one percent of the assessed value.
2. market value. Lee said the current market is stable, but that could change with the economy and SGMA restrictions.
3. the Williamson Act. The value of Williamson Act properties is determined by calculating the land rent minus expenses divided by the combination of the state-provided rate and the risk rate. Risk rates are higher during drought years, Lee explained.

With the annual property valuation date of Jan. 1 approaching, Lee said she is not yet seeing a downturn in sales prices.

“So far, the values of land are holding pretty steady, and they have been for the past few years,” she said.



A CHANGE IN LAND USE MAY CAUSE FLUCTUATIONS IN VALUES

40-acre example:

Agricultural Crop Land	Solar Farm	Fallowed Land
(\$153.58 per acre — \$35.38 per acre) / (5.8865%) = \$2,008 per acre	(\$558.50 per acre — \$33.51) / (5.8865%) = \$8,919 per acre	(\$5.50 per acre — \$.27) / (5.8865%) = \$88.84 per acre
Total value of \$80,320*	Total value of \$356,742*	Total value of \$3,553*

*The value of Williamson Act properties is determined by calculating the land rent minus expenses divided by the combination of the state-provided rate and the risk rate.





CARVER
PUMP SERVICE
Serving The Central Valley

**CELEBRATING
OVER 40 YEARS**



Lic #547257

(855)622-7837 TOLL FREE

DOMESTIC & IRRIGATION PUMPS • SALES • REPAIRS



SINCE 1976



www.carver-pump.com

STOCKPILING FOR EXTENDED STORAGE OF INHULL ALMONDS

california
almonds[®]
Almond Board of California



The key to successful stockpile management is controlling moisture content and insects, which requires commitment and close coordination among growers and hullers/shellers.

Scan the QR code to learn about best practices for stockpile management to prevent aflatoxins and minimize the formation of concealed damage.



FRIENDS *of* FARM BUREAU

DIAMOND



Nationwide[®]
is on your side



Platinum



Gold

All Valley Printing
Bacome Insurance Agency
Daniel C. Salas Custom Harvesting
Dias Law Firm Inc.
J.C. Lansdowne Inc.

Leopoldo's Farm Service Inc.
M Green & Company LLP
Mackey & Mackey Insurance Agency
Stone Land Co.

Tachi Palace Casino Resort
The Wonderful Company
Verdegaal Brothers

Silver

Danell Custom Harvesting
Four Seasons Ag Services
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP
Innovative Ag Services, LLC
J.G. Boswell Company Inc.
Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP

Meras Water Solutions
Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies
Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients
Pacific Ag Insurance
Rain for Rent
Southern California Edison

Stifel Investment Services
S&W Seed Company
Trinkle Ag Flying
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Bronze

Billingsley Tire Inc.
Bressler & Company
Certified Public Accountants
CalWest Rain
Garton Tractor

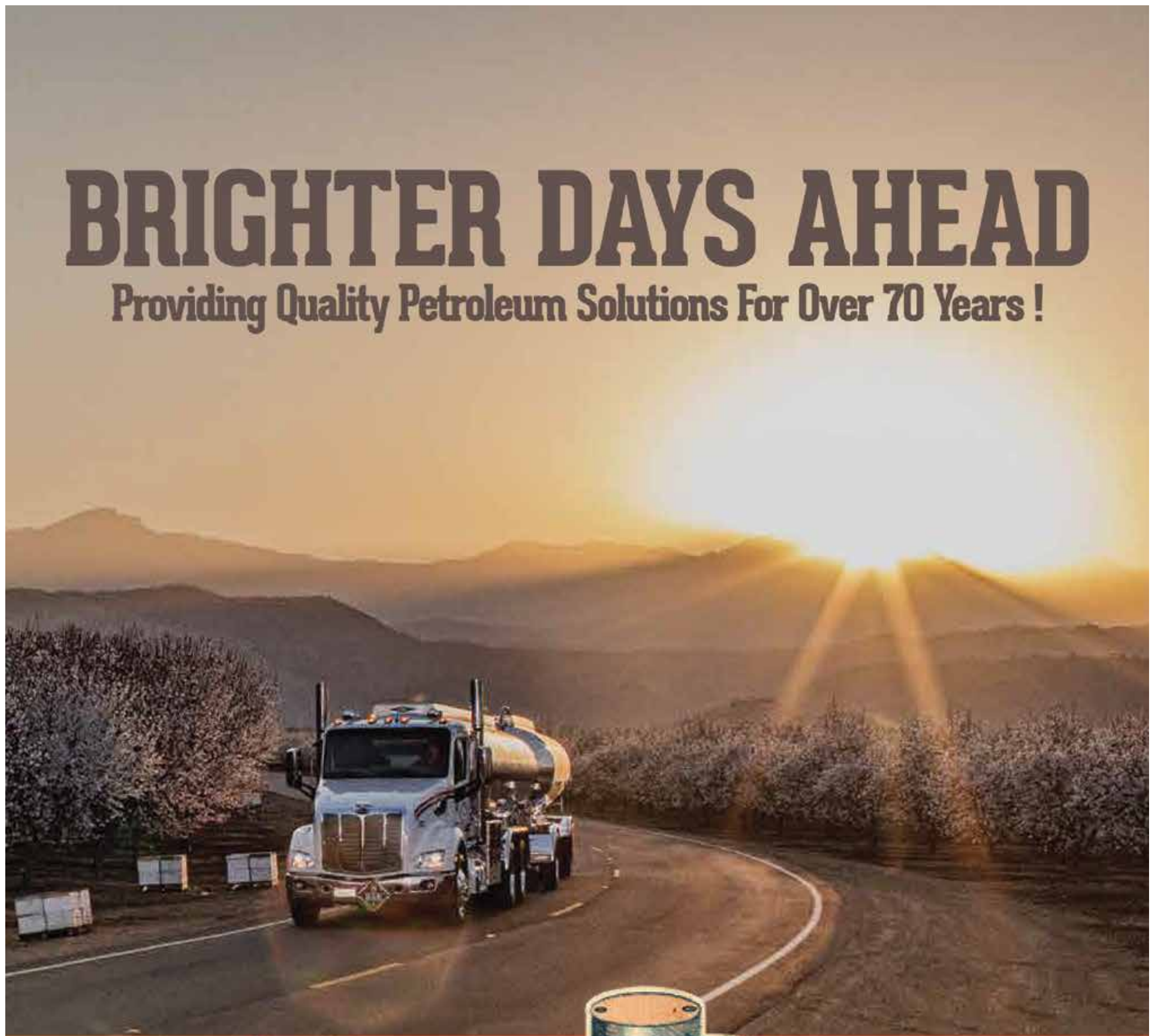
Granger Water Specialties
JP Honey Farms
Keller Motors
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.
Laguna Irrigation District

Pearson Realty Inc.
Schuil & Associates
Sullivan Farming LLC
Torrent Resources
Tulare Lake Compost

Valley Ag Spraying
Weinberger, Fukuda, and Associates Agricultural Consulting, Inc.

BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Providing Quality Petroleum Solutions For Over 70 Years!



559.651.1760 Office 559.651.8156 Fax

Kings County Rural Crime Report

Investigations continue in thefts of copper wire, porta-potties and ATVs

Contributed by Sr. Deputy Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of November, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force stayed busy in the northeast end of the county investigating copper and ATV thefts. We continued working the investigation into the ATVs stolen from Excelsior Farming in the area of 7th and Denver avenues. We have identified a crew in the London area in Tulare County that are the suspects in these ATV thefts, and are working on getting this stolen property back and suspects into custody. This same crew from London stole an additional ATV from Excelsior Farming and we were able to recover two ATVs that were reported stolen. In addition to recovering the ATVs, we were able to take one of the suspects into custody. He was identified as Alfonso Aguilar and remains in custody on local theft charges.




Copper and wire thefts, as well as porta potty thefts, are staying steady. We are continuing to work several leads into the porta-potty thefts with ties to Riverside and Fresno counties. We believe we have identified a group of individuals that may be the ones committing wire thefts in the north end of the county, and will continue working these leads to bring the suspects into custody.



Several pieces of farm equipment were stolen from the area of Highway 41 and Laurel Avenue in the Stratford area during November. Throughout our investigation, we were able to locate and recover some of the equipment that was located south of the Lemoore area.

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. 🙌

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



NEEDHAM

AG SERVICES

Soil Amendments:
Gypsum, Limestone, Dolomite, Sulfur and Compost




Solution Gypsum:
Machines and Silos


Road Dust Control:
Dust Off and Road Oil: SC800, SC250 and Dust Oil

Duarte Potted Trees and Vines:
Almonds, Pistachios, Grapevines and Kiwis


Tree Stakes, Pistachio Rods and Vineyard Posts

Edward Needham
559-977-7282
Ed@NeedhamAgServices.com



Find out more at
NeedhamAgServices.com





“WHEN I WANTED TO
TAKE THE NEXT STEP
AT MY OPERATION,
FARM CREDIT WEST WAS
*up for the
challenge.*”

SARAH SAMPLE

Apiarist | Lindsay, CA
Farm Credit West Customer

As a grower or processor, you're always adapting to changing times. Whether keeping up with shifting markets, upgrading technology, or expanding to support the next generation, Farm Credit West is ready to help. We love that our customer-owners think outside the box, and work with you to weigh the risks and rewards. **Because sometimes, the best way forward is the one no one else has tried.**

DINUBA
559.591.9378

HANFORD
559.584.2681

TULARE
559.684.1478

[FarmCreditWest.com](https://www.FarmCreditWest.com)

 **FARM CREDIT WEST®**

Committed. Experienced. Trusted.

