

**INSIDE**FARM DAY 2023
PGS. 2-3

Frank Zonneveld honored with President's Award

By Amy D. Fienen

Frank Zonneveld exemplifies what it looks like to selflessly serve one's community, having spent decades giving of his time and talents in support of various organizations. Kings County Farm Bureau is lucky to count itself amongst those organizations, and is recognizing Zonneveld for the 20 years he has served on the board of directors.

Last month, KCFB President Kevin Robertson presented Zonneveld, one of the board's most senior acting members, with the President's Award, which recognizes a person or business that has played an important role in advocating for local agriculture.

"Frank's service and dedication to the board of the Kings County Farm Bureau is an example for his fellow board members," Robertson said. "His knowledge, insight and experience are great assets to the board and to KCFB's membership."

The Zonneveld family has been farming in Kings County since 1973, having started with 20 acres and 200 cows. After his late father, John, passed the farm down to Frank and his brothers John and Jack, they grew it to include five dairies with approximately 8,500 cows. In addition to the dairies, they grow pistachios, almonds, walnuts, cotton



Frank Zonneveld

and corn. Zonneveld credits their success to hiring good people and getting out and working alongside them.

When he's not working on the farm, Zonneveld is working in the community.

"I believe in serving: my industry, my community, my church, my family," Zonneveld said. "You have to belong to something and do something worthwhile. The Farm Bureau is my industry service."

Since becoming a KCFB director in 2002, helping at Farm Day has become his favorite annual event. Having worked as a presenter, group leader and food preparer, he's seen the third-grade field trip from every side. He recalls watching a Harris Ranch presentation with a group of third-graders when he witnessed one young boy have a moment of clarity.

"You mean the meat we eat comes from cows?" the boy asked in surprise.

Zonneveld said the moment almost brought a tear to his eye, as it helped him realize the importance of what Farm Bureau does.

Since the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014, water has been at the

"Zonneveld" continued on page 7

KCFB hosts Rawhide Member Appreciation Night April 26

Kings County Farm Bureau is inviting our members to join them at the Visalia Rawhide game on Wednesday, April 26 as a thank you for your support. Each member will receive up to four free tickets to watch the Rawhide take on the Lake Elsinore Storm at Valley Strong Ballpark at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Lawrence Tractor Company, the evening is an opportunity for us to bring together all our members and supporters, without whom we couldn't continue KCFB's important work.

"Kings County Farm Bureau has been advocating for farmers and ranchers for more than 100 years, and many of our member families have been with us for generations," said KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference. "Your annual membership helps provide the support we need to protect your right to farm, and to continue that legacy for future generations. Hosting Rawhide Member Appreciation Night is a small way for us to express our gratitude for allowing us to continue working on your behalf."

Tickets for the game are available in both the Grandstand and Pasture sections. Please visit the KCFB office at 870



Greenfield Ave. in Hanford between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday to select your seats and pick up your tickets.

If you have any questions about this members only event, please call our office at (559) 584-3557. We look forward to seeing you at Valley Strong Ballpark on April 26. 🍌



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Plans for Farm Day 2023 are coming together

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

We are about six weeks away from Farm Day 2023, and planning could not be going better. We are only five industry presenters short of a full roster and have almost half the volunteers needed to make the agricultural field trip the fun experience it always is for Kings County's third-graders. This year's industry presenter lineup is phenomenal, with a great mix of long-time and first-time experts offering their knowledge to the county's third-graders. Even more exciting, this year we have 34 schools, 100 classes, and 2,189 students attending Farm Day.



This year, there is excitement for the program unlike any year I remember, and KCFB's leadership is proud to continue partnering with the Kings County Office of Education and the Kings Fair. All three groups see Farm Day as an essential educational resource teaching not only about the agriculture industry, but also a part of Kings County history.

There is still the opportunity to volunteer if you'd like. Volunteers are needed to help kids plant lettuce they take home and can watch grow, hand out a mid-day snack or monitor tour times. If you are interested, please get in touch with the KCFB office at (559) 584-3557, or visit our web site, kcfb.org/farm-day-2023.



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WATER NEWS

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SECOND SNOW SURVEY OF THE SEASON PRODUCES PROMISING NUMBERS

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted its second snow survey of the season at Phillips Station on Feb. 1. The manual survey recorded 85.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 33.5 inches, which is 193 percent of average for this location on Feb. 1. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast.

Statewide, the snowpack is 205 percent of average for this date. The state snowpack usually peaks by April 1.

The snowpack received a significant boost from one of the wettest three-week periods on record in California, following the driest three-year period on record. California also experienced above average precipitation in December just months after one of the hottest heatwaves in state history in September.

DWR's electronic readings from 130 snow sensors placed throughout the state indicate the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 33.7 inches, or 205

percent of average for this date. While those results are currently outpacing the record 1982-83 season, two months still remain. Every day it does not rain or snow, the conditions are drying. If California returns to dry conditions and the next two months lack additional precipitation, like what the state experienced last season, a significant snowpack early in the winter can quickly disappear. Periodic rain and snow over the next several months will be key to get the biggest water supply benefit from the state's snowpack without posing additional flood risks.

STATE WATER PROJECT ALLOCATIONS INCREASED

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced in late January that recent storms will allow the State Water Project (SWP) to boost deliveries to 29 public water agencies serving 27 million Californians. Based on the amount of water captured and stored in recent weeks, DWR now expects to deliver 30 percent of requested water supplies—or 1.27 million acre-feet—in 2023, up from the initial five percent an-

nounced on Dec. 1. The allocation increase is the direct result of extreme weather in late December and nine atmospheric rivers in early January that helped fill reservoirs and dramatically increase the Sierra Nevada snowpack. The SWP's two largest reservoirs (Oroville and San Luis) have gained a combined 1.62 million acre-feet of water in storage—roughly enough to provide water to 5.6 million households for a year. While water year 2023 began with below average precipitation, conditions shifted to extreme above average conditions.

The updated SWP delivery forecast takes into account current reservoir storage and is based on a conservative runoff forecast. It does not take into account the current Sierra Nevada snowpack. DWR will conduct additional snow surveys on March 1, April 1, and May 1 and may further update the allocation as the water supply outlook becomes clearer with the new data.

PINE FLAT LAKE WATER LEVELS

On Feb. 1, the Pine Flat Lake water level was 857.05 feet MSL, up from 791.4 feet MSL at the same time last month. Levels for Feb. 1, 2022 were 792.54 feet MSL, and Feb. 1, 2021 saw reported levels at 768.74 MSL. 🌱



March 16th Kings Fairgrounds

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How do farmers capitalize on carbon markets?

Special to “Farm Life”

Contributed by Nathan Heeringa, CCA, CPAg/PCA, TSP
Innovative Ag Services, Principal Agronomist

In recent years, the scientific community has increased its warnings on the effects of global warming, and the looming disasters that will occur if individuals, businesses, and governments do not act. Consumers are responding with changes to their consumption habits, and the agricultural industry will need to respond to meet these markets.

TRENDS IN TODAY’S SOCIETY

When grocery shopping, consumers have historically looked for the best available product at the best price. While saving money is generally a primary goal, shoppers are increasingly willing to spend more for a product that they perceive to be better in some way. These improved items are considered “value-added” products. Usually, the increase in value is derived from an intangible quality, not an improvement in quality or nutritional value. As value-added products become increasingly popular, a store will often devote less space to selling the original base commodity, and the more profitable value-added products take precedence. For example, a grocery store that once sold eggs produced by conventional, inexpensive methods, may only start offering “organic, cage-free” eggs in response to market demands. These eggs are more expensive to produce but have a value-added property that consumers demand. If that standard becomes the only option, either the agricultural industry is forced to supply them at a loss, or the consumer will be forced to spend more on eggs.

Many agriculture markets and producers are addressing carbon emissions and global warming through a voluntary system. With this model, the producer voluntarily implements the added environmental value in anticipation of the customer paying more for the value-added products, just as the consumer pays for the added cost of an organic egg. However, some states, like California, have decided that voluntary efforts are not moving quickly enough, and have begun to implement regulations to mandate the state’s priorities and values upon agricultural

producers. California now requires laying hens to be housed in a cage-free design for all eggs sold in the state of California, even those produced in other states. This has removed consumer choice from stores and resulted in rising egg prices.

REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

The State of California has been aggressive in addressing global warming in agriculture. The California dairy industry is now required by the state to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 under Senate Bill 1383. The dairy industry is investing millions of dollars to comply with these regulations, but not receiving an increase in price as a result. When a localized law and cost is incurred, it is very difficult to pass this cost to the market.

International corporations have been leading the way in private sector investment to address climate change. They usually are the first to be regulated by federal and state laws, and efforts to quantify and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions prior to heavy regulations have been occurring for several years. Many private sector companies have chosen to pledge carbon neutrality voluntarily, both to be compliant with impending regulations and to create a value-added product or service. This allows them to market the product while its value can be maximized before it becomes a regulatory standard. Carbon neutral products are a hot topic, and to meet these goals, most large companies have focused on reducing their own emissions before buying voluntary carbon credits.

Quantifying global warming on a local and global scale has been a huge challenge, yet most of the scientific community attributes increases in global temperatures to increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. The measurement used to estimate the effects of an activity on climate change is the mTCO2E: one metric ton of CO2 gas (or its equivalent). Consequently, carbon credits represent the same units and represent activities that can either remove CO2 from the atmosphere or avoid its release. Establishing carbon credit is very technically challenging because CO2 has a global effect. It is the same across the globe and must meet international standards. These standards are maintained by prominent carbon credit registries, like the Climate Action Reserve, Gold Standard and Verra.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

Last year, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allocated over \$3 billion to various entities under the Climate Smart Commodities Program. In addition, the USDA is funding many other environmental incentive programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Services and the Farm Service Agency.

The focus of the federal government has shifted from production goals to environmental goals and is attempting to create additional value-added standards around carbon neutrality. Some states have been working ahead of the federal government on these sorts of programs; California has been at the forefront of the environmental value-added movement. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has allocated over \$1 billion of investments through the Office of Environmental Farm & Innovation over the past five years, largely to address global warming.

CURRENT CARBON MARKET PROGRAMS

The market for carbon credits is increasing, and agriculture is well positioned to be the supplier. Crop production is the result of photosynthesis, by which a plant uses the sun’s energy to remove CO2 from the atmosphere and create sugars and tissues. These activities sequester CO2 in the soil and can result in greater sequestration than released by farming activities. There are several approved protocols that allow farmers to generate carbon credits on the international registries; most of these opportunities are based on the large cropping systems found in the Midwest. Protocols and markets are being developed to include wider variety of carbon credits that agriculture can provide, and producers will need

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“Carbon Markets” continued on page 7

Safety training begins with the employer

Contributed by Janet Eckles, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

Last year, the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC) office completed multiple Pesticide Use Monitoring inspections on growers and pest control businesses. Most of the non-compliances documented were for violations in worker safety. Worker safety consists of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), handler training, emergency medical care posting, decontamination facilities, field postings, and safe equipment, among others. These non-compliances can be avoided with the proper training of the requirements in Title 3 California Code of Regulations 6724 (3CCR 6724), safety procedures, and by the employee abiding by those training requirements.

All employees that handle pesticides are required to have an annual training. Handling pesticides includes applying, mixing, loading, transferring, and assisting with applications. These training programs provide the necessary knowledge and requirements of the 23 topics in 3CCR 6724. The topics cover everything from PPE to signs and symptoms of overexposure. All training must be done before an employee is allowed to handle pesticides. The Kings CAC can help supply you with the proper documentation and training materials if needed. Pesticide label training on all the pesticides used throughout the year is also a requirement. A great way of doing the pesticide label training is when the employee is using it for the first time. You can document this by going over the label with them and having them sign and date the removable label or the recommendation (if applicable); just keep this paperwork with their training records.

The person conducting the handler training must be a qualified trainer. A qualified trainer is a private applicator, certified commercial applicator, county inspector, or other trainer approved by the Director of Pesticide Regulation. The Kings CAC offers pesticide handler training classes every January and March and are available to help with any training needs.

As an employer, you should always follow up with your employees' use of PPE and ensure they are following the training requirements they were given. By supplying this training, it gives the employee the knowledge of what the requirements are for all the pesticides being used. Handlers should begin the workday with new clean coveralls, gloves, safety glasses, eyewash, and a decontamination facility at the application and mix/load site. Having extra PPE available at the worksite is also a good choice just in case it is needed.

With a complete training program in place, being an involved employer and a conscientious employee, these non-compliances can be avoided should you get inspected. The Kings CAC is always available, either at our office or on-site, to help with compliance of these worker safety areas. We also provide compliance inspections if needed. Please contact our office for more information. 🐝

Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer



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“Zonneveld” continued from page 1

forefront of KCFB’s efforts. Zonneveld stepped into the role of the board’s resident water expert, having served on several water boards. He has served 20 years on the boards of both the Kings River Water Association and the Laguna Irrigation District, with multiple presidential terms at both. He previously served on the boards for the Delta View Water Association and Independent Ditch Company. As KCFB’s representative to the California Farm Bureau Federation’s water committee, he shares his vast knowledge of the county’s water industry at the state level.

Zonneveld’s commitment to the community isn’t limited to the ag industry. At Hanford Christian Reformed Church, he has served as a deacon, elder, treasurer and Sunday school and catechism teacher. He joined the board of directors at Sierra Village Retirement Home in 2016, and is serving his second six-year term. When his children were school aged, he served on the school boards of Hanford Christian and Central Valley Christian.

Frank and his wife, Janna, have been married for 41 years and have three children and eight grandchildren.

During two decades on the KCFB board, Zonneveld has bid farewell to some of the board’s veteran directors and welcomed a new generation of agricultural leaders. He said he’s enjoyed working with varied ages and personalities, which make for an enthusiastic, well-rounded group.

“I’m glad there’s a next generation interested in serving and providing new ideas to keep the industry moving forward,” Zonneveld said. 🙌

“Carbon Markets” continued from page 4

to consider the potential revenue stream that their operations can generate from voluntary carbon credits in the future.

The value-added proposition of producing these climate smart commodities should be of great interest to farmers. To capitalize on that market, they will need to work with their buyers and industry associations to get their commodity recognized as climate smart and sold for a higher value. There is not a current standard for a ‘climate smart commodity,’ but the \$3 billion dollars in funding from the USDA is expected to expedite this soon. The USDA’s approach to this is like the organic label, yet there is a much larger market for a climate smart commodity. If an organic labeled commodity can demand a 20% higher price, what price will a climate smart commodity demand?

NEXT STEPS

So, how does agriculture move forward with these developments? A critical step will be in evaluating the farming operation and quantifying the grower’s carbon footprint. The USDA and other organizations are developing international standards to quantify footprints. There will soon be funding to help farmers generate a carbon farm plan that does just that. Growers should be

proactive on this front, but do it in conjunction with their commodity buyer or industry group. Most importantly, when creating a carbon farm plan, growers must remember that the financial incentive is regarding improvement, so the initial carbon farm plan should reflect current operating methods, not an ideal or future methods.

Farmers should also evaluate production practices that would result in carbon emission reduction and an earned carbon credit. Ideally, this would be done without decreased yield or increased operating costs. Farmers should ensure that these changes result in a higher value commodity or a carbon credit that outweighs the opportunity cost. It is also important to ensure that the changes implemented are approved by an international registry for the crop. Without that accreditation, carbon credit buyers will be hesitant to purchase any claimed carbon credit.

Ultimately, with the amount of money that the federal government, state governments and private industry have invested into addressing greenhouse gas emissions, we expect massive changes in 2023 and the years to come. We encourage farmers to be proactive and discuss this within their management team, buyers, marketing, and industry associations to ensure they are not missing any opportunities. 🙌

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KCFB 2023 scholarship applications being accepted



Kings County Farm Bureau offers scholarships to students based upon academic achievement, extracurricular activities, determination, leadership skills, and a commitment to a career in agriculture. This year, the committee will use discretion on the number and amount of awards to be distributed. In addition, scholarship recipients will receive a complimentary one-year collegiate membership in the Kings County Farm Bureau.

Who is eligible?

Students must be entering a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, or vocational education institute with the intent to pursue a career in the agricultural industry. Students must be a resident of Kings County or attend a Kings County high school.

Requirements & Recommendations:

- Official high school transcript (MUST be attached to submitted application)
- MUST have 2.5 minimum G.P.A. at the time of application submission
- Two letters of recommendation (MUST be attached to submitted application. Cannot be from applicant's relative)
- MUST be pursuing a career in the agricultural industry
- It is recommended that applicant demonstrate a history of service to Kings County agriculture or the Kings County Farm Bureau through some form of volunteerism or community service project
- It is recommended that applicant's parent, employer or relative be a Kings County Farm Bureau member

Deadline: March 1, 2023

Applications must be received by **4:30 p.m. in the KCFB office or postmarked by March 1, 2023**. Email applications sent to kcfb@kcfb.org will be accepted by the deadline date and time. Make sure that application and all required documents (letters of recommendations, transcripts, etc.) are scanned and attached to email in PDF format. The scholarship application can be downloaded from the KCFB website, kcfb.org.

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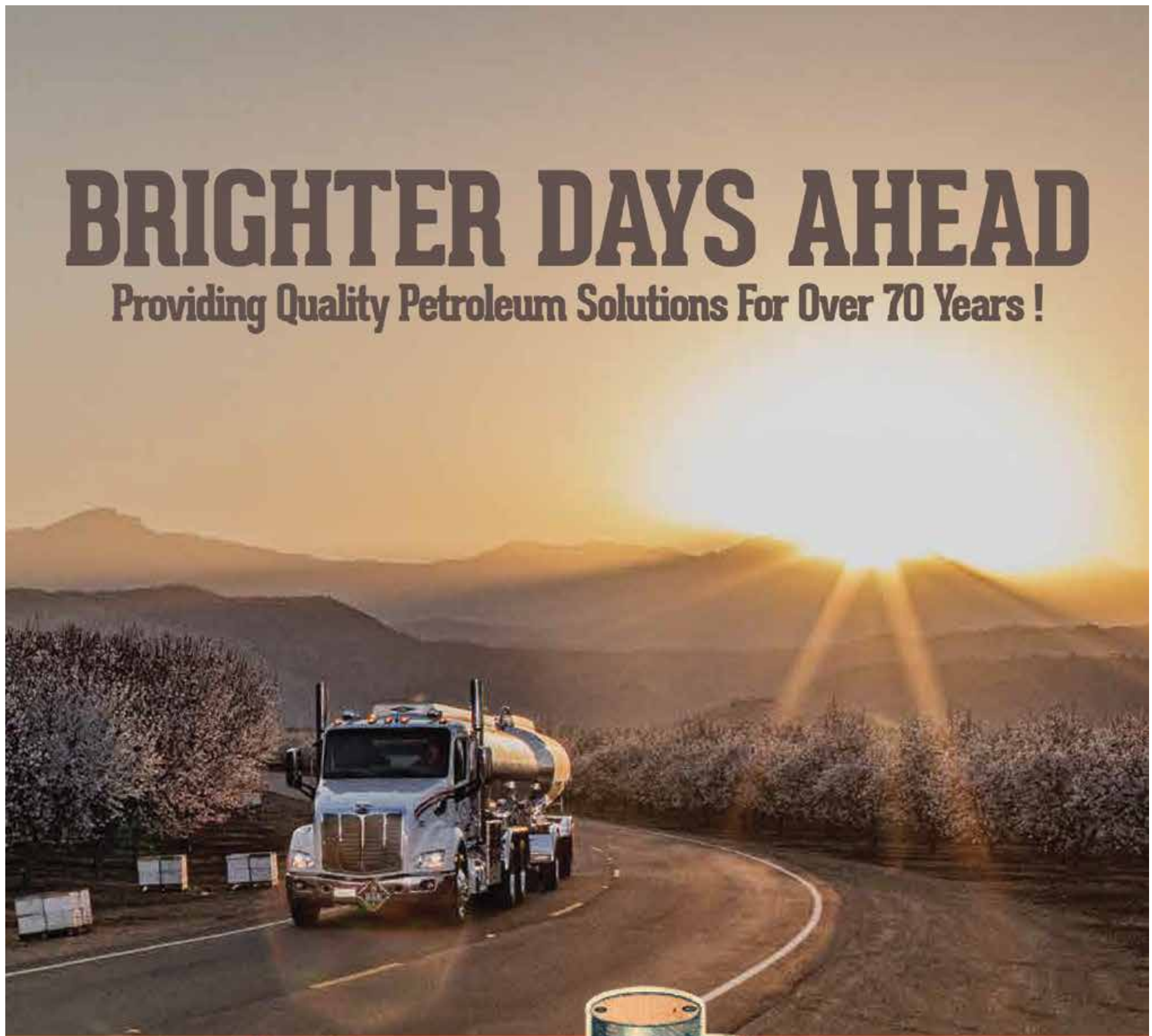
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Kings County Rural Crime Report

Unit investigating theft of high value tractor, beehives

Contributed by Sr. Deputy Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of January, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force stayed busy investigating diesel, copper wire and heavy equipment theft. We have been looking into the theft of a \$200,000 John Deere tractor stolen from 15th and Newton avenues. We have looked for similar tractors being sold online, but unfortunately, the tractor wasn't reported stolen until two weeks after the theft as it was initially thought to have been misplaced.

We saw a rise in red diesel theft near the southern end of the county in January. Additionally, 84 beehives were stolen near the area of Grangeville and 4th avenues overnight late in the month. The value to replace the beehives is estimated to be approximately \$20,000, along with a \$16,000 loss of pollination. We are continuing to work on any leads we receive.

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

California dairy districts seek ambassadors to serve as 2023 Dairy Princesses

Each year, an exceptional group of young women are selected to represent California's dairy farm families who contribute to making the state number one for milk production in the U.S. These Dairy Princess ambassadors and alternates are selected during events at districts throughout the state, where they showcase speaking skills, knowledge of dairy and plans to represent the industry during their one-year term. The 2023 contests kick off in April and will run through June.



Caitlin Mendes (left), the current District 5 Central Dairy Princess, with former Dairy Princess Ericka Simas (center) and Alternate Dairy Princess Jocelyn Fagundes (right).

The deadline for applications from District 5 Central, which covers the Hanford area, is Friday, May 19. The contest is scheduled for Friday, June 30.

California Dairy Princesses serve as industry advocates in their home district and throughout the state, supporting the reputation of milk and dairy products through appearances at various events. Dairy Princesses and alternates participate in a mandatory orientation/training where they receive professional development coaching.

The California Dairy Princess Program has been in effect since 1958. Currently seven districts hold local contests, which represent 48 counties in the state of California. The California Dairy Princess contest is supported by California dairy producers through the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB). Information and application forms can be accessed at californiadairyprincessroom.com/ca-dairy-princesses. Additional questions can be directed to Anastasia Stuyt, California Dairy Princess Coordinator, at dairyprincess@cmab.net. 📞

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KCFB's Rawhide Member Appreciation Night



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