



## INSIDE



NEW LAWS IN 2023  
PG. 7

## Volunteers needed to help make Farm Day 2023 a success

By Amy D. Fienen

If you're willing to share your time and talents with the next generation of consumers, please consider joining us as a volunteer or presenter at Farm Day 2023. Coming up on Thursday, March 16, Farm Day requires more than 200 volunteers and presenters to help make it the success it is year after year.

Kings County Farm Bureau, the Kings County Office of Education and the Kings Fair team up annually for Farm Day, an educational enrichment program for all third-graders in the county. Farm Day brings together 2,400 students and their teachers for the opportunity to learn basic facts about agriculture, become familiar with food and animal production, and have personal contact with farmers and livestock.

KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference said Farm Day gives local children a new perspective on the benefits of growing up in the Central Valley, which grows much of the world's food supply.

*"Volunteers" continued on page 3*



Local 4-H members presented their dog agility training program at Farm Day 2022. File photo

## A wet start to the winter could lead to a dry spring

By Amy D. Fienen

The season's first snow survey, conducted on Jan. 3, recorded snowfall at 177 percent of average at Phillips Station. But while California saw a wet December and early January, experts are warning that the end to the drought does not appear to be anywhere in sight.

Last year's first snow survey of the season looked promising, with the seventh highest January measurements on record at Phillips Station, but a wet December was followed by three extremely dry months. The April 1, 2022 survey resulted in the third lowest measurements on record.

Phillips Station is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 90 miles east of Sacramento off Highway 50 in El Dorado County. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has 130



(Left to right) California DWR Director Karla Nemeth, Anthony Burdock, Sean de Guzman and Andy Reising conduct the first snow survey of 2023 at Phillips Station in the Sierra Nevadas.

*"Winter" continued on page 6*

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## The 2023 Wine vs. Beer Showdown has been canceled

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

On Friday, Jan. 6, Kings County Farm Bureau's Executive Committee met to discuss the annual Wine vs. Beer Showdown. The difficult decision to cancel this year's event was reached at the meeting. Low ticket sales and vendor participation were significant factors we had to consider in reaching this unfavorable decision.

You'll receive a full refund if you have purchased tickets from a director or online. We thank those who planned to attend and got your tickets early.

We also want to thank the vendors and sponsors who committed to helping us this year. Please consider supporting them when looking for food and libations in 2023. 🍷

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## Get involved in the political process in 2023

As a non-profit advocacy organization, KCFB represents our members at the local, state and federal levels. We encourage our members to join us in getting involved in the political process. To make it easier for you to do so in 2023, we are including contact information for our Kings County Supervisors, as well as Congress, State Assembly and State Senate. When you see coverage of legislative issues that pertain to the ag industry, we encourage you to reach out to your elected officials and let them know how it affects you. Make 2023 the year your voice is heard!

### Kings County Supervisors

**District 1:  
Lemoore & Stratford**  
Joe Neves  
Email: [joe.neves@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.neves@co.kings.ca.us)  
Phone: (559) 852-2368

**District 2:  
Avenal, Corcoran, Home Garden & Kettleman City**  
Richard Valle  
Email: [richard.valle@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:richard.valle@co.kings.ca.us)  
Phone: (559) 852-2365

**District 3:  
North Hanford, Island District & North Lemoore**  
Doug Verboon  
Email: [doug.verboon@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:doug.verboon@co.kings.ca.us)  
Phone: (559) 852-2366

**District 4:  
Armona & Hanford**  
Rusty Robinson  
Email: [rusty.robinson@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:rusty.robinson@co.kings.ca.us)  
Phone: (559) 852-2367

**District 5:  
Hanford & Burris Park**  
Richard Fagundes  
Email: [richard.fagundes@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:richard.fagundes@co.kings.ca.us)  
Phone: (559) 852-2364

**U.S. Representative,  
District 20**  
Kevin McCarthy  
[kevinmccarthy.house.gov/contact/email-me](http://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/contact/email-me)  
Phone: (661) 327-3611

**U.S. Representative,  
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David Valadao  
[valadao.house.gov/contact](http://valadao.house.gov/contact)  
Phone: (559) 460-6070

**California State Assembly,  
District 33**  
Devon Mathis  
[ad33.asmrc.org/contact-me](http://ad33.asmrc.org/contact-me)  
Phone: (559) 636-3440

**California State Senate,  
District 16**  
Melissa Hurtado  
[sd16.senate.ca.gov/contact-us](http://sd16.senate.ca.gov/contact-us)  
Phone: (559) 585-7161

*"Volunteers" continued from page 1*

"Our goal is for every child who attends Farm Day to gain an increased awareness of the positive contributions that agriculture makes not only to our local community and our economy, but to the world," he said. "It's so important to teach the next generation of consumers that food is not grown in the grocery store."

If you are an industry professional willing to share your area of expertise through an educational presentation, please consider joining us as a presenter. 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.

Volunteer and presenter forms can be found at [kcfb.org/farm-day-2023](http://kcfb.org/farm-day-2023), or contact the KCFB office at (559) 584-3557 for more information.

# Volunteers Needed

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**KINGS COUNTY FARM DAY**

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## March 16, 2023

## Kings Fairgrounds



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





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# The results of a Kings County Spotted Lanternfly survey

Contributed by Lynda Schruppf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

California is an ideal habitat for the invasive Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), although it isn't established here yet. In 2022, the Kings County Department of Agriculture completed a county-wide survey with the exception of high-risk areas that were already surveyed earlier last year by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). CDFA is developing a strategic action plan to rapidly respond and eradicate SLF, should it be found in California, and is focusing on keeping the pest out of the state, researching potential control tools, and conducting outreach to the agricultural industry.

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive pest, primarily known to feed on the Tree of Heaven (TOH) (*Ailanthus altissima*), but has over 100 other host plants, including grape, hop, apple, stone fruit, maple, poplar, walnut and willow. The TOH is a deciduous tree found in agricultural, urban and riparian areas and serves a preferred host of two invasive species: the brown marmorated stink bug and the SLF.

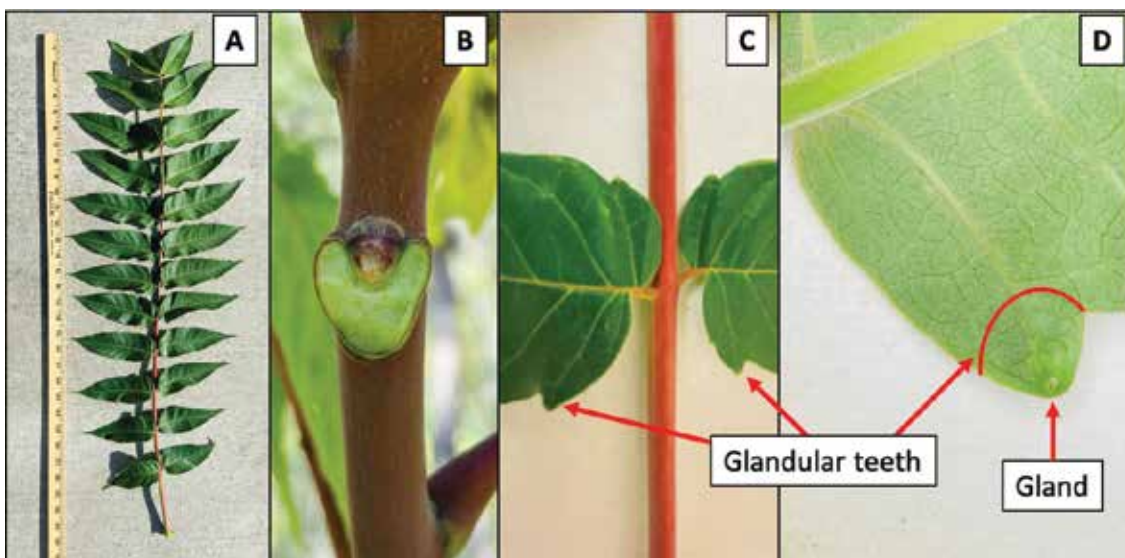
For our survey in Kings County, the strategy was to identify as many TOH locations as possible distributed as evenly across the county, with emphasis being placed on high risk routes of entry such as transportation routes. Each tree and any surrounding vegetation were visually scanned for signs of SLF nymphs, adults, egg masses and honeydew. A GPS reading was recorded for each site containing TOH trees, number of trees, diameter of the trunks and number of SLF suspect adults/nymphs/egg masses if present.

The 2022 Kings County Department of Agriculture survey was carried out from Aug. 1 through Oct. 31 to align with the PestCAST model prediction for a 1-50% adult emergence in Kings County for that time period. Although no SFL life stages were



found, it was apparent that the TOH which is the preferred host for SFL is very prevalent throughout Kings County. Approximately 100 sites were recorded during six days of surveying, containing 355 trees, which is cause for concern should a SLF get introduced into Kings County. The TOH is such a common opportunistic tree that you probably have seen several of these trees and never recognized them as being a possible host for an invasive species such as SLF.

Guidelines for the control of SLF have been developed for use by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) Spotted Lanternfly Eradication Program. The guidelines target SLF at different stages of its lifecycle, and may lead to dramatic reduction in SLF populations where implemented.



**Mechanical Control:** October - July mechanical control includes egg mass scraping and tree banding.

**Host Tree Reduction:** All year

Although SLF will feed on other trees and plants, all life stages strongly prefer TOH, and adult SLF seem to require a meal from these trees prior to laying eggs. This provides an opportunity to concentrate the SLF population on a property by performing host tree reduction. This method involves removal or killing of most TOH on an infested property while leaving a few to serve as trap trees.

## TOH Control Methods

**Tree removal:** The removal of TOH trees and seedlings strategy is best used to prevent the establishment of SLF. Mowing or cutting by themselves are ineffective and can cause the tree to spread prolifically. Care needs to be taken when deciding to remove TOH since a cut tree responds by sending up numerous root sprouts up to 50 feet from the parent tree. Timing of treatment and commitment to follow up with subsequent treatments the following year are crucial

## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer

for success. If tree removal is the decision made, the root system should be targeted with a systemic herbicide 30 days before cutting the trees and the application needs to be made between July and mid-October when carbohydrates are being allocated to the root system. If an herbicide is applied outside of this range, the application would likely be ineffective due to targeting the above ground growth and not the root system.

Because of this, many TOH infestations require multiple treatments to control a population with continued monitoring for regrowth. Various methods of treatment may have to be utilized for complete control. Establishing a native or non-invasive groundcover may help in control of sprouts and seedlings following any herbicide treatments.

**Foliar sprays:** A foliar spray with a recommended herbicide is the most common control for TOH. The spray should cover the leaves and shoots that are at an attainable height. Foliar sprays are effective for control of sprouts and suckers, and are best if used with a surfactant to obtain better coverage and absorption into the leaves. Optimal time for treatment with a foliar spray is June to September.

**Basal bark spray:** Basal bark sprays can be an effective means of control for young TOH that are less than four inches in

"Lanternfly" continued on page 11

"Winter" continued from page 1

stations throughout the state that indicate the statewide snowpack is 17.1 inches, or 174 percent of average for early January. It's hard not to feel optimistic about a better water year ahead as parts of the state saw flooding in December and early January, but future models don't look promising, and there's a fear that history could repeat itself.

Both 2013 and 2022 began the year with above average snowpack only to end those years in extreme drought.

"Big snow totals are always welcome, but we still have a long way to go before the critical April 1 total," said DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman about the Jan. 3 survey. "It's always great to be above average this early in the season, but we must be resilient and remember what happened last year. If January through March of 2023 turn out to be similar to last year, we would still end the water year in severe drought with only half of an average year's snowpack."

The Pine Flat Lake water level on Jan. 3 of this year was slightly higher than the past two years at 791.4 feet MSL compared to 787.6 in 2022 and 765.8 in 2021.

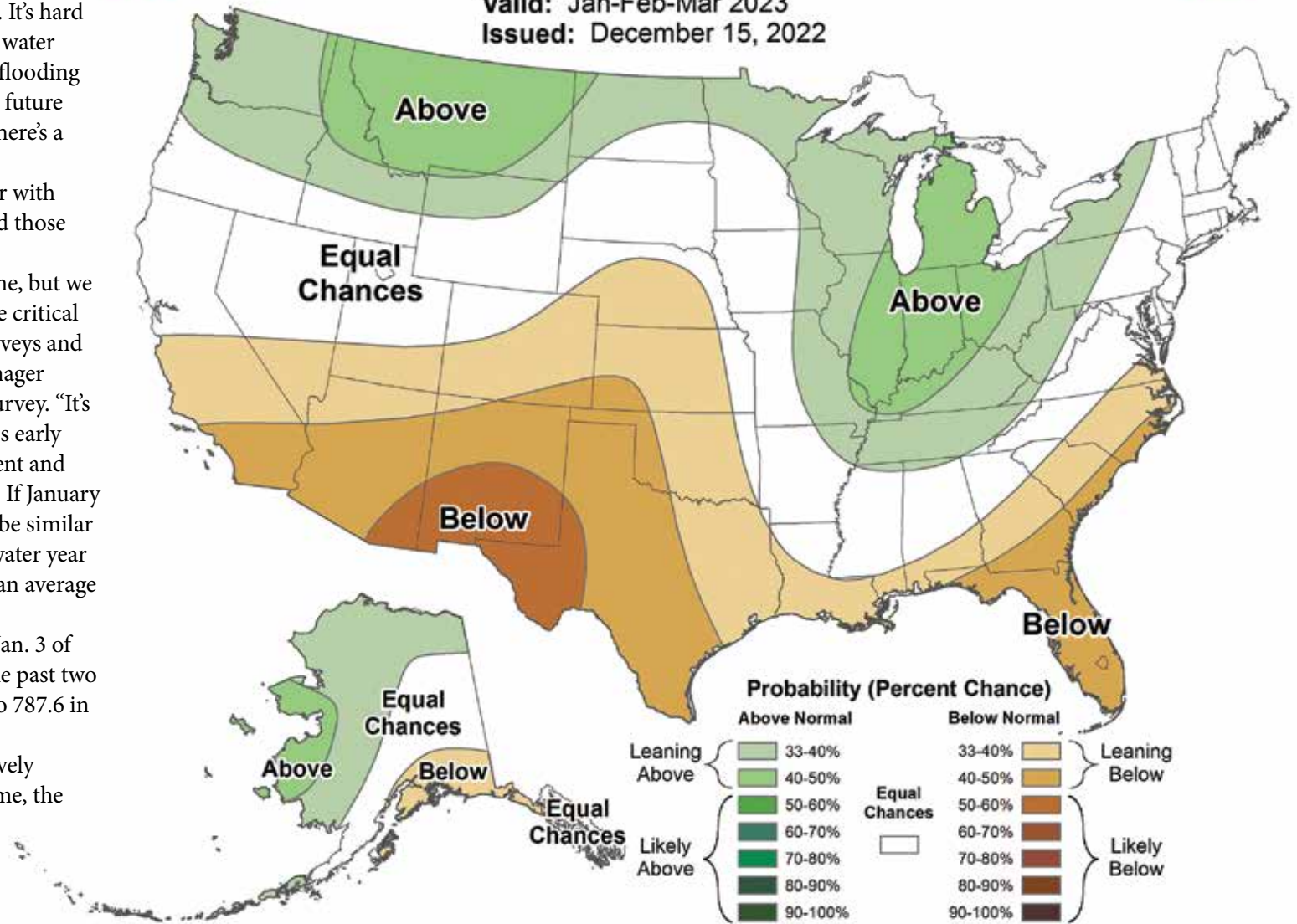
DWR's next snow survey is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 1. In the meantime, the National Weather Service in Hanford's seasonal precipitation outlook for January through March shows the southern half of California has a 33 to 40 percent chance of below normal precipitation.



# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2023  
Issued: December 15, 2022



The National Weather Service in Hanford's seasonal precipitation outlook for January through March shows the southern half of California has a 33 to 40 percent chance of below normal precipitation.



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# Export, farm labor bills top list of new laws affecting ag

By Caleb Hampton, California Farm Bureau Federation

Several new California laws, which went into effect New Year's Day, impact farm operations and agricultural production in the state. The new policies relate to a range of issues, including agricultural exports, pest control, water and irrigation, agricultural vehicles, labor unions and more.

As of Jan. 1, thanks to Assembly Bill 2406, international ocean carriers may no longer impose onerous fees, such as unfair cargo detention and demurrage charges, on agricultural exporters at overcrowded California ports.

In a letter supporting the law, agriculture and trucking industries said port fees are normally designed to encourage the efficient use of containers. But during the port congestion crisis, they wrote, "late charges have been imposed on California businesses by international ocean carriers even when containers cannot be returned due to circumstances not within the control of the importer, exporter or trucker."

According to the groups, ocean carriers at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports were charging fees as high as 10 times those imposed at other major ports, with the fees ultimately increasing the price of goods and services for Californians.

Meanwhile, the New Year begins with a new law that stands to dramatically change how labor unions can become certified to represent agricultural employees for collective bargaining purposes.

AB 2183, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September, was strongly opposed by the California Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups, which argued that the bill was a recipe for union intimidation of farm employees. It will allow collection of signed ballot or authorization cards in lieu of holding traditional secret ballot elections.

The governor initially expressed misgivings about the bill. He signed it into law after pressure from United Farm Workers and top Democrats in Washington, including President Joe Biden.

Newsom also reached a supplemental agreement, subject to approval in this year's legislation session. It would eliminate language in AB 2183 on voting by mail and instead allow the union organizing system known as "card-check."

Under another new law, Senate Bill 856, farmers and ranchers now face fewer barriers to controlling the state's wild pig population. There are an estimated 400,000 wild pigs, which do extensive damage to farm and ranch properties, spread across 56 of California's 58 counties.

The new law, which went into effect Jan. 1, removes limits on the number of wild pigs that can be taken under depredation permits and allows use of artificial lights to hunt the nocturnal animals at night. The law also prohibits people from intentionally releasing pigs into the wild.

Several new laws were passed relating to water and irrigation.

Under AB 1164, irrigation districts can now construct and maintain water storage and deliver irrigation supplies under the same rules as private entities, which had faced fewer regulations.

SB 1378 prohibits the Department of Water Resources from using the approval of a groundwater sustainability plan to determine the allocation of pumping rights.

Meanwhile, SB 880 extends the rights of agricultural irrigators that divert more than 100 acre-feet of water per year to take their own water-use measurements, provided they take a course through the University of California Cooperative Extension.

SB 489 fast-tracks for approval the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project, a \$400 million effort to reduce flood risk from the lower Pajaro River and the Corralitos and Salsipuedes Creeks.



Other new laws impact vehicles and transportation.

Assembly Bill 2415 extends exemptions for agricultural vehicles from the California Highway Patrol's Basic Inspection of Terminals program through Jan. 1, 2026.

Assembly Bill 2836 provides funding to reduce pollution and extends incentives to private businesses and public agencies to voluntarily clean up older vehicles and mobile off-road engines by retrofitting or replacing them. 🗑️

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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](mailto: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](http://kcfb.org).

Kings County Farm Bureau Office address:  
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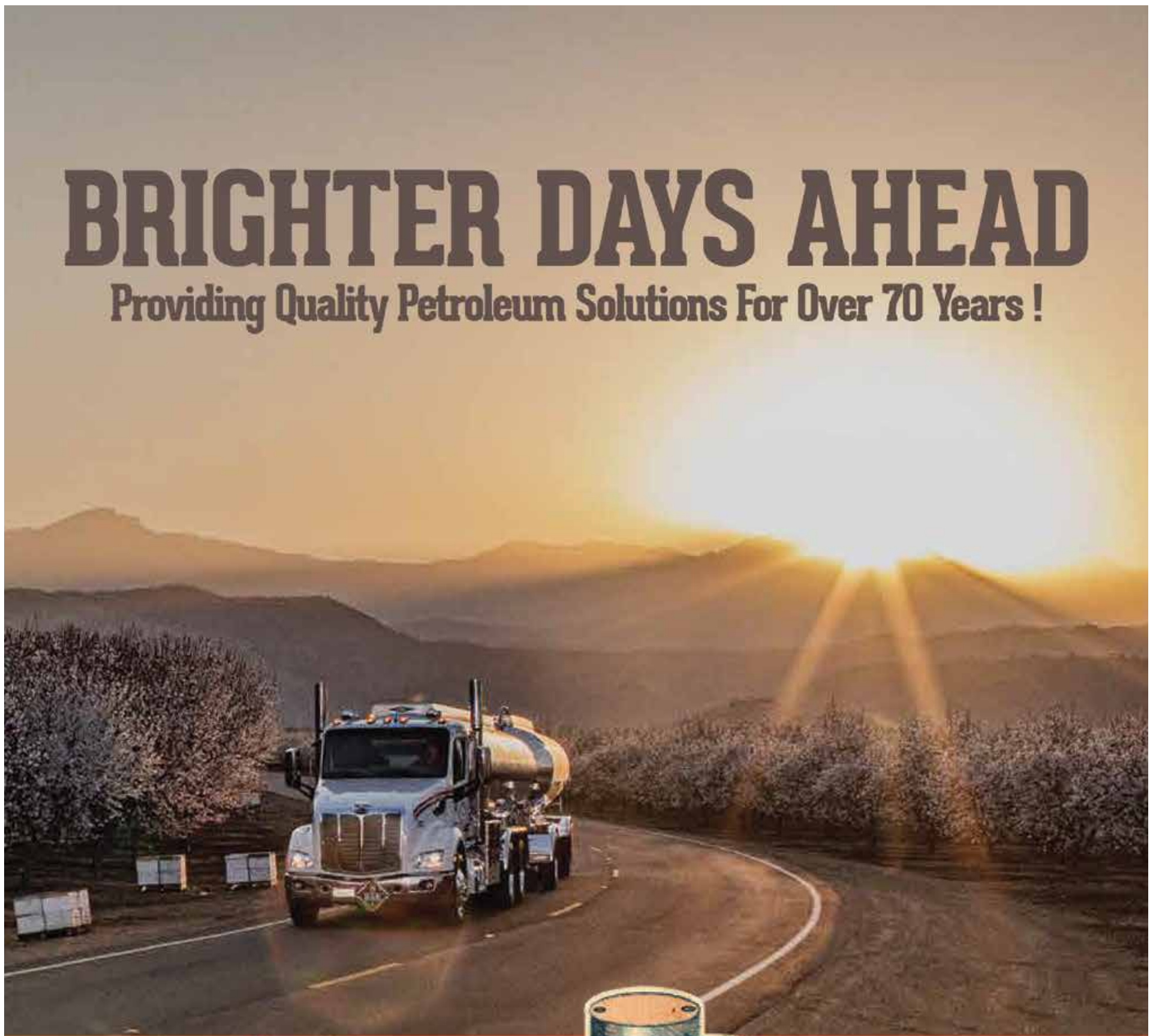
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# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## Suspect arrested in ATV thefts

Contributed by Sr. Deputy Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of December, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force stayed busy in the north and south ends of the county investigating copper and ATV thefts. Our unit took a theft report from the Corcoran area where two ATVs were stolen, along with other equipment. We were able to locate both ATVs and recover a majority of the equipment, which was returned to the owner, Green Ag Management. The first suspect was identified as Alexander Renteria, who confessed to the burglary. We are continuing to follow up on other burglaries that we believe Renteria was responsible for.

We noticed a rise in gas and diesel thefts that occurred in the north end of the county during December. We do not currently have any leads, but are continuing to follow up with these reports.

Our unit took a report regarding the theft of a laser leveling mast piece of equipment that occurred near the area of Highway 43 and Dover Avenue. Due to the recent rain showers, we were unable to recover shoe and tire impressions, but are continuing to contact businesses throughout the state in an attempt to locate this uncommon piece of stolen equipment.

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

"Lanternfly" continued from page 5

diameter. Spray the recommended herbicide with an oil carrier on the lower 12 to 18 inches of the stem until the bark is wet, but not running off. This treatment works well for control of smaller trees in summer and late winter, as it chemically girdles the stem where applied.

**Stump treatments:** Applying a recommended herbicide to a freshly cut stump is essential to deter sprouting and suckering. Herbicide treatment should be made immediately after the cut so that it may be absorbed into the roots. This method works best during the active growing season of the tree from June through September.

**Hack and squirt:** Hack and squirt treatment is an effective treatment for control of TOH and is made by making a series of downward cuts into the bark with an axe or machete. The cuts, which form small cups and are approximately chest height, are made evenly around the tree. Herbicide is then applied to each cut where it is taken up into the tree. Hack and squirt does not girdle the stem as there is spacing between the cuts, which allows the herbicide to be transported through the tree's conductive system. Best results occur during the June to September growing season.

### Chemical control: Mid-May through August

Though many insecticides appear to be effective against SLF, it is difficult to deliver the insecticide to the pest throughout much of their life cycle. Many of the egg masses are deposited in hidden protected areas, and research from Kutztown University has shown that nymphs spread out and can be found almost anywhere on a property through the last nymphal instar. Starting around mid-July, late instars and adults start to actively seek TOH. It is at this point in their life cycle that a property manager can concentrate the

population and deliver an effective insecticide application. This tactic is also known as an "attract and kill" approach. It is recommended that host tree reduction is done in conjunction with insecticide application.

**Trap trees:** This method is designed to be used in areas where SLF has become established, like several states in the north eastern United States. Due to the fact adult SLF must feed on TOH starting in mid-July, an effective for the delivery of insecticide to SLF on a property is the establishment of trap trees. Trap trees are created by leaving a small number of live TOH on a property after host tree reduction has been done. Because most TOH have been removed, when the late instar and adult SLF start looking for TOH to feed on, they are only left with the trap trees as an option. Ideal trap trees should be at least 10 inches wide, and be male trees. TOH trees can be male or female. Male trees are preferred as trap trees because the females produce seed which can repopulate the property.

Control of SLF is achieved by treating the trap trees with a systemic insecticide. No efficacy data currently exists for any of the available systemic insecticides. It is recommended that prior to using an insecticide, the applicator get a written recommendation from a licensed pest control advisor.

Because very few organisms other than SLF adults attracted to trap trees and killed by systemic feeding on TOH, exposure of non-target organisms is kept to a minimum. The insecticide is applied prior to the SLF becoming adults from mid-May through August. New adult SLF seek out the trap trees, feed on them, and this results in mortality. Currently, the number of trap trees needed per property has not been determined. The application of insecticide to the trap trees

will need to be repeated each year until no SLF are detected on a property.

**What you can do:** Spotted lanternfly is very distinct looking both as a nymph and an adult, but the egg masses can be hard to spot, making it easy to transport them on vehicles and other outdoor items. Inspect trees and plants for signs of the pest, especially TOH. Look for egg masses on outdoor items including vehicles, trailers and other smooth surfaces.

To report suspected finds, contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture, agstaff@co.kings.ca.us or (559) 852-2830. 📞



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