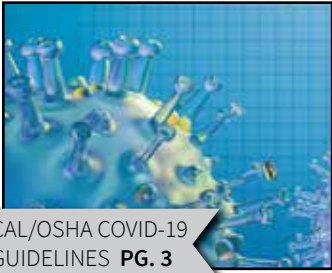




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CAL/OSHA COVID-19 GUIDELINES **PG. 3**



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KCFB CHRISTMAS PARTY **PG. 5**

Get your tickets for this month's Wine vs. Beer Showdown

By Amy D. Fienen

Kings County Farm Bureau is thrilled for the return of our popular Wine vs. Beer Showdown this month. If you haven't yet purchased your tickets for the Jan. 20 fundraiser, log on to kcfb.org/winebeer to get yours before they sell out. We hope you'll join us for an evening of enjoying samples from California wineries, breweries and local restaurants while catching up with friends and raising money to support Farm Bureau programs.

Wine vs. Beer Showdown will feature a number of vendors serving up their tastiest food and drink specialties, and guests will have the opportunity to bid on a host of silent auction items, an important part of the event's fundraising aspect.

Raven's Deli, LT Sue and Chef Gray, LLC are a few of the food vendors that will be serving up their signature dishes, and Rebekah's Espresso will have coffee samples available. Iron Oaks Winery, Ramos Torres Winery and One Hope Wine will be amongst the wineries pouring, and Bird Street Brewing and Hop Forged Brewing will be serving up specialty craft beer.

Wine vs. Beer Showdown, which began 17 years ago, raises money to support local farmers and ranchers through educational programs, training classes, industry workshops, political activism and community involvement. Farm Day, which gives 2,400 Kings County third graders a hands-on lesson in agriculture, livestock and farm equipment, is one of the many Farm Bureau-sponsored programs this event helps support. Farm Day will be returning this March, and this

"Wine/Beer" continued on page 10



Wine vs. Beer Showdown file photo

Volunteer for Farm Day 2022 and support ag education

By Amy D. Fienen

Farm Day, a unique opportunity to teach local children about agriculture, is back in 2022 after COVID forced its cancellation the past two years. We're excited for Farm Day's return, and are seeking volunteers to help make the day a success.

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. This year's Farm Day will take place on Thursday, March 17 at the Kings Fairgrounds. The event's success is dependent upon the commitment received from hundreds of volunteers, so please mark your calendar if you are able to join us.

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.

Executive Director Dusty Ference said Farm Day teaches local children valuable lessons about what it means to live in a

"Farm Day 2022" continued on page 10



Farm Day 2019 file photo

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Looking forward to a new year

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

Last month, we published a list of things we accomplished at KCFB in 2021. The list was more impressive than I anticipated and has given me a lot to consider when thinking about goals for this year.

We have been pounding the membership drum hard and are proud of the growth we've seen. This year's membership

goal is lofty, and we are up for the challenge. Having members renew and help recruit new members is only part of the equation. This year, we intend to interact with members like never before. Once a month, staff will host small grower meetings with existing members. We want to know why you're part of KCFB, what you would like to see us working on for you, and what challenges you see on the horizon. Our philosophy is that we need to know the most critical issues facing your operation; from there, we can figure out new ways to help.

Our committees continue to work on issues affecting the industry, and we are working on expanding their reach to make them more effective. Whether we are working on water, legislative or crop protection issues, KCFB has a committee focused on impacting Kings County and California agriculture. We are currently working to finalize goals for each of these committees, and rest assured you can expect to see them achieve new heights this year.

Lest I forget the perpetual all-star issues of California agriculture, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), labor and air quality are sure to present exciting opportunities for success in 2022. Ground Water Sustainability Plans (GSP)



reached a milestone date on Jan. 1. The Department of Water Resources reportedly has the Tulare Lake Sub-basin in its crosshairs. GSP implementation seems to have growers on edge and worried about actions taken by neighboring GSAs. California's labor issues reach far beyond agriculture, and there is no easy solution. We will continue to encourage Congress to work on meaningful immigration reform while exploring mechanization options to limit the need for human labor. Air quality issues compounded in 2021, affecting the global supply chain. While clearing congestion in United States ports is bound to take time, industry groups continue working with legislators to create compliance deadline exemptions and temporary exclusions. These are only a short list of things impacting our organization, and I share them with you as an example of the work being done on behalf of KCFB's members.

To close, I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you share my excitement about the excellent work KCFB strives to accomplish for you in 2022. 🙌

DPR allows more time for implementation of statewide pesticide application notification system

By Amy D. Fienen

A push by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) to implement a new statewide pesticide application notification system by the end of 2021 has been delayed to allow more time for input from community members and farmers. In the meantime, DPR is partnering with county ag commissioners on pilot programs that will help determine what the new system will look like.

The proposed system was allocated \$10 million in the 2021-22 state budget, with a goal of notifying people in advance of pesticide applications occurring near them, giving them the opportunity to make their own decisions about whether they want to take health-related precautions.

While DPR says that their current regulatory system provides for safe application of pesticides, there is not currently a system in place that provides "transparent, accessible, real-time information to the public in advance about pesticide applications occurring around them." The DPR website claims that "a statewide system to provide notification in advance of pesticide applications will complement regulations that govern the safe application of pesticides."

Following two days of listening sessions DPR held in November, KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference submit-

ted a letter to DPR expressing opposition to changing the current program, particularly rushing it through by the end of 2021.

"This is an unreasonable timeline to which DPR must not adhere," Ference said in his letter. "Any changes to pesticide reporting and notices must be well thought out, considering the administrative burden on growers and applicators and the potential for protesting application on farms."

DPR has since announced it will continue developing the statewide notification system throughout 2022, and is allowing additional opportunities for public input and the development of pilot projects in select counties.

Opposing a hastily implemented system that does not consider pesticide applicators and landowners in addition to the public is one way KCFB will be working for our members in 2022. We will be monitoring this situation and keeping you updated.

More information about the proposed system and how you can submit comments can be found on DPR's website, cdpr.ca.gov. Additionally, you can call the KCFB office at (559) 584-3557 and we will be happy to answer your questions. 🙌

Cal/OSHA revised COVID-19 ETS to align with updated CDC guidelines

Contributed by Barsamian & Moody, Attorneys at Law

The biggest COVID news lately is that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued new guidance reducing the length of isolation and/or quarantine under certain circumstances. The CDC's update was issued Dec. 27, 2021 as a Media Statement and Guidance, and the FAQs are expected to be updated accordingly.

Almost immediately after that, on Dec. 30, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued its own update which aligns the state isolation and quarantine timeframes with those of the CDC. A prior executive order by Gov. Newsom requires the CDPH isolation and quarantine periods be the default rule for the Cal/OSHA ETS exclusion periods and return to work requirements. Therefore, the state's ever-changing exclusion and return-to-work periods are changed again, effective immediately, to align with the CDPH isolation and quarantine periods.

The CDPH guidance provides the chart below for determining appropriate isolation and quarantine periods. The CDC provided a similar chart; however, the CDPH chart should be followed by California employers because it includes testing requirements that the state requires that are not required by the CDC. Most notably, the isolation period for many employees is reduced to five days, if the employee

Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolation)	Recommended Action
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home for at least 5 days. Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after day 10. If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves. If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. <p>*Antigen test preferred.</p>
Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated**; <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated and booster-eligible** but have not yet received their booster dose. <p>**Includes persons previously infected with SARS-CoV-2, including within the last 90 days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home for at least 5 days, after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. Test on day 5. Quarantine can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present, quarantine can end after day 10. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.
Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boosted; OR Vaccinated, but not yet booster-eligible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test on day 5. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.



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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

Spotted lanternfly exterior quarantine declared in California

Contributed by Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

A state exterior quarantine has been declared to prohibit the introduction of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) into California. The quarantine prohibits the entry into California of SLF, its host plants, and a variety of articles, including conveyances, originating from any area where an SLF infestation exists. The SLF is a major pest of grapes, fruit trees, hardwoods, and redwoods. It lays egg masses of 30 to 50 eggs on flat surfaces, such as outdoor home items and vehicles similar to gypsy moth.

California is an ideal habitat for the invasive spotted lanternfly (SLF), but it isn't established here yet. During this year's annual statewide survey, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) searched over 570 high-risk sites across the state from August to October, and no SLF were found.

However, CDFA has found over 60 dead SLF adults, two live adults, one dead nymph, and one non-viable egg mass during routine air cargo and border protection station inspections since 2019. 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 outreach to the agricultural industry.

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive pest, primarily known to feed on the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) but has over 100 other host plants, including grape, hop, apple, stone fruit, maple, poplar, walnut, and willow. If allowed to spread in the United States, it could impact the country's fruit, ornamental, and forest industries. Early detection is critical to prevent economic and ecological losses. The public will play a key role in detecting spotted lanternfly, and the success of stopping its spread depends on help from the public to look for and report signs of the pest. The public is encouraged to



report any SLF finds to the CDFA Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899.

Origin: The spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper that is native to China and likely arrived in North America hidden on goods imported from Asia.

Current distribution in the United States: The SLF was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and spread in the mid-Atlantic, infesting six states and found in 11. Five states have enacted quarantines and inspections to slow artificial movement of the pest.

How it spreads: Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas. While the insect can walk, jump, or fly short distances, its long-distance spread is facilitated by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. The spotted lanternfly lays eggs on almost any surface, including vehicles, trailers, outdoor equipment, and patio furniture.

Damage: Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and branches. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and eventually contribute to the plant's death. In addition, feeding can cause the plant to ooze or weep, resulting in a fermented odor, and the insects themselves excrete large amounts of fluid (honeydew). These fluids promote mold growth and attract other insects.

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 tree of heaven. 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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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

A Very Merry KCFB Christmas

At last month's KCFB Christmas party, we took the opportunity to publicly thank some of the people who helped make 2021 merry and bright. We recognized outgoing KCFB President Brian Medeiros, and Medeiros could finally present Dennis Tristao the 2020 President's Award in person. Additionally, we thanked a few of our diamond and platinum-level Friends of Farm Bureau : Zenith, Renewable Solar and Golden State Farm Credit.



"CAL/OSHA COVID-19" continued from page 3

is asymptomatic or any symptoms have resolved, and has a negative COVID-19 test with a specimen drawn on or after the fifth day.

The CDPH and CDC guidelines have also introduced a new provision based on the employee's status as fully vaccinated and their status as to a booster. Thus, employees who are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic following close contact with a positive individual, who were previously exempt from exclusion under the Cal/OSHA ETS, must now stay home for at least five days as indicated below, unless they have received their booster or are not "booster-eligible." Booster-eligible is described as six months after the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech; two months after one dose of Johnson and Johnson/Janssen; or six months after getting all recommended doses of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or World Health Organization emergency use-listed COVID-19 vaccination.

It is important to note that as of Jan. 4, 2022, employers covered by the highly litigated Fed/OSHA ETS (most relevantly employers with 100 or more employees), which has an initial compliance deadline of Jan. 10, 2022, must follow more stringent isolation requirements. The Fed/OSHA ETS does not address quarantine periods for exposed employees. However, for isolation periods, the Fed/OSHA ETS incorporates now outdated guidance from Feb. 18,

2021 which requires employees with COVID-19 to isolate until:

- ten days after their first symptoms or administration of their positive test;
- their symptoms improved, and
- they are fever-free for 24 hours.

Fed/OSHA will hopefully exercise discretion to allow employers to follow the new guidance when inspecting entities rather than issue a citation, meaning Fed/OSHA will hopefully not cite employers who decide to follow the CDC's new guidelines, but there is no such guarantee. Of course, this may all change after the United States Supreme Court hears arguments on enforceability of the Fed/OSHA ETS.

What This Means for Employers:

This means that employers may follow the shortened isolation and quarantine periods depending on the vaccination status, status of symptoms and whether exposed or infected. Employers should be updating their COVID-19 Prevention Policies in accordance with the requirements of the revised Cal/OSHA ETS, which is set to take effect Jan. 14, 2022, and should incorporate the changes to the isolation and quarantine periods.

The goal of this article is to provide employers with current labor and employment law information. The contents should neither be interpreted as, nor construed as legal advice or opinion. The reader should consult with Barsamian & Moody at (559) 248-2360 for individual responses to questions or concerns regarding any given situation. 🐾

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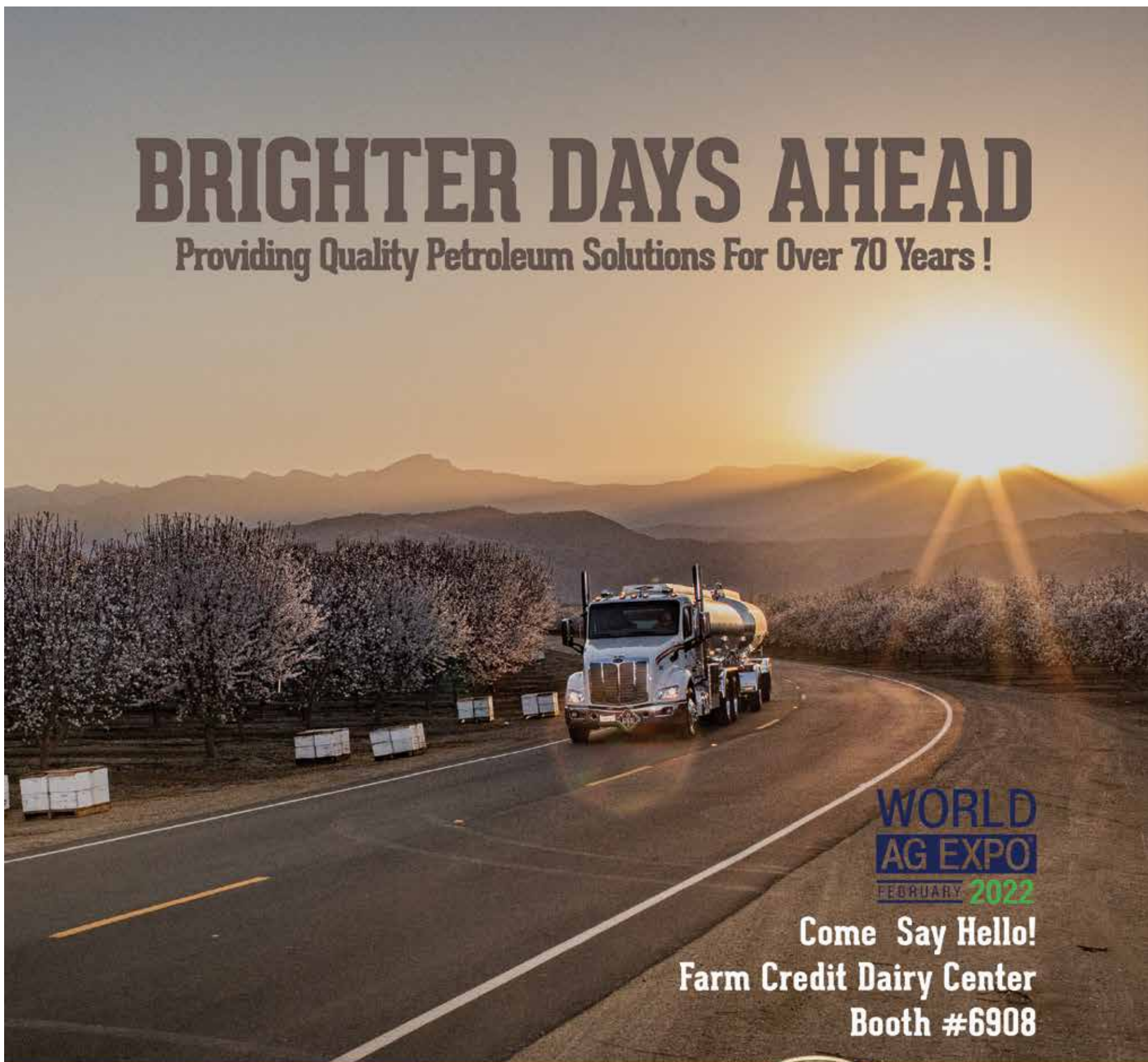


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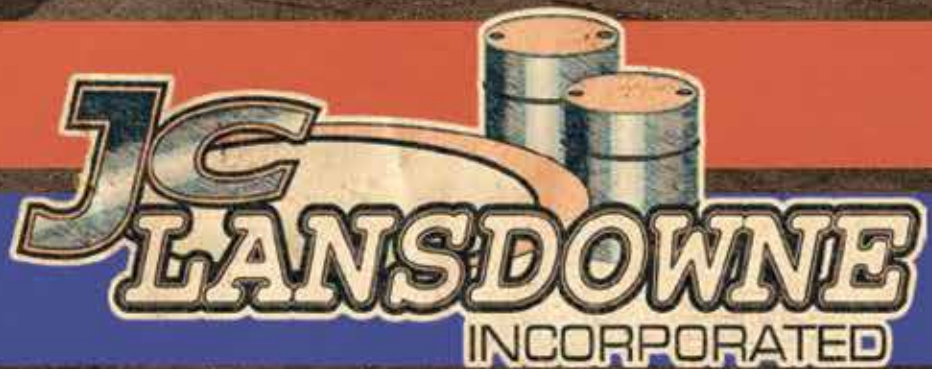
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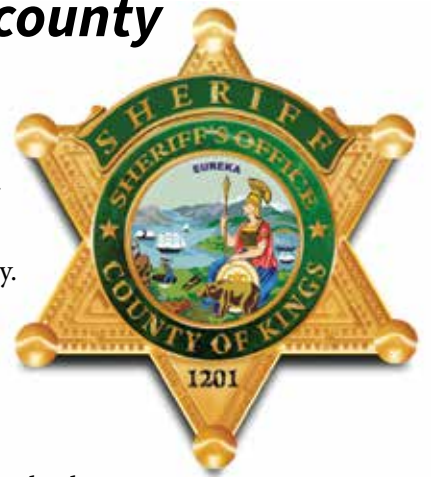


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Kings County Rural Crime Report

Copper wire and numerous other thefts occurring across the county

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Rod Shulman



During this busy time of year, the Kings County Rural Crime Unit has taken over several investigations from our patrol division and conducted several initial investigations. This is the time of the year known in our business as "Silly Season" when the number of thefts rises tremendously.

Our unit took several initial reports of copper wire thefts in December, most of which occurred in the western portion of the county. Towards the end of December, we saw these wire thefts moving east. There have been numerous wire thefts on JG Boswell and Sandridge Partners properties. In all of these investigations, the suspects are cutting the copper wire at the well head, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage. We have several shoe and tire impressions and are currently looking for suspects. In the wire thefts on the east side of the county, the suspects are doing the same thing, cutting wire at the well heads. The Dutras and Tevelde had wire stolen from wells on each of their properties, and there was no evidence left at those scenes due to heavy rain.

Patrol and our units have taken theft reports of UTVs and trailers. Stone Land Co. had two Kubota RTVs stolen, and Warmerdam had a dump trailer with a Polaris Razor stolen from the area of 9th and Fargo. Dover Dairy had a white Chevy truck stolen, and Silva had an enclosed trailer stolen from the area of 4th Avenue and Avenue 376. A quad theft report in the area of 15th and Flint was also taken, with no evidence at all in this case. A Chevy Avalanche parked at JR Searcy's belonging to Jim Crisp had all four wheels and tires removed from the vehicle. Once again, we have little to no evidence to work with in this investigation. We are also conducting follow-up investigations at Tos Farms as the office building was burglarized.


Our unit did locate some stolen property in December and return it to the owners. We located a CAT loader stolen from Stoney's Sand and Gravel. We also returned an enclosed trailer located in the orchard in the area of Flint and 16th avenues. The trailer was stolen out of Hanford and all of the tools inside were taken. We are working hard to locate suspects in all of these investigations. With little to no evidence in most of them, I am asking all of you for help. Please call any rural crimes detective or myself if you see any suspicious activity on or near your property. If you see a suspicious vehicle, please get a license plate if possible and let us know. This will help us to identify possible suspects, which could lead to us closing out several investigations with the same suspect. 🙏

Task Force Supervisor
Rod Shulman
 559-469-4004

Detective Kody Holt
 559-362-8928

Detective Colten Verhoeven
 559-469-6146

Detective Grace Thomas
 559-530-1701



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KCFB 2022 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 16, 2022

Applications must be received by **4 p.m. in the KCFB office or post-marked by March 16, 2022**. 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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Valley Ag Spraying

“Wine/Beer” continued from page 1

fundraiser will help ensure its success after a two-year hiatus.

“Wine vs. Beer Showdown is a fun-filled evening that the ag community looks forward to every year,” said Executive Director Dusty Ference. “The money raised at this event allows us to continue advocating for local agriculture and providing the programs and services that local farmers have come to rely on.”

Wine vs. Beer Showdown is being held at the Hanford Civic Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each, and can be purchased at kcfb.org/winebeer. Those interested in sponsoring the event or participating as a food or drink vendor should contact Paula Vinzant at (559) 901-4278 or pvinzant@kcfb.org.

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“Farm Day 2022” continued from page 1

community that feeds the world.

“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.

More than 200 volunteers are needed in order to make Farm Day 2022 as successful as those held in years past.

“Farm Day would simply not be possible without those willing to give of their time and talents,” Ference said. “We are extremely grateful to the volunteers whose commitment allows this event to come together every year. Your contribution will guarantee a rewarding and special day for Kings County third-graders.”

Volunteers for the March 17 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.

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

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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

PUMP SERVICES

- In-House Pump Designs
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