



## INSIDE



AG REPORT  
PG. 7



COVID HIRING  
PRACTICES PG. 8



COTTON PRODUCTION  
PG. 12

## Dennis Tristao honored with KCFB's President's Award

By Amy D. Fienen

There are few people in the Kings County ag industry who will leave a legacy as broad as the one left by Dennis Tristao. Called “the smartest guy in agriculture” and the “best in the business” by his peers, Tristao’s expertise will be missed industry-wide as he marks the end of an impressive career and begins the next chapter: retirement.

June 30 was Tristao’s last day as an environmental affairs officer at J.G. Boswell, marking the end of a career that began there in 1979. During his 36 years at the company, he touched on five decades and was a first-hand witness to half a century of change that forever changed the face of the ag industry.

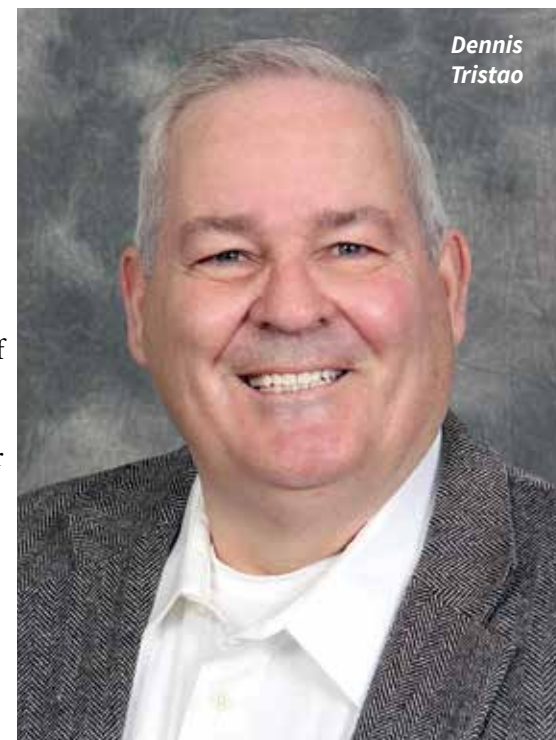
But Kings County Farm Bureau is not honoring Tristao simply for retiring after a long career in the industry. Tristao has served as an advisor to the organization since the late 1980s, and his expertise has proved invaluable.

In honor of his service to KCFB and the industry as a whole, Tristao has been named the recipient of Kings County Farm Bureau’s 2020 President’s Award. The President’s Award recognizes a person or business that has played an important role in advocating for local agriculture, and KCFB President Brian Medeiros said he can think of no one who better exemplifies that description.

“For more than 30 years, the board of directors has looked to Dennis for advice on complex environmental regulations and relied on his expertise to help shape countless policy decisions,” Medeiros said. “His knowledge has helped guide the Farm Bureau organization through one challenging regulation after another, and has armed us to be the best advocates we can on behalf of the ag industry.”

KCFB is not the first organization to honor Tristao for his service. In 2002, he was the recipient of the California Cotton

*“Tristao” cont’d on page 4*



Dennis  
Tristao

## Ag night work regulation takes effect July 1

Contributed by Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS)

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has approved “Outdoor Agricultural Operations During Hours of Darkness” effective July 1, 2020.

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board approved the regulation in February 2020 after adopting changes in December 2019 with significant improvements. The December 2019 draft clarified that “outdoor agricultural operations” other than those involving the use of sharp tools can be illuminated to five foot-candles; tasks involving use of sharp tools are required to be illuminated to 10 foot-candles. Prior versions of the regulation were unclear whether all agricultural tasks had to be illuminated to 10 foot-candles.

Employer concerns about compliance with local light pollution ordinances, impacts on nocturnal wildlife, and air quality issues related to use of portable gasoline- or diesel-powered generators were generally ignored or disregarded by Standards Board staff in responses to stakeholder comments. The Standards Board staff also adopted patently absurd cost



*“Night Work” cont’d on page 5*



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## New legislative committee establishes priorities

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

In May, the Kings County Farm Bureau Board of Directors formed its first ever Legislative Committee. During the committee's inaugural meeting in June, a pathway began to take shape, outlining the committee's first steps. Legislative and regulatory changes are the two initial focal points of the committee's efforts.

Understanding that meaningful change to new legislation happens because of relationships with members of both legislative houses, the committee agreed that relationship building would be among its top priorities. Additionally, the committee will recommend support and opposition positions on those bills affecting California agriculture.

If the legislative workload wasn't enough, the committee has also taken the lead on regulatory issues. With so much of the burden realized by growers happening in the regulatory arena, the committee agreed that KCFB should be working to effect change there also.

With the help of friends throughout California, the committee is looking forward to having a stronger voice with regulators and lawmakers. This committee is the start of that effort. Creating this committee and working towards the goals outlined above is an exciting new challenge for KCFB and the latest way we are working to improve the working lives of our membership.

We look forward to the challenge ahead and hope to have several important updates to share with our membership in the not-so-distant future. 🙌



## Clarification on PPE requirements

In the June issue of "Farm Life," we ran a story titled "Understanding PPE requirements when handling pesticides" from the ag commissioner's office that addressed the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance was from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to the PPE shortage the ag industry has experienced due to COVID-19. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released a statement on July 3 which clarifies that the **DPR's regulations for pesticide handling is still in effect**. DPR and county agricultural commissioners will continue to enforce PPE requirements on pesticide product labels and PPE-related regulations under Title 3, California Code of Regulations sections 6738-6739 to protect worker health and safety.

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## If you're not a KCFB member, you should be

By Kevin Robertson, Chairman, KCFB Membership Committee



Kevin Robertson

If you're reading this as a Kings County Farm Bureau member, thank you for your support. If you're not yet a member, my simple request to you is that you please consider joining.

This newspaper represents the work KCFB does at the local, state and national levels, and we need your support as we continue fighting for our families and businesses. During these unprecedented times, what we in the ag industry have always know to be true has been declared a fact: We are essential and always will be.

As our membership committee works to increase our numbers, I'd love to hear from our existing members about why you joined Farm Bureau. Our staff and board of directors work hard to represent the interests of Kings County farmers and agriculturalists, and we want to hear what we're doing well and what we could be doing better. Please email me at [kcfb@kcfb.org](mailto:kcfb@kcfb.org).

I've been a Farm Bureau member for 14 years. When I got my first paycheck after graduating from college, my dad encouraged me to put it to good use and join KCFB. I'm grateful my dad encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone and invest in doing the right

thing. I have gotten much more out of Farm Bureau than what my membership costs me.

My appreciation for what Farm Bureau represents has only grown during my time first as a member, and now a director. The dedication of the staff and volunteers who advocate for our way of life never ends. We are changing with the times, becoming leaner, nimbler, and hopefully more effective even as the power in Sacramento continually shifts to urban centers. It is more important than ever for us to keep fighting and telling our stories while the urban dwellers, stuck in their homes and reliant upon those of us who are working, to keep the nation fed and prevent panic from taking over.

We are proud to fight with you and for you, but we can't do it without the continued support of our members. You can join Farm Bureau on our website, [kcfb.org](http://kcfb.org), or by calling (559) 584-3557. 📞

## Report details pandemic losses to California farms and ranches

Pandemic-related losses to California farms, ranches and agricultural businesses will range between \$5.9 billion and \$8.6 billion this year, according to an economic study released in June. The analysis says the state's agricultural sector has already suffered \$2 billion in losses so far, from disrupted markets and rising production costs related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Financial impacts of the pandemic vary widely among different parts of the agricultural economy, the study says, depending in part on how much a particular crop or commodity relies on sales to food service and how much it has been affected by shifts in retail demand and changes in costs of production and processing.

Produced by Davis-based ERA Economics, the study was commissioned by a coalition led by the California Farm Bureau Federation and including UnitedAg, Ag Association Management Services Inc., the California Fresh Fruit Association, California Strawberry Commission, California Tomato Growers Association and Western Plant Health Association.

CFFB President Jamie Johansson said the study illustrates the scope of the pandemic's impact.

"California farmers, ranchers and their employees have continued the essential work needed to keep American families fed, but that work has come with sacrifice," Johansson said. "The impact is being felt in rural communities throughout the state that rely on agriculture for their residents' livelihoods. We want legislators and regulators to bear that in mind and avoid making farming even more costly and difficult in California."

"Pandemic Losses" continued on page 9

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*"Tristao" cont'd from page 1*

Ginners and Growers Association's Distinguished Service Award. President and CEO Roger Isom said that Dennis is truly the smartest guy in agriculture, but he never held his knowledge for his own gain.

"I am convinced his tireless efforts saved J.G. Boswell millions over his tenure there and left a lasting mark on the company, but more importantly, his efforts to fight back against overregulation benefitted every single farmer in this state," Isom said. "Every single person in the industry owes Dennis a debt of gratitude. He is selfless, accomplished, more knowledgeable than anyone in the industry, and he will be sorely missed."

#### A LONG CAREER SUPPORTING VALLEY AG

Tristao grew up on the family dairy located between Tulare and Corcoran. After graduating from Tulare Western, he went on to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he majored in ag business. He took his last exam on a Friday in 1979, and began his career at J.G. Boswell the following Monday. He spent his first year with the company as a gin clerk before transferring to the Boston Ranch Company, where he spent several years as an agronomist and assistant water master.

In 1983, he left Boswell for a couple years for an opportunity in Yemen. While there, he managed a government farm transferring farming technology to small-scale farmers. Upon returning to the Valley, he worked for Fagundes Farms until he went back to Boswell in 1987, where he worked as a computer programmer and then as a research agronomist in the technical services division.

Tristao laughs that in 1988, he "drew the short straw" and was selected to attend a particulate matter air quality meeting. That meeting marked the beginning of his involvement in environmental issues. He met a number of ag industry leaders and became involved with Farm Bureau at both the local and state levels.

In the mid-1990s, Tristao volunteered to help KCFB with the Big Green Initiative, one of the first big pushes by environmental groups to regulate farming. In 1998, he was appointed to the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force on Research. He was involved with local air districts and on various local and state Farm Bureau committees. From air quality to dairy regulations to SGMA, Tristao has played a role in a number of regulations that have touched the industry.

With all he's seen, Tristao said the most impactful changes have been the significant reduction of the state's large dairy industry and small farms as regulations became too burdensome for family farmers to keep up with.

"The landscape has changed, and I've seen the importance of being able to adapt to a constantly changing environment," Tristao said.

And while he said he's humbled to be recognized, he's quick to point out that addressing the issues the industry faces requires a team effort.

"My career has been extremely satisfying because of the service I did for my company and for the ag industry in cooperation with others," he said.

George Soares, partner in Kahn, Soares & Conway, said that Tristao has achieved the status of "best in the business" and called him "the leading voice in California agriculture on environmental issues."

"Just like 'Frank' as in Sinatra, everyone knows when 'Dennis' as in Tristao is in the room. When Dennis speaks, people listen, and California agriculture is the beneficiary," Soares said. "His sincerity, expertise, and thoughtful analysis of complex issues is compelling and undeniable, and his friendship is priceless to me."

Those worried that they've seen the last of Tristao can rest assured that he has no plans to fade into obscurity. He said he will remain abreast of air district requirements and SGMA, and plans to help Kings County and the City of Corcoran with their general plans. While keeping up to speed on the issues is a priority, it will have to take a backseat to what he most looks forward to focusing on during retirement: his family. He and Pamela, his wife of 40 years, have three sons. The couple is looking forward to traveling to England to visit their grandson. 🐾

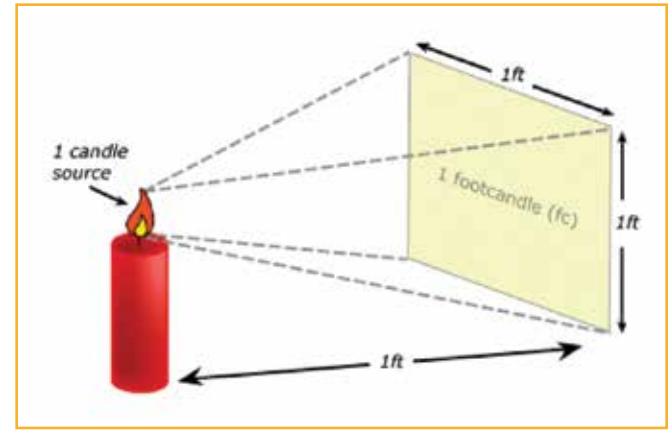


*"Night Work" cont'd from page 1*

estimates to the effect that the regulation will apply to fewer than 1,500 farms for only two months of the year.

As approved by the Standards Board in February 2020 and on June 4 by OAL, the new regulation requires:

- Trucks (in addition to tractors and self-propelled equipment) be equipped with lights illuminating ahead and behind between sunset and sunrise.
- Requires various types of agricultural tasks to be illuminated to certain minimum levels:
  - 3 foot candles for meeting and rest areas;
  - 5 foot candles for agricultural operations not involving use of sharp tools, as well as walkways, toilet facilities, and storage areas access by employees;
  - 10 foot candles for tasks involving the use of sharp tools.
- Safety meetings at the beginning of shifts worked in hours of darkness to inform employees of the location of restrooms, drinking water, break areas, and hazards like water bodies and high-traffic areas;
- Employers must provide and require use of Class 2 high visibility garments. 🦋



Foot candles refers to the amount of light produced from a source at a distance of one foot. Photo courtesy of AgSafe

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## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer

## Advice for baiting ground squirrels

Contributed by Steve Schweizer, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

Controlling ground squirrels using vertebrate baits sounds easy enough, but if not done properly, it can be a frustrating experience. Failure to follow a few simple steps can lead to wasted time and dollars, as well as potential damage to wildlife and domestic animals.

Baiting is the most common method of control for ground squirrels, especially in agricultural areas. The anticoagulant rodenticide baits still available for use in agriculture are chlorophacinone and diphacinone. Zinc phosphide products are also still used, but this active ingredient is not an anticoagulant. These products vary in concentration as well as formulation (grain versus pellet). The method of application you choose will play a role in determining the concentration and formulation you need. Anticoagulant rodenticides are not acute toxicants; they work by preventing blood clotting in the targeted animal, so multiple feedings over seven to 14 days are required to achieve adequate control.

Whether you are using bait stations or scattering the bait, several important practices need to be followed. First, make sure the squirrels will accept the bait. Depending on the time of the year, other food sources may be available to the squirrel that may prevent them from taking the bait. Is there lush green foliage available after winter rains? Are there nuts available nearby that the squirrels are already feeding on? If so, getting squirrels to switch over to taking grain baits may be a little difficult and may result in poor success. The labels of the products we sell require bait acceptance trials on all or a small portion of the infested area. This is done by throwing out clean oats prior to application of the vertebrate bait. If the squirrels eat the clean oats, you can be assured they will also take the bait. Avoid applying bait in areas where the oats have not been taken up. Bait acceptance trials help ensure squirrels are accepting the bait, preventing you from wasting your time and resources, as well as preventing environmental exposure to non-target animals by leaving the bait accessible for a long time due to non-acceptance by the squirrels. Our office has clean oat groats available for these trials.

The second important practice to follow is to dispose of all dead rodents by burying deeply or wrapping in newspaper or plastic bags and discard in the trash, making sure to wear gloves when handling the dead animals. Although most of the squirrels will die in their burrows, a few may not. You need to survey the area daily, checking for dead squirrel carcasses. This helps prevent any non-target animal, such as a dog or cat, or even protected raptors, from feeding on the carcasses, thus preventing a secondary exposure to a non-target species. If a pet is exposed to chlorophacinone or diphacinone, immediately contact your veterinarian. The pet can be treated



with a Vitamin K antidote.

The third and most important practice to follow is to READ THE LABEL of the product you are using. Vertebrate bait labels are very specific in use directions. Be aware of statements such as “Do not pile bait” and “For use only in tamper-resistant bait stations.” Depending on which formulation is used, you may be limited to bait stations, hand baiting, or mechanical application. That is why it is very important to choose your method of application prior to purchasing the bait.

Finally, these bait products are Restricted Use Pesticides, requiring a certified applicator's license to handle. A Qualified Applicator's License, Qualified Applicator's Certificate, or a Private Applicator's Certificate will all meet this requirement.

If you are having squirrel problems and need assistance in the most effective way to go about controlling them, contact our office and we'll come out to your site and help you assess your situation. We can provide guidance on using our products safely and effectively. We can be reached at (559) 852-2830 or email us at [agstaff@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:agstaff@co.kings.ca.us). 📧



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## Best practices for hiring in the time of COVID-19

Contributed by Amy Wolfe, President & CEO, AgSafe

As the agricultural industry forges onward during the continually evolving COVID-19 pandemic, a wide variety of our day-to-day practices are impacted. For many, harvest marks one of the busiest times of the year and with it, the need to hire temporary labor. Like other aspects of an operation, this process must be reconsidered from previous seasons, with an intentional and deliberate plan developed to ensure the safety and health of current, as well as prospective employees.

### CREATING A NEW HIRE PLAN

Before temporary seasonal workers can be hired, it is critical to consider what that new hire process looks like while navigating the myriad of required and recommended government agency practices relative to COVID-19. There are steps to be taken prior to initiating the process, as well as once active recruitment begins, screening candidates, and the first day of employment.

#### Gearing Up to Hire

If the company does not already have a system in place for hiring new employees, now is the ideal time to develop one. Clearly define who will be responsible for which aspects of hiring:

- Responding to inquiries about available jobs from potential employees
- Distributing job applications
- Reviewing job applications
- Conducting background checks
- Coordinating pre-employment drug screening
- Conducting reference checks
- Contacting employees with employment offers
- Coordinating employee new hire paperwork
- Conducting new employee orientation training

For each of these elements, consider how you will appropriately implement required social distancing of at least six feet of space between the individuals, as well as how you will provide both current and prospective employees appropriate personal protective equipment, such as masks, and easy access to hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer. Many agricultural operations now keep their main office closed to the public and provide a telephone number with a point of contact for those interested in employment to contact. Some have made their job applications available online while others have placed them in an easy to access location outside their office.

As with any process, ensure that it is documented with who is responsible and the appropriate steps to be taken clearly outlined. It is essential to communicate the new hire process to not only those employees directly impacted by their involvement, but to all workers. Word of mouth referrals are often the best source of potential new hires and it is important for current workers to know what the process looks like right now.

#### Hiring in the Field or in the Office?

For many agricultural employers, hiring in the field is the most efficient and effective method. This may still be the case but needs to be clearly thought out relative to the additional steps that we are all now taking. Some important points to consider:

- Clearly labeling space to ensure prospective employees maintain at least six feet of social distancing.
- Sanitizing common equipment taken into the field for administrative staff

and/or supervisors to tackle paperwork – tables, chairs, clipboards.

- All these items need to be sanitized between each prospective worker.
- Providing all prospective workers PPE, including masks and hand sanitizer.
- Providing individual writing utensils to minimize sharing of pens.
- Potentially conducting confidential COVID-19 health screening all applicants and not allowing any individuals exhibiting at least two signs or symptoms to stay that day.
  - If this option is implemented, remember all information must remain confidential regardless of if the individual is hired or not.

Managing these elements, along with the usual challenges of hiring seasonal employees, has led some employers to transition the process into the office. In doing so, it is easier to manage the volume of people and ensure both current and prospective employees are sufficiently protected.

#### The Need for More Time

Whether the new hire process transpires in the field or in the office, these additional efforts will ultimately result in the need for more time. More time to screen prospective employees, more time to complete their paperwork and more time to conduct their new employee orientation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still recommends small gatherings and Cal/OSHA suggests that agricultural employers limit crew size, although a specific head count is not provided. The implication, though, is that employers are now working with smaller groups of employees in all aspects of their jobs and includes bringing them onboard.

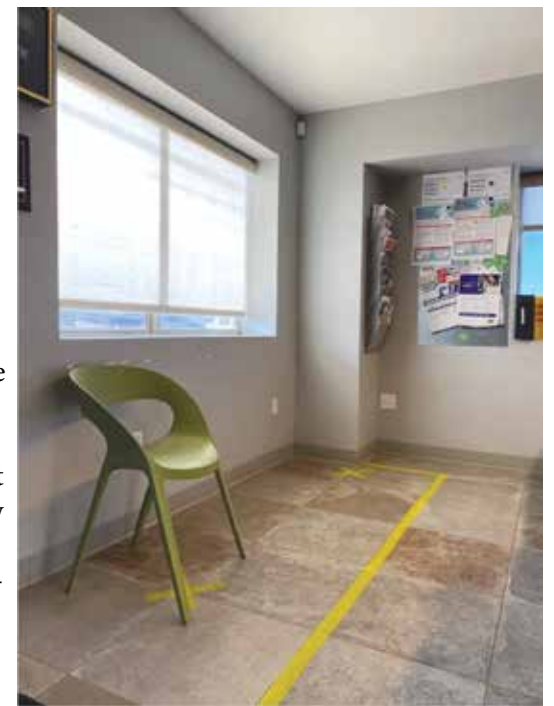
It is also important to reach out to third party vendors, such as clinics or companies providing drug screening services, to determine how their protocol has changed. It may be helpful to work with multiple vendors to ensure this segment of the new hire process is not meaningfully slowed by their limitations on the number of individuals served. In addition, if reference checks are appropriate for the position, allow for more response time from the contacts. With more individuals working from home, there is a delay for some in retrieving office voicemails. In short, before the process even begins, think about how much additional time is needed for each step and plan accordingly.

Ultimately, as with all our processes and systems, it is important to think through how best to hire the needed seasonal staff. The continued safety and health of our workers, as well as prospective employees, is paramount. It is essential that agricultural employers consider the unique circumstances now impacting our industry as we navigate employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AgSafe is a 501c3 nonprofit providing training, education, outreach and tools in the areas of safety, labor relations, food safety and human resources for the food and farming industries. 🤝



**Job Applications** (Source: Innovative Produce) In an effort to protect existing employees and those interested in a job, make job applications easily accessible outside the main office with clear directions for prospective workers on who to call with questions.



**Social Distancing** (Source: Innovative Produce) Clearly marking space inside and outside the office will assist existing and prospective employees in maintaining at least six feet of socially distanced space.





*“Pandemic Losses” continued from page 3*

Analysts looked specifically at 15 different agricultural sectors, using data on production, exports and prices through early May, plus interviews and surveys of people and businesses. The study showed the greatest dollar-loss impact to dairy, \$1.4 billion to \$2.3 billion; grapes, \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion; and flowers and nurseries, \$660 million to \$740 million.

In addition, the report says farms, ranches and related businesses have incurred higher operating costs for measures intended to increase employee health and safety, and in the logistics required to move crops and commodities to market.

“Along with the loss of key markets due to food service disappearing overnight or flower shops and garden centers not being allowed to operate in certain areas, we now are adapting to significant increased operational costs that many California farmers will never recoup,” said Chris Zanobini, president/CEO of Ag Association Management Services.

Some crops have seen increased business activity during the pandemic, the report says, citing shelf-stable items such as rice, processed tomato products and canned fruit. But in aggregate, the study says, “the losses far outweigh the isolated benefits.”

Abrupt shifts in purchasing patterns in export and domestic markets—prompted by the constriction in restaurant and other food-service sales and a swing to retail purchases for at-home use—have affected farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses at various points in the supply chain, the study says, ultimately resulting in farm-gate crop price impacts.

“Observing how agriculture is affected will help us orient and decisively act to create a stronger future,” UnitedAg President and CEO Kirti Mutatkar said. “The agricultural industry is not only one of the most necessary industries, but one of the most resilient.”

The full report, titled Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on California Agriculture, may be found at [www.cfbf.com/covid-19-study](http://www.cfbf.com/covid-19-study). 📄



**Press release**

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Pearson Realty is pleased to announce Kameron M. Stewart has joined the company’s Agricultural Division in the Bakersfield and Visalia offices. He will specialize in farm, ranch and transitional use land sales. Kameron has worked in agriculture since his schooling and is proud to be a 5th generation family farmer and a 3rd generation sales associate at Pearson Realty. Kameron is a graduate of California State University, Fresno, 2016 where he received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business. Pearson Realty is an industry leader in Agricultural Brokerage with 21 full time sales associates with offices in Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield and was founded in 1919.



**NEW AG MEMBER**

Garrett Miller

**RENEWED AG MEMBER**

- Edwin M. Augusto
- Avenal Land & Oil Co.
- John Oliverian Farming
- Rick Myers
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- Cornellius Warmerdam
- Louis F. Bissig
- Nick Deftereos
- Carolyn S. Fabry
- Juvenal Gonsalves, Jr.
- Nick Groenberg
- Hewiston Farms
- John C. Jaques & Son Dairy
- Stan Myers
- Anthony E. Nunes
- Todd Steele
- Tom Martella Family Limited
- Doug Verboon
- Daniel C. Salas Harvesting
- Jim Logan
- Brasil Hay Service Inc.
- California Clementines
- Couture Farms
- Gary Esajian
- Lemoore Chamber Of Commerce
- Dominique Mendivi
- Mike Monteiro
- John D. Oliveria
- P & K Farming
- Melvin Pereira
- Joe S. Sozinho
- Paul J. Stuber
- Edward N. Warmerdam

**RENEWED BUSINESS SUPPORT MEMBERS**

- Lakeland Aviation
- Billingsley Tire
- Blair Air Service Inc.
- Central Valley Community Bank
- 89 E & B Bulk Transport
- Rodney Evangelho
- Laguna Irrigation District
- M. Green & Co.
- Myers Brothers Well Drilling

**RENEWED ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- Steven Bommelje
- Anthony Raved



# Directory of Farm Bureau Supporting Business Members

These businesses and organizations support the agricultural industry and the Kings County Farm Bureau. Please support them and tell them you are a Farm Bureau member. Call us at 584-3557. Friends of Farm Bureau sponsors are noted in **bold** listings. By joining FB as a business member, your business is added to this directory.

## ACCOUNTING

**Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants** 559-924-1225  
**M. Green and Company LLP** 559-584-2751

## ASSOCIATIONS

California Women for Agriculture 559-737-8899  
 Kings River Conservation District 559-237-5567

## AUTO DEALERS & REPAIR

**Billingsley Tire** 559-924-3481  
 Jones Collision Center 559-924-2169  
 Maaco Collision & Auto Painting 559-924-3000  
 Richard's Chevrolet-Buick 559-992-3158

## BANKING/FINANCIAL

Bank of the Sierra 559-585-6700  
 Bank of the West 559-802-4066  
 Central Valley Community Bank 559-323-3493  
 Citizens Business Bank 866-578-0658  
**Farm Credit West** 559-584-2681  
**Golden State Farm Credit** 559-584-5401  
**Rabobank** 559-587-0218

## BROKERS & COMMODITIES

Baker Commodities Inc. 559-582-0271  
 Buttonwillow Warehouse Co. 559-992-5120  
 Calcot Ltd. 661-327-5961  
 Overland Stockyards 559-582-0404  
 Penny Newman Grain Company 559-448-8800  
**Tulare Lake Compost** 559-840-4368

## CHEMICALS & APPLICATORS

Blair Air Services Inc./ Blair Ground Services 559-924-1276  
 Crop Production Services 559-584-5583  
 Diversified Crop Services 559-582-5644  
 Gar Bennett LLC 559-638-6311  
**Innovative Ag Services LLC** 559-731-4924  
 Lakeland Dusters 559-992-5716  
 SNF Agriculture 559-309-4301  
 TriCal Inc. 559-673-5237  
**Valley Ag Spraying** 559-772-5515  
**Verdegaal Brothers Inc.** 559-582-9205

## CUSTOM SERVICES

All Valley Printing/ Treefrog Print Shop 559-584-5444  
**Danell Brothers Inc.** 559-582-1251  
 Dias & Fragoso Inc. 559-584-8036  
 Garcia & Sons Hay Harvesting 559-707-4420  
 Hanford Roofing Company 559-582-5607  
 McCann & Sons Hay Service 559-925-9110  
**Mello Chipping** 559-589-0300  
 Netto Ag Inc. 559-585-2097  
 Stoney's Sand & Gravel 559-924-9229  
 Swinger Pruning Services 559-816-7711  
 Warmerdam Orchard Services 559-924-4662

## DAIRIES/DAIRY SUPPLIERS

**Kings Dairy Supply Inc.** 559-582-9459  
**Summerhill Dairy** 559-468-6554  
 Vet Pharmaceutical Inc. 559-582-6800

## EQUIPMENT DEALERS & REPAIR

**Hanford Equipment** 559-582-0443  
 Lawrence Tractor Co. 559-582-9002  
 Linder Equipment Co. 559-685-5000  
**Quality Machinery Center** 559-707-1638  
 Quinn Company 559-992-2193

## FARM SUPPLY

AgSeeds Unlimited 559-923-1800  
 Evangelho Seed Co. 559-324-9554  
 West Valley Supply 559-924-3442

## FARMS & RANCHES

Gary Robinson 559-779-5541  
 Grabow Farming 559-816-4590  
**J.G. Boswell Co.** 559-992-5011  
**Keenan Farms** 559-945-1400  
 Miya Farms 559-309-3300  
**Stone Land Co.** 559-945-2205  
**Sullivan Farming LLC** 559-289-2452  
**Summerhill Dairy** 559-804-8148  
 Taylor Farms 559-584-3798

## FOOD SERVICES

Avila Acres Country Gourmet 559-584-5935  
 Eddie's Catering 559-707-8796  
 Kings River Produce 559-587-9387  
 Pizza Factory 559-992-3148  
 Superior Dairy 559-582-0481

## INSURANCE SERVICES

**Bacome Insurance** 559-584-3323  
 Carl Nelson Insurance 559-584-4495  
 Der Manouel Insurance Group 559-447-4600  
 Golden State Crop & Insurance Services 559-587-9007  
**Mackey & Mackey Insurance Agency** 559-583-9393  
 Mitchell Insurance Services 559-713-1315  
**Pacific Ag Insurance Agency** 559-584-3391  
**The Zenith** 877-581-8237

## IRRIGATION/PUMPS/WELLS

Carver Pump 855-622-7837  
 Grabow Well Drilling Inc. 559-362-5172  
 Kaweah Pump Inc. 559-747-0755  
 Kings County Water District 559-584-6412  
**Laguna Irrigation District** 559-923-4239  
 Lakeside Irrigation Water District 559-584-3396  
 Myers Brothers Well Drilling Inc. 559-582-9031  
 Myers Well Drilling 559-906-0930  
**Rain for Rent/Westside Pump** 559-693-4315  
 Westlands Water District 559-905-6736

## LABOR

Sunrise Farm Labor 559-945-2292

## MANUFACTURES

Dean Beck's Machine Shop 559-582-4144  
 Jim Harp's Stainless Steel Welding 559-582-6011  
**Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies** 559-582-4417  
 R-N-R Welding 559-584-0213  
 Sawtelle & Rosprim Machine Co. 559-992-2117  
 Smith Welding Shop 559-584-8652

## PETROLEUM

Buford Oil Co. Inc. 559-582-9028  
 Dassel's Petroleum 559-582-8515  
 Gary V. Burrows Inc. 559-924-2064  
**J.C. Lansdowne Inc.** 559-651-1760  
 Roe Oil Co. 559-584-5690  
 Valley Pacific Petroleum 559-732-8381

## PROCESSORS

County Line Gin Inc. 559-854-7489  
**Keenan Farms** 559-945-1400  
**Marquez Brothers International, Inc.** 559-584-8000  
**Olam SVI** 559-584-2711  
 Warmerdam Packing LP 559-584-9211

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**Dias Law Firm Inc.** 559-585-7330  
**Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP** 559-584-6656  
**Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP** 559-584-3337  
 Kings County EDC 559-585-3576  
 Zumwalt-Hansen & Associates Inc. 559-582-1056

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**Pearson Realty** 559-732-7300  
 Sierra View Realty 559-410-5557

## SOLAR ENERGY

CalCom Solar 661-234-0978  
**Coldwell Solar** 888-705-5055  
**First Solar** 415-935-2507  
 REC Solar 717-515-4519  
**Recurrent Energy** 415-675-1500  
**Renewable Solar** 559-816-5088

## TRANSPORTATION

E & B Bulk Transportation 559-582-9135  
 Mesa Alta Transportation 559-250-1270  
 Mid Valley Disposal 559-237-9425

## UTILITIES

**Pacific Gas & Electric** 559-263-5308  
 unWired Broadband 844-650-3278



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Dias Law Firm Inc.  
Gar Bennett LLC

J.C. Lansdowne Inc.  
M Green & Company LLP  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
Renewable Solar

Tachi Palace Casino Resort  
The Wonderful Company  
Verdegaal Brothers

## Silver

Coldwell Solar Inc.  
Danell Custom Harvesting  
Excellence Medical Group  
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP  
Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC  
J.G. Boswell Company Inc.  
JKB Energy Inc.

Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP  
Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies  
Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients  
Pacific Ag Insurance  
Quality Machinery Center  
Rain for Rent  
Southern California Edison

Summerhill Dairy  
Stone Land Co.  
S&W Seed Company  
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District  
Wells Fargo Bank

## Bronze

Agland Protective Services  
Billingsley Tire Inc.  
Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants  
CalWest Rain  
Central Valley Energy Coalition  
Grainger Water Specialties

Grower Direct Nut Company  
Hanford Equipment Co.  
Innovative Ag Services LLC  
JP Honey Farms  
Keenan Farms  
Keller Motors  
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.

Laguna Irrigation District  
Mello Chipping  
Plain Insane Graphix  
Pearson Realty Inc.  
Rabobank  
Richard's Chevrolet  
Schuil & Associates

Sullivan Farming LLC  
Tulare Lake Compost  
Valley Ag Spraying  
Wilbur Ellis Inc.





# Cotton Production IN KINGS COUNTY



## Kings County *cotton* BY THE NUMBERS

Courtesy of the Kings County Ag Commissioner

### *facts about* KINGS COUNTY COTTON

- Kings County is ranked 1st among California counties in the production of cotton lint and cottonseed
- More than 100,000 acres of Kings County land is used to grow cotton
- The total value of Kings County cotton exceeded \$272 million in 2018
- Kings County is home to six cotton gins

Courtesy of the Kings County Ag Commissioner

### *facts about* CALIFORNIA COTTON

- Most of the cotton grown in California is grown in the San Joaquin Valley.
- California produces two types or species of cottons. One is the Upland or Acala types and the other is the extra-long staple or Pima type.
- A full-size bale of cotton lint weighs approximately 500 pounds and stands about 4 ½ feet high. A typical bale can produce as many as 8,000 handkerchiefs, 3,400 pairs of socks, 750 shirts, 3,000 diapers, 325 pairs of jeans, or 200 full-size bed sheets.
- California’s cottonseed production represents approximately 7% of U.S. total annual cottonseed production. Over 95% is fed to dairy cattle and the balance is crushed for the oil.

### *uses for* CALIFORNIA COTTON

**Cottonseed, when crushed, produces many byproducts common in everyday use:**

- Linters, the fuzz left on the seed after ginning, are used for such items as dynamite, filler in gun powder, mops, cotton balls, automotive upholstery, fine writing paper and currency.
- Cellulose, the principal component of the cotton fiber, when extracted from the linters, is used to make food casing, paint, toothpaste, plastics for windshields, tool handles and x-ray film.
- Cottonseed hulls are mainly used for animal feed.
- Cottonseed oil is used for cooking oil, salad dressing, cosmetics, soap, and as a carrier for agricultural sprays (no VOC).
- Cottonseed meal and cake is used for fertilizers and feed for cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, fish and shrimp.
- Revenues generated by the cotton industry in the form of products and services to California’s economy are in excess of \$2.5 billion dollars annually.

Courtesy of the California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association

	ACALA ACRES	UPLAND NON-APPROVED VARIETIES ACRES	PIMA ACRES	PIMA NON-APPROVED VARIETIES ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	TOTAL VALUE
1969	88,000				88,000	\$21,898,000
1970	93,000				93,000	\$25,087,000
1971	109,000				109,000	\$28,609,000
1972	141,000				141,000	\$44,825,000
1973	172,000				172,000	\$85,998,000
1974	214,000				214,000	\$122,265,000
1975	167,000				167,000	\$108,917,000
1976	202,000				202,000	\$147,741,000
1977	221,500				221,500	\$139,829,000
1978	284,800				284,800	\$110,630,000
1979	287,500				287,500	\$204,834,000
1980	285,965				285,965	\$298,850,000
1981	309,000				309,000	\$244,359,000
1982	274,361				274,361	\$235,807,000
1983	189,815				189,815	\$174,843,000
1984	267,292				267,292	\$213,860,000
1985	267,112				267,112	\$202,659,000
1986	218,000				218,000	\$196,664,000
1987	259,347				259,347	\$275,517,000
1988	289,209				289,209	\$222,880,000
1989	245,763		1,377		247,140	\$257,687,000
1990	247,455		6,670		254,125	\$279,284,000
1991	218,335		15,490		233,825	\$244,752,000
1992	234,065		20,740		254,805	\$293,565,000
1993	233,980		27,835		261,815	\$288,598,000
1994	233,980		28,735		262,715	\$269,337,000
1995	257,431		29,199		286,630	\$280,390,000
1996	209,345		42,335		251,680	\$249,275,000
1997	162,555		56,245		218,800	\$222,406,000
1998	103,549	9,040	43,740		156,329	\$135,868,000
1999	66,117	39,483	93,675		199,275	\$211,477,000
2000	73,030	60,076	84,003	2,491	219,600	\$232,100,000
2001	75,582	47,173	64,689	2,416	189,860	\$205,707,000
2002	84,513	13,497	66,069	2,691	166,770	\$205,353,000
2003	89,314	11,906	56,333	4,537	162,090	\$200,071,000
2004	88,890	15,696	8,932	70,188	183,706	\$253,553,000
2005	107,229	16,730	92,250	7,645	223,854	\$249,425,000
2006	48,935	18,799	95,880	1,906	165,520	\$217,431,000
2007	21,150		110,245		131,395	\$234,836,000
2008	13,515		72,465		85,980	\$140,328,000
2009	8,442		59,584		68,026	\$135,975,000
2010	17,870		83,417		101,287	\$244,441,000
2011	22,995		109,900		132,895	\$326,197,000
2012	17,501		99,651		117,152	\$326,991,000
2013	11,181		92,269		103,450	\$318,098,000
2014	6,710		68,353		75,063	\$231,589,000
2015	4,727		65,015		69,742	\$177,263,000
2016	8,535		80,540		89,075	\$221,662,000
2017	10,599		101,791		112,390	\$247,222,000
2018	8,684		91,720		100,404	\$272,715,000





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# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## *Task force assists with riots around the state*

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Sgt. Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force has been working non-stop over the past month. June began with members of our unit assisting Oakland Police Department with the riots. We were there for two days assisting with the apprehension of looters and enforcing the county-wide curfew. We also had officers travel to the Los Angeles area to help with the riots there and to San Luis Obispo to assist with the investigation into the homicide suspect that was ambushing police there.

Upon our return, we didn't slow down, taking theft reports and making several arrests. We investigated the theft of a fertilizer trailer owned by Simplot taken from the area of 6 1/2 and Bainum avenues. We have not located the trailer, but we did arrest David Loera, who was booked and released.

We are currently investigating several chemical thefts that have occurred in Kings and Fresno counties. We have a suspect identified and are working with the Fresno County Rural Crime Unit to make an arrest and attempt to locate the stolen chemicals. Due to the ongoing investigation, we are not able to provide the suspect's name. At this point, we know the suspect is responsible for five chemical thefts. We anticipate he will be located and arrested within the week.

Our unit was assigned an investigation regarding a suspect attempting to purchase welders at Valley Oxygen. In summary, Adrian Tinoco represents himself as an employee of construction companies and purchases welding equipment. He utilizes the true business name of a known company and signs a purchase order. He has done this in Kings, Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties. He didn't receive the welders he requested from Valley Oxygen. He did, however, get away with his scheme in other counties. We worked with the Kern County Rural Crime Unit to identify the suspect and they are actively searching for him.

When we weren't conducting new or follow-up investigations, we stayed busy with illegal marijuana grows, eradicating three more grows in June. In total, we removed over 4,000 plants with an estimated street value of more than \$4

million. Four suspects were arrested and one vehicle was seized in relation to these grows. If any of you know of illegal marijuana grows, please give us a call so we can remove them.

We remind everyone to please give us a call if you witness suspicious activity or have any questions. The OAN, Owner Applied Number, can be assigned to anyone who needs equipment stamped. We also have Smart Water CSI available to help protect your property; this can be purchased from Kings County Farm Bureau. We appreciate your support and thank you for all that you do for us. 🙏

**Task Force Sergeant Rod Shulman: 559-469-4004**

**Detective Carlos Santos: 559-904-6893**

**Detective Ben Moore: 559-589-3629**

**Detective Kody Holt: 559-369-8928**



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