

**INSIDE**

DAIRY PRINCESS PG. 4



FFA FINALS PG. 8



PPE REQUIREMENTS PG. 12

## Join us in fighting for a Kings County dairy family

June is the month reserved for honoring our local dairy industry, but COVID-19 has curbed the celebrations that typically take place this month. In lieu of the traditional observances, Kings County Farm Bureau is reaching out to our members and industry partners to ask for help in combatting an attack against a Central Valley dairy family.

KCFB has joined the charge against the City of Corcoran, who is suing Curtimade Dairy for \$65 million in what has turned into a legal battle over alleged groundwater contamination. As the local organization responsible for advocating for farmers and ranchers, we are raising money to help fight the City of Corcoran's deliberate attempt to extort a farming family to serve their own greedy purposes.

"We hope the local ag community will join our efforts to stop an extremely dangerous precedent from being set," said KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ferenc. "If erroneous, self-serving lawsuits against farmers by municipalities are allowed to happen, none of us in the ag industry is safe from this kind of prosecution."

During the Valley's recent historic drought, the City of Corcoran tried to place blame for elevated nitrate levels in the groundwater on Curtimade Dairy, a dairy owned by the Curti family that has been part of the community for more than 100 years. After years of harassment from the city, the Curtis and their neighbors offered to pay for a new well to resolve the ongoing conflict with the city. This offer was in addition to involvement with a landowner working group and countless meetings with city representatives, the Corcoran Irrigation District and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In spite of the Curtis repeated efforts to resolve the situation, the city refused any and all reasonable offers of a new water source.



Curtimade Dairy is facing a \$65 million lawsuit from the City of Corcoran over alleged groundwater contamination. KCFB is accepting donations on behalf of the Curti family to help fund their legal battle. Photo courtesy of Curtimade Dairy

*"Dairy Family" cont'd on page 5*

## Support needed for virtual Kings Fair Junior Livestock Auction

By Amy D. Fienen

Since COVID-19 led to the cancellation of this year's Kings Fair, local 4-H and FFA members can't sell their livestock projects at the live auction held annually at the fair.

To ensure exhibitors still have an opportunity to sell their projects, the Kings Fair is partnering with Overland Stockyard to host a virtual Junior Livestock and Dairy Replacement & Yearling Auction on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m.

Kings Fair CEO Jerome Coelho hopes the community will support local youth who have already lost so much to this pandemic.

"Kids have lost graduations, dances, year-end activities, and



File photo from the 2019 Kings Fair livestock auction. As COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of this year's fair, the auction will be held online.

*"Livestock Auction" cont'd on page 5*



### Purpose

Protect, preserve and enhance agriculture in Kings County

### Vision

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

### Values

Our Members | Proactive Representative  
Reliable | Trusted Resource

### Officers

**President:** Brian Medeiros  
**Vice President:** Kevin Robertson  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Shane Bickner

### Directors

Shane Bickner	Michael Miya
John Ellis	Brian Potter
Todd Fukuda	Brian Rodrigues
Jon Garcia	Brandon Sargent
Dino Giacomazzi	Jared Silveira
Garrett Gilcrease	Helen Sullivan
Keith Grabow	Steve Walker
Pete Hanse	Frank Zonneveld
Jared Little	

### Executive Director

Dusty Ference  
dusty.ference@kcfb.org

### Farm Life Editorial

Amy Fienen  
afienen@kcfb.org  
(559) 246-6433

### Farm Life Advertising

Larry Murray  
lwmurray1950@gmail.com  
(209) 622-9969

### Farm Life Designer

Beth Greene

### CFBF District Representative

Jenny Holterman

### Contact

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



Kings County Farm Bureau



@KingsFarmBureau



@KingsFarmBureau

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

© Kings County Farm Bureau, 2020

## New partnership benefits direct to consumer growers

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

Learning to navigate grower advocacy in 2020 has Kings County Farm Bureau looking at new ways to provide benefits to its membership. Our board of directors has been considering membership benefits for direct to consumer growers for some time, and is pleased to announce a new option for those growers.

KCFB and Main Street Hanford, the host of downtown Hanford's Thursday Night Market Place, have partnered to offer a discount to produce vendors selling at the market. Any Kings County Farm Bureau member that displays a membership sign during a Thursday Night Market will receive a discount on fees paid to the market.

Through this partnership, we are aiming to provide economic relief to members selling directly to consumers and connecting with growers unfamiliar with the work KCFB does for agriculture every day. This is one more way we are working to ensure every farmer in Kings County has the right to farm and protect their heritage.

To learn more, contact Kings County Farm Bureau or Main Street Hanford. 📞



## Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Nationwide is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of the California Farm Bureau. Since 1926, Nationwide has been providing insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members and remains committed to protecting what matters most. As a company with a deep agricultural history, Nationwide offers members of the California Farm Bureau a discount on farm insurance.

**Nationwide also offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including:**

- Automobile Insurance\*
- Home Insurance
- Pet Insurance\*
- Travel Insurance
- Powersports Insurance
- Commercial Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Workers' Compensation\*

\*Select discounts may apply.  
To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent, or visit [Nationwide.com/cfbf](http://Nationwide.com/cfbf).



**Nationwide®**  
is on your side

### Land As Your Legacy®

Transitioning your family farm or ranch to the next generation can be overwhelming without a solid plan in place, but working with a team of professionals can help ensure your success. Whether your farm or ranch has been around for several generations or you're a first-generation farmer, Nationwide® is there to help you plan what happens to your operations after you're gone. Land As Your Legacy® transition planning program for farmers and ranchers is a no-cost program that provides transition planning solutions, so your family's agribusiness will remain a legacy for generations to come. Select the link for more information [www.nationwide.com/yourland](http://www.nationwide.com/yourland). 📞

## EPA releases temporary guidance on respiratory protection for agricultural pesticide handlers during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has heard from states and stakeholders about Personal Protective Equipment shortages in the agricultural sector. To respond to these reports and to help ensure the health and safety of America's farmers, EPA is providing temporary guidance regarding respiratory protection requirements for agricultural pesticide handlers. Our guidance aligns with recent OSHA memos on respirators while addressing EPA's responsibilities under FIFRA and the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

The temporary guidance outlines approaches to address the unavailability of required respiratory protection and respiratory fit testing that should first be exhausted before considering any alternative options. Options include:

- Use alternative NIOSH-approved respirators offering equivalent or greater respiratory protection than those required on the pesticide label;
- Hire commercial applicator services with enough respirators and respiratory protection capabilities;
- Opt to use agricultural pesticide products that do not require respirators; or
- Delay pesticide applications until another compliant option is available.

If the above options are exhausted, EPA's guidance provides additional options with strict terms, conditions, and exhaustion requirements to minimize potential incremental risks to workers:

- Reuse and extended use of disposable N95 filter face piece respirator;
- Use of "expired" respirators;
- Use of respirators certified in certain other countries or jurisdictions meeting protective conditions outlined; or
- Delay the annual respirator "fit test."

This is a temporary policy. EPA will assess the continued need for and scope of this temporary guidance on a regular basis. To read the guidance in full and to learn more about EPA's Worker Protection Standard, visit [epa.gov/pesticides](http://epa.gov/pesticides). 🐦

## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program now accepting applications

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The agency set up a call center in order to simplify how they serve new customers across the nation.

"We know California producers are facing a tough time now, and we are making every effort to provide much needed support as quickly as possible," said Connie Conway, state executive director for FSA in California. "FSA is available over the phone and virtually to walk you through the application process, whether it's the first time you've worked with FSA, or if you know us quite well."

Applications will be accepted through Aug. 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

"We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply," Conway said.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remain-

"Food Assistance" continued on page 4

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DETER CRIME**

**Now available in Kings County**

**Available for members to purchase at the KCFB office**

**THIEVES BEWARE**

**SMARTWATER**

**KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FORENSICALLY PROTECTED BY SMARTWATER®**

[www.SmartWaterCSI.com](http://www.SmartWaterCSI.com)

©/TM SmartWater, the SmartWater yellow, atom logo, hand-print logo and THIEVES BEWARE are trademarks of SmartWater Limited. SmartWater is a proprietary forensic asset marking System and Strategy protected by worldwide trademarks and patents.



**BBB**  
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

**CARVER**  
PUMP SERVICE  
Serving The Central Valley

CELEBRATING  
OVER 40 YEARS

24-Hour Service

Lic #547257

**(855)622-7837 TOLL FREE**

**DOMESTIC & IRRIGATION PUMPS • SALES • REPAIRS**

VISA SINCE 1976 MasterCard

[www.carver-pump.com](http://www.carver-pump.com)



**Firestone**  
IN-FIELD SERVICE  
WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

We are specially trained and fully equipped to meet your on-farm, in-field tire service and replacement needs

Call us for on-farm deliveries and on-the-spot tire repair

**BILLINGSLEY TIRE INC**  
6 WEST D STREET  
LEMOORE CA 93245  
(559) 924-3481  
[www.billingsleytireinc.com](http://www.billingsleytireinc.com)

*"Food Assistance" cont'd from page 3*

ing portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments.

Additionally, producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a good first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

#### Applying for Assistance

Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Those who use the online calculator tool will be able to print off a pre-filled CFAP application, sign, and submit to your local FSA office either electronically or via hand delivery. Please contact your local office to determine the preferred method. The number for the Kings County FSA office is (559) 585-8732.

Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

#### Additional Commodities

USDA is also establishing a process for the public to identify additional commodities for potential inclusion in CFAP. Specifically, USDA is looking for data on agricultural commodities, that are not currently eligible for CFAP, that the public believes to have either:

1. suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2. shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, or
3. not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops.

More information about this process is available on [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). 📄

## Jenna Searcy named District 7 Dairy Princess

Contributed by Jackie Giacomazzi

COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of the June Dairy Month activities and honorees that are normally featured in "Farm Life" each June. However, the June Dairy Month Committee has chosen to announce the District 7 Dairy Princess for 2020-21.

The new princess is Jenna Searcy, the 17-year-old daughter of Gerra Searcy of Hanford. She will be a senior at Hanford High School. Searcy is a member of Hanford FFA and has shown dairy replacement heifers for many years. She is also a member of the agronomy judging team. During her freshman year, Searcy was the president of the Greenhand officer team.

Her other activities include the California Scholastic Federation, math club, and SALAD BOWL, a multicultural club. Searcy was also active in sports and was involved in both tennis and soccer all three years of her high school career.

Her future goals include attending college after graduation to pursue a career in ag business.

"I want to be an advocate for the dairy industry," Searcy said. "My mother and my sister were both part of the Dairy Princess program, and following in their footsteps is extremely important to me. I will do my best to soak up every experience, as well as go above and beyond what is expected of me." 📄



Jenna Searcy

*"Dairy Family" cont'd from page 1*

Now, after years of expert analysis and millions of dollars in legal fees, the city's wells have been deemed clean. Testing done as recently as August 2019 shows further decreases in nitrate levels at or below 10 mg/L. Because all of the city's wells meet mandated safety standards and the city refused to consider options for a new water source, the State Water Board told the city they were being unreasonable and withdrew their involvement.

The City of Corcoran is now left with a bill for their high-priced attorneys, and they have taken the stance that Curtimade Dairy is going to pay for it with a \$65 million civil suit. This kind of blatant extortion cannot be tolerated.

The Curti family has long been a good neighbor to Corcoran and has established themselves as upright stewards of the environment. In 2013, Curtimade Dairy was honored with the EPA's annual environmental award, and they embraced renewable energy by installing a solar installation to power the dairy. They are environmentally certified by the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program and are regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. For 105 years, this family has lived, worked and served the community of Corcoran, which is now trying to ruin them with a frivolous lawsuit.

"As an industry, we must ban together in an overwhelming show of force against this type of coercion by a city toward its agricultural community," Ference said. "We are putting our full support behind Curtimade Dairy and ask that you strengthen our efforts by joining them."

KCFB is accepting donations to help fund the fight against the City of Corcoran. If you'd like to help support the Curti family, you can mail a check to our office, 870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford, CA, 93230. Please note on your check that the funds are designated for Curtimade Dairy.

We must unite against the forces conspiring to bring our industry down, and appreciate any and all support in the ongoing battle to advocate for California's farmers and ranchers. 🙌

*"Livestock Auction" cont'd from page 1*

now they're losing the fair, too," Coelho said. "They need buyers to ensure they can repay their loans and make enough to purchase an animal again in the future."


The Kings Fair Foundation has been campaigning on behalf of exhibitors without committed buyers so none are left with an animal they can't sell. Donations will help purchase animals and contribute to add-ons. Coelho said that rallying the community behind exhibitors during this difficult time will make a lasting impression.

"Many of these kids are going to come back here after college, and we want them to remember how they were supported by the community," he said.

The registration deadline for the online auction has passed, but add-ons are being allowed through June 30. The minimum add-on bid is \$25.

The Kings Fair usually charges an eight percent commission for livestock auctions, but they're capping this auction's commission at two percent, which is just enough to cover their costs. They are accepting donations to help with the cost of trucking and other operating expenses to allow exhibitors to keep as much of their sales price as possible.

For more information about how you can support this year's junior livestock auction, please visit [thekingsfair.com/livestock-auctions](http://thekingsfair.com/livestock-auctions) or call the Kings Fair at (559) 584-3318. 🙌




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

**DIAS LAW FIRM, INC.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Michael A. Dias • Jonette M. Montgomery  
Sarah M. Hacker • Steven E. Alfieris  
Ella Floresca • David M. Lange  
Paula C. Clark

*Attorneys at Law*

Jimmy J. Rodriguez • Alicia D. Wrest  
*Of Counsel*



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

**559.924.1225**  
[bresslercompany.com](http://bresslercompany.com)

**OUTSOURCE YOUR ACCOUNTING TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY.**

#FINANCIALFUTURE



## Own ALL Your Assets

*You own your home. You own your business. Why not own the electricity that powers them? Unleash the power and the profitability of solar and unleash a new revenue stream.*

*Call us today for more information and ask for a FREE, NO OBLIGATION energy analysis. Or, visit us online.*

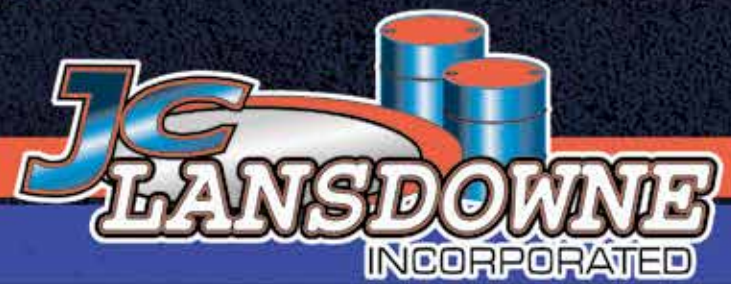
**559-410-8640**    [www.RSI.SOLAR](http://www.RSI.SOLAR)



# RENEWABLE SOLAR

*Exceptional People. Exceptional Performance.™*

**BUY LOCAL,  
BUY J.C. LANSDOWNE, INC.**



## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer

## Pest detection programs target invasive pests

Contributed by Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

Each Agricultural Commissioner is charged with the protection and promotion of California's agriculture, the protection of the environment, and protection of the public's health and safety. These goals are accomplished through the management of programs designed to achieve our mission through public outreach and numerous enforcement tools.

Pest Detection is a proactive program that provides the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. This program functions as an alliance between three cooperating agencies: The California Department of Food and Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Over 1,300 insect traps are monitored throughout Kings County for the presence of exotic pests. These include fruit flies (Mediterranean, Mexican, Caribbean, Oriental and Western cherry), Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, European Pine Shoot Moth, European Corn Borer, European Grape Vine Moth and Asian Citrus Psyllid. These pests are specific in their preferred hosts and traps are placed accordingly. Most traps are maintained on a seasonal basis (April through October), while a few are maintained all year. Each trap is serviced on a scheduled frequency, amounting to nearly 9,000 trap inspections annually.

With homeowners' cooperation, a majority of traps are placed throughout local urban areas, which are the most common points of introduction. Some traps contain specific insect pheromones, while others use a food or color attractant to lure the target pest if it is present in the surrounding neighborhood. It is extremely important to find invasive pests before they become established and do serious damage. The most important component of the successful Pest Detection Trapping Program is the partnership and cooperation of homeowners in granting permission to host insect traps on private property.

New for 2020 and 2021, the Kings County Department of Agriculture has contracted with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to provide and service an early detection program for Khapra Beetle. The program involves Kings County inspectors placing monitoring traps on the inside of high risk facilities for Khapra Beetle such as grain mills. The trapping will take place from May through October each year (2020 and 2021).

The Khapra beetle survey is a pro-active approach to enable the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to detect this serious pest before it becomes established and spreads throughout California. This would allow for early detection of these pests to have the ability to respond to incipient infestations.

### BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 24.5, 403, 5006, 5301, 5322, and 5721, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is legislatively mandated to "protect California from the damage caused by the introduction or spread of harmful plant pests." Khapra beetle (KB) is a serious pest of stored grains which is not currently established



in California or the United States. Infestations in California, Arizona, and New Mexico grain storage facilities in the 1950s were successfully eradicated after a massive and expensive fumigation project. New introductions continue to be intercepted at various ports in the United States, including California, and appear to have increased in recent years. Because California's climate will support a continuous breeding population, KB will establish a permanent presence in the state if new infestations are not eradicated. This pest, if allowed to become established in California or the United States, would in turn have a severe impact on California's and the nation's agricultural economy.

### Results or benefits expected from the trapping surveys:

- Early detection of introductions of KB in foreign grain shipments
- Effective mitigation measures to prevent the permanent establishment of any incipient populations found because of this survey
- Negative survey data supporting the validity of existing state and federal regulations while promoting California's export program

Early detection programs are beneficial to protecting our environment by limiting the need for increased pesticide applications for control or eradication efforts, and to help our growers provide consumers with an ample quantity of quality produce at affordable prices.

For more information or any questions, please contact the Kings County Department of Agriculture, (559) 852-2830 or [agstaff@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:agstaff@co.kings.ca.us) 🌾

# Highlighting the Next Generation of Kings County Agriculturalists

Contributed by Lilly Pimentel

## Hanford FFA students claim State Championship title at first ever virtual State FFA Finals

The Hanford FFA Agronomy and Agriculture Computer Applications teams take their distance learning responsibilities seriously. Last month, these two Hanford FFA Career Development Event teams competed in the first ever virtual State FFA Finals and claimed titles they have been working hard for.

Coached by Lilly Pimentel, the Agronomy Team, consisting of Curtis Lefler, Jenna Scott, Eveline Gonzalez-Pulido and Sierra Hilyard, took the State Champion Title with Lefler placing 3rd High Overall Individual.

Coached by Jason Ferreira, the Ag Computers Applications Team, consisting of Tanner Cardoza, Jayden Bracy, Seth Cornejo and Mackenzie Eckles, took home the Reserve State Champion Title with Cardoza placing 2nd High Overall Individual.



The State Champion Agronomy Team, pictured left to right: Curtis Lefler, Jenna Scott, Sierra Hilyard, Eveline Gonzalez-Pulido



The Reserve State Champion Ag Computers Team, pictured left to right: Mackenzie Eckles, Jayden Bracy, Tanner Cardoza, Seth Cornejo

All students enrolled in Agriculture Pathway courses in HJUHS are provided the opportunity to train and compete in these career development events throughout the year, building their resume with job skills, awards and industry-related knowledge. Congratulations to our outstanding FFA members for setting the bar high and showcasing our programs' commitment to achieving excellence within agriculture education.

## What exactly is 4-H?



Many people ask what 4-H is all about, and many assume it is like the Future Farmers of America, or FFA. It may be similar, but there are definite differences. 4-H is a nationwide leadership development program for youth ages 5 to 18. We are here to benefit youth from all backgrounds and beliefs, while also giving them their own voice. Members compete hands on in areas of health, science, agriculture, and public speaking in a positive environment.

4-H is in every county in the country in many ways. 4-H's reach and depth are unmatched, reaching kids in every corner of America. All 6 million 4-Hers are mentored by a network of 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 4-H professionals. They help them grow into true leaders today and in life. Through all of our projects or activities, 4-H empowers the youth with skills to lead in all their lifetime. Since 1902, over 100 years, 4-H has spread from Ohio to around the globe.

California 4-H started in 1912 at the University of California, and has grown since. As of 2018, California 4-H has 142,277 enrolled members. California has 58 different counties and opportunities for all the kids in the state, with a total of 44,249 clubs to join.

For the past three years, our enrollment rate jumped to 77%. We do many outreach projects and influence parents to do so.

4-H has changed our lives and can change yours. Whether you're a member or volunteer, you will make connections that you will never forget. If you are interested or have any questions, feel free to contact the Kings County 4-H by visiting the [http://cekings.ucanr.edu/Kings\\_County\\_4-H\\_Program/](http://cekings.ucanr.edu/Kings_County_4-H_Program/) website.



## Meet the 2019-2020 Kings County 4-H All Star Candidates



### Garret Martin

My name is Garret Martin, and I have been in 4-H for nine years. I started when I was 7 years old. 4-H has helped me grow in my public speaking skills. Back when I first joined 4-H, I used to get stage fright when speaking in front of large crowds and talking to people I didn't know. As I progressed through 4-H, I gave more

and more presentations, which helped me with my stage fright. Now, as a 4-H All Star, I have to give presentations all the time. Thanks to being in 4-H, though, I've overcome my fear of crowds and can give presentations and speeches to groups of people, big or small!



### Anna Felipe

I joined 4-H when I was 8 years old and the experience has been life-changing. Since I joined 4-H, I've been a club officer, a County Ambassador and an All Star Candidate. As an Ambassador, I worked on community outreach and recruiting new members. Now as an All Star Candidate, I work with the other candidates to

plan events and make the 4-H experience as fun as possible. One of my favorite things about 4-H is that it allows kids to learn how to express themselves and benefit their community. 4-H helped me find a passion in working with others, and getting to work with the All Star Candidate team has been another great part of 4-H. My favorite moment as an All Star was presenting at the Central Youth Summit, where we got to interact with kids from other counties and teach them about how to create a presentation and effectively communicate.



### Ashley Eller

Good day, my name is Ashley Eller. I am 17 years old, and this is my 10th year in 4-H. I am in the Lemoore 4-H Club and am in the following projects: Leadership, Citizenship, Public Speaking, Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Livestock, Welding, and Shooting Sports. There are many benefits that you can receive from this

program, but leadership is one of my best qualities. My spark, the 4-H term of your passion, is to mentor or tutor the younger members around me. Without 4-H, I wouldn't be the outgoing person I am today. That is very cliché to say, but it is true in my case. Now I can step in front of a group and lead them to success. The leadership I have learned has been applied everywhere I have gone: school, clubs, church, and more! 4-H has impacted my life greatly and it is well appreciated.



### Rory Valov

Hello, my name is Rory Valov and I am a Kings County 4-H All Star Candidate for the 2019-2020 program year. Most people think that 4-H is all about livestock, not realizing that 4-H has many projects that members can

join that do not involve livestock at all. Throughout my time in 4-H, I have participated in projects with Arts & Crafts, Community Service, Fashion Revue, Food & Nutrition, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Photography and Leadership Development. All of my projects helped me learn many new life skills. The most valuable skill I learned during my adventure in 4-H has been about leadership and communication. I joined 4-H at the age of 9. I was very shy and disliked talking to people, but through my years in 4-H, I have gained confidence in myself and built strong relationships. Being in 4-H has helped me be more confident when speaking and presenting to others and the community. It has also brought many wonderful people into my life. I have made many lifelong friends and have had the opportunity to have many wonderful project leaders, many who have made a great impact in my life so far. So you see, 4-H is not just about livestock. It's about engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development.



### Amanda Curtis

Hi, my name is Amanda Curtis. I am 15 years old. I have been in 4-H for seven years. I'm a member of the Corcoran 4-H club in Kings County and am one of the 2019-2020 All-Star candidates. My time as an All-Star has been

amazing and wonderful. I have really enjoyed presenting with my teammates and working together to convince people to join 4-H. I loved being able to run award shows with my teammates. I ran the 4-H presentation day through an online call with my teammate Anna. And then I took turns saying who got what awards and we also thanked everybody for joining the online call. Though it hasn't been the experience I thought it would have due to Covid-19, it still has been better than I imagined it.



#### NEW AG MEMBER

J.P. Honey Farm

#### RENEWED AG MEMBER

Brooksi Almond Ranch

Steve Avila

Gloria Baldrick

Steven Bickner

Tony Brazil

Gary V. Burrows

3H Cattle Co.

Cloverdale Dairy LLC

Kings Dairy Supply

Michael A. Dias

Ernest Dutra

Jean Etchebehere

Mike Evans

Newton Farms

Hollandia Farms Inc

Glenn L. Hall, MD

Mello D Jerseys

Tim Larson

Corcoran Chamber Of Commerces

Joe B. Pacheco Dairy

Ryan S. Palm

Sunset Ranch

Brandon Sargent

Rodney L. Silveira

Kenneth Smith

Eduardo Valadao

Pete Vander Poel

Michael G. Ward

Jerome Warmerdam

Alicia Ykema

#### RENEWED BUSINESS

#### SUPPORT MEMBERS

CGB Diversified Services Inc

Innovative Ag Services

Kaweah Pump Inc

Linder Equipment Company

Myers Well Drilling Inc

Tech Ag Financial Group

Westlands Water District

#### RENEWED ASSOCIATE

#### MEMBERS

Steven Findley

Frankie Gonsalves

Chelsie Grabow

Wendy M. Hakker

Ken D. Jones

Kenneth Meeks

Alan Scott

Michael Semas

Tim R. Son

# 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

# FRIENDS *of* FARM BUREAU

## DIAMOND



**Nationwide**<sup>®</sup>  
is on your side



## Platinum



## Gold

All Valley Printing  
Bacome Insurance Agency  
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  
Central Valley Energy Coalition  
Grower Direct Nut Company

Hanford Equipment Co.  
Innovative Ag Services LLC  
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.

# Understanding PPE requirements when handling pesticides

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner-Sealer

If you have tried purchasing supplies for pesticide handling, you have no doubt had challenges acquiring this needed personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 outbreak. To help you navigate through this period, the Kings County Ag Commissioner’s office is breaking down what is typically required when you or an employee handles pesticides, along with some ideas to help reduce the PPE required.

If you are the owner, you have the requirement of complying with the label; on the other hand, if an employee is handling pesticides, they must follow the product label, regulation or county permit conditions. If the pesticide label identifies a specific type of protective equipment, that specific PPE must be worn unless the application is made from an enclosed cab tractor or using some other engineering control method. All required PPE must be available at the use site.


The first option for PPE reduction is to use pesticides considered less hazardous and without the signal words “WARNING” or “DANGER.” Keep it simple by using pesticides with the signal word “CAUTION.” This labeling typically only requires work clothing, a long-sleeved shirt, pants, shoes and socks, eye protection and chemical-resistant gloves. The use of coveralls is voluntary and the type used could depend on the method of application.

Employees are required to use coveralls while handling pesticides with the signal word “WARNING” or “DANGER” in addition to other PPE specific to the handling activity. The popular white polypropylene coveralls used in agriculture might provide a better level of protection than cloth coveralls, but are not chemical resistant. Their use in hot temperatures is uncomfortable, which leads to non-compliances when not worn properly. Coveralls are a one or two-piece garment of closely woven fabric, provided by the employer. This requirement allows the use of cloth coveralls. You probably have old long-sleeved shirts and pants in



your closet suitable for use as coveralls by your employees, so you might not even need to buy coveralls. If cloth coveralls are used, you need to establish procedures for laundering the cloth coveralls. In situations when the label requires coveralls over long-sleeved shirt and pants, a one-piece cloth coverall is acceptable. Pesticides with the signal word “DANGER” could require the use of coveralls over long-sleeved shirt and pants, eye protection, chemical resistant gloves, chemical


**YOUR VENTURE** | **OUR VENTURE**  
**AGRICULTURE** | **YOUR SUCCESS**



Focused exclusively on agriculture, we have the understanding and experience to customize financial solutions for your needs.

We're here for you — in the field, in the office, dedicated to your success.

**Hanford: 559.584.5401**  
**Kingsburg: 559.897.5814**




**GOLDEN STATE FARM CREDIT**

FOR AMERICA'S AGRICULTURALIST  
[GoldenStateFarmCredit.com](http://GoldenStateFarmCredit.com)

Golden State Farm Credit is a Proud Supporter of the Dairy Industry.

**YOUR AD could be here!**



For advertising rates & specifications:  
**Larry Murray (209) 622-9969**  
**[lwmurray1950@gmail.com](mailto:lwmurray1950@gmail.com)**

resistant boots, chemical resistant apron for mixing and loading, and a form of respiratory protection.

The brand of the pesticide applied can make a difference in PPE requirements. Two different brands might have the same active ingredient, but one brand might be a “CAUTION” material and the other a “WARNING” and would require more PPE. You might be saving some money buying one brand or a generic version of the name brand, but it might mean you now need to provide coveralls because the less expensive brand has a “WARNING” signal word. The cost of the coverall for each use could be more than what is saved by choosing the lesser expensive pesticide. A dry formulation of a pesticide might require less PPE because it could be a “CAUTION” labeled pesticide and an emulsifiable concentrated formulation of a pesticide labeled as “WARNING,” therefore requiring additional PPE.

You can use this table to assist you in complying.

Type of PPE	Requirement	PPE options	In short supply
Protective Eyewear	Glasses that provide brow and temple protection. ANSI Z87.1 compliant	Safety glasses, goggles, face shield or full-face mask respirator	NO
Chemical Resistant Gloves	Gloves that are 14 mils or thicker	14 mils or thicker barrier laminate, butyl rubber, nitrile rubber, neoprene, natural rubber, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or Vitron	YES
Chemical Resistant Footwear	Footwear that is chemical-resistant	Chemical-resistant shoes, boots, or coverings worn over shoes or boots	NO
Coveralls	A one or two-piece garment that covers the entire body (not work clothing)	Cloth one-piece coveralls, cloth two-piece coveralls, Tyvek coveralls, barrier laminate coveralls, or rain suit	YES
Respiratory Protection	A dust mist respirator, organic vapor respirator, or organic vapor respirator with a particulate pre-filter	NIOSH approved N, R, P or HE filter or an organic vapor removing cartridge with or without a pre-filter	YES

Even though some items are in short supply, here are some options that can assist you with compliance.

Item in short supply	Options you have to comply
Chemical Resistant Gloves	Extend the life of chemical-resistant gloves by washing and drying for the next day's use, as long as they are not torn or have holes. Expand your search and look for gloves made of natural rubber, polyethylene, or PVC when allowed by the label. Cotton glove liners may be worn for comfort, unless prohibited by the label, but must be disposed of at the end of the workday.
Coveralls	Look for cloth coveralls that can be laundered after each use. If you have an old long-sleeved shirt and pants, they could be used as coveralls over work clothing. The typical polypropylene (Tyvek) coveralls are rated for use against COVID-19, look for a non-Tyvek brand polypropylene coverall that are not in high demand. A rain-suit, if it is not so hot could be utilized.
Respiratory Protection	Look to use a pesticide that does not require respiratory protection. The label may allow any N, R P, or HE filter, not only an N95. If the application is made from an enclosed cab tractor or the mixing and loading via a closed system, the respiratory protection may not need to be used but it must be available for use. A pre-filter adaptor and adaptor cap attached to a half-mask face respirator and a NIOSH approved N, R, P, or HE pre-filter can be used. A combined organic vapor-removing cartridge with the approved pre-filter can also be used.

Should you have any questions, please call our office at (559) 852-2830. 📞









Contact Richard's or KCFB for a special incentive!

# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## *Unit eradicates illegal marijuana grows valued at \$7 million*

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Sgt. Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force was extremely busy in May. The COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed criminal activity down at all. We made over 26 arrests during the month, knowing that over 80% of felony and misdemeanor suspects are released on a citation to appear in court. This is due to the zero dollar amount bail for all crimes with the exception of violent felonies. This simply means we are doing our jobs, but the criminals are not going to jail and criminal activity is extremely high. Please understand we are doing all we can with our hands being tied. This is just as frustrating for us as it is for you, but we will continue to do our jobs the best we can.

Our unit has conducted several investigations for theft, grand theft and marijuana cultivation. We identified the suspect who was stealing diesel fuel from JG Boswell. Doug Silva was stopped with approximately 250 gallons of diesel fuel. He was arrested on other charges and we are currently waiting for an arrest warrant to be issued for the fuel theft.

Johnny DeJong had a Polaris Ranger stolen from his dairy on Dover Avenue. We have no investigative leads in this case.

We conducted two investigations into ladders and trainers stolen from two different companies. We located half of the ladders in the possession of Eric Mireles. He was issued a citation for possession of stolen property and is awaiting a court date.

The remainder of the month was spent eradicating several illegal marijuana grows.

Our unit, with the assistance of KCSO SWAT, Detectives, Major Crimes, Aviation, and Patrol units removed more than 10 illegal marijuana grows. These operations yielded over five tons of marijuana with a street value of over \$7 million. We also recovered stolen firearms and an assault rifle. More than 20 suspects were arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges. If you know of any illegal marijuana grows, we ask that you please call one of our Rural Crime Detectives.

We remind everyone to please give us a call if you see suspicious activity or have questions about anything. I also want to remind everyone that Smart Water is available and can be purchased from Kings County Farm Bureau. We also have Owner Applied Numbers (OAN) and can issue you one if needed, and are available if you need equipment stamped. Thank you for your support and assistance. 🙌

**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**



**PACIFIC AG**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
License # 0C84245

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

PACIFIC AG INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

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

Hanford 559.584.3391      Corcoran 559.992.1245      Chowchilla 559.665.3434

# AVILA DAIRY EQUIPMENT Inc.

## CELEBRATING 48 YEARS

of Supporting the  
Dairy Industry

**MUELLER**



Authorized Dealer

# Richard & Susan Avila

*Owners*

9211 E. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230  
(559) 582-9649  
24-HOUR SERVICE

# Experience from the ground up



**Our business is agriculture.**  
In fact, many of our staff have direct experience in farming or ranching: living – and working – testaments to our timeless commitment to the future of agriculture.

**DINUBA**  
559.591.9378  
**HANFORD**  
559.584.2681  
**TULARE**  
559.684.1478



[FarmCreditWest.com](http://FarmCreditWest.com)



Committed. Experienced. Trusted.