



## INSIDE



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## Farm Day has instilled love of agriculture in 32,000 children

By Amy D. Fienen

Over the past 15 years, Kings County Farm Day has impacted the lives of 32,000 local third graders. What began as a pilot program in 2005 with 1,200 students from 20 Kings County schools has doubled in size. The 16th annual Farm Day 2020, which is coming up on Thursday, March 19, will welcome 2,400 students, 106 teachers and 300 chaperones from 35 Kings County schools. As many as 60 presenters and more than 100 volunteers will donate their time to teach valuable lessons about the importance of agriculture.

A partnership between Kings County Farm Bureau, the Kings County Office of Education and the Kings Fair, Farm Day began with the goal of highlighting agriculture careers in an effort to increase awareness of the positive contributions agriculture makes to the local community and economy. As the event has evolved over the years, the philosophy has become less about careers and more about sparking what organizers hope will become a lasting interest in agriculture by bringing it to life for young people.

“Agriculture is the Valley’s dominant industry, and we have a huge responsibility to begin teaching the next generation of consumers about the positive contributions farming makes to the community and the local economy,” said past Farm Day Chairman Brian Bergman. “Farm Day teaches children where their food comes from and demonstrates that it’s not grown in the grocery store.”

*“Farm Day” cont’d on page 9*



*Farm Day file photo*

## Farming community to celebrate National Ag Day March 24

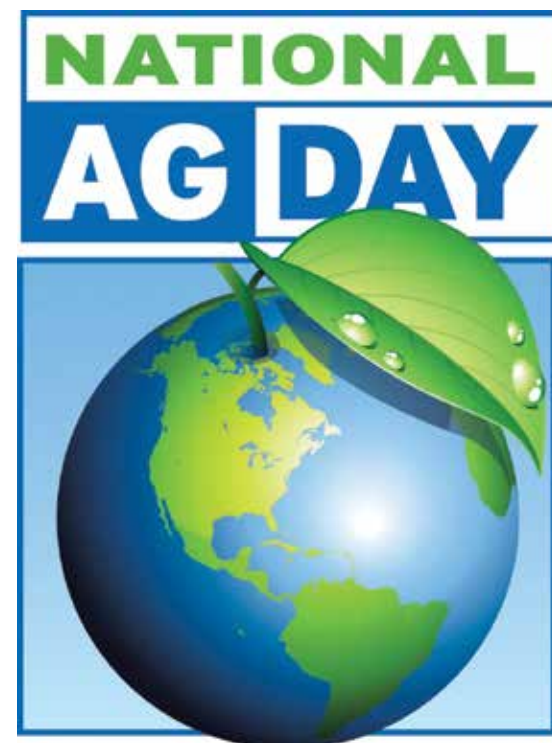
Each March, Kings County Farm Bureau celebrates a commitment to ag education by hosting Farm Day, their largest annual event, now in its 16th year. Nationally, March marks the celebration of National Agriculture Day on March 24. This day brings together producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America to recognize and celebrate the abundance that is American agriculture. Marking its 47th year in 2020, this year’s theme is “Food Brings Everyone to the Table.”

In celebration of National Agriculture Day, the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host major events in the nation’s capital, including an event at the USDA as well as a Taste of Agriculture Celebration at the Library of Congress. Additionally, the ACA will bring approximately 100 college students to Washington to deliver the message of Ag Day to the Hill.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. Many agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to participate.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

*“National Ag Day” cont’d on page 8*



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## Member feedback wanted on proposed water policy

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

On Thursday, Feb. 27, the Kings County Ag Advisory Committee reviewed a draft water policy proposed by Kings County staff. While well-intended, as proposed, the document raises several concerns from water professionals, agencies and KCFB. KCFB's Water Committee met and prepared written comments that were provided to the County asking for clarification and more information on several points in the policy. County staff presented on the policy, but unfortunately, stakeholders' concerns were not put to rest. To the County's credit, they announced a plan to host a Stakeholder Outreach Meeting on March 16 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting, which will take place at the County Administration Building, provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft policy, and KCFB encourages our members to attend.

It is imperative to your future success that Kings County understand how a water policy will impact your ability to farm and achieve sustainability per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). To request a copy of the proposed policy, contact County Administration at (559) 852-2375.

KCFB is eager to learn our members' thoughts on the proposed policy and would like to discuss them with you. If you would like to share your thoughts with us, please call the office at (559) 584-3557, and please consider attending the stakeholder meeting on March 16. 🗉

## KCFB IN ACTION

### FEBRUARY 2020

- KCFB serves as a member of the Kings County Ag Advisory Committee. The committee met in February to discuss a water policy proposed by Kings County, SGMA and the County's 2020 legislative platform.
- KCFB Board of Directors meeting
- In collaboration with the Nisei Farmers League, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association and Western Ag Processor Association, KCFB helped host a Conservation Management Plan workshop in Hanford.
- Executive Director Ference was recently elected to serve on the Kings Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors and attended his first meeting in February.
- KCFB's Water Committee met in February to review a water policy proposed by the County of Kings.
- The Kings County Board of Supervisors met three times this month and KCFB attended each meeting.
- KCFB attended the Kings County ag round table to discuss current KCFB events and learn from other industry members.

## Respiratory Protection and Fit Testing Training Seminar

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

**Spanish class: 9 – 10:30 am**

**English class: 11 – 12:30**

**@ KCFB - 870 Greenfield Ave. Hanford**

**RSVP to KCFB:**

**(559) 584-3557 or kcfb@kcfb.org**

KCFB, CFBF and Nationwide are hosting this free training for those whose job site requires a Respiratory Protection Program and for those who wear and/or need to be fitted for respiratory protection equipment. An effective Respiratory Protection Program can help to prevent atmospheric contamination and control occupational diseases caused by breathing contaminated air. This program will be a high-level overview on what is required of a respiratory program and why it's important to use respirators. Fit testing will be available. Per OSHA guidelines, anyone who will be fit tested must bring their medical clearance with them.



## Tips for successfully navigating H-2A

Contributed by Amy Wolfe, President & CEO, AgSafe

As labor shortages continue across agriculture, many growers are wrestling with the option of using the nation's farm guest-worker program. It has been the subject of spirited debate in recent years, playing a critical role in how Congress addresses immigration reform. For many in California, though, the program appears untenable and that assessment is often made on soundbites of information as opposed to a thorough analysis of the program's requirements, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. The reality is, unless meaningful change happens in short order, many growers need to take the time learn the program's specifics and make an educated decision about whether or not it's the right fit.

### THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF H-2A

The H-2A temporary agricultural program creates a mechanism for US growers to hire foreign workers, on a temporary basis, to address the domestic labor shortages impacting that operation. There are a variety of guestworker visa programs overseen by a network of government agencies, but the H-2A and H-2B programs address the needs of production agriculture. The H-2A program is specifically for laborers that will work on-farm and with the crop in its original state, as opposed to the H-2B program, which is used for temporary jobs beyond the farm but still involving commodities, including packing, shipping and processing.

The H-2A program is overseen by the US Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (USDOL), with additional involvement by the US Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). As can be expected when

multiple agencies are involved, the process to secure temporary workers is laborious and includes a number of steps that must be executed in a specific order. The first is validating that in fact, your operation does not have sufficient domestic labor to fill your needs. This includes proving that you have actively recruited for available positions in line with the program's domestic hiring requirements. When those efforts have been exhausted, you will submit your temporary labor certification application to USDOL, validating your exhaustive efforts to provide a job to domestic workers.

Keep in mind that ultimately, the government wants to ensure that any willing, able and qualified US worker is given the job. As such, throughout this process there will be steps that require

*"H-2A" cont'd on page 5*

## Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

California Bountiful magazine promotes connections between farm and city, introducing readers to farmers, ranchers, chefs and others who bring us food and farm products; visiting towns and locations that are hidden gems; featuring mouth-watering recipes that include California-grown products; sharing gardening tips from experts; and more. The bimonthly magazine is available to Associate members of Farm Bureau and to supporters of the California Bountiful Foundation. Discover more at [www.californiabountiful.com](http://www.californiabountiful.com)



### Attention Agricultural Members!

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## WATER NEWS

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### PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS NEW CALIFORNIA WATER RULES

During a visit to Bakersfield last month, President Donald Trump signed new water delivery rules for California. The Record of Decision from the Department of the Interior finalizes the new biological opinions which will allow additional water to flow through the Delta to the state's southern regions.

In his address to the crowd, Trump said, "It's going to give you a lot of water, and a lot of dams, and a lot of everything. You'll be able to farm your land."

Citing decades of failed water policies, Trump told the crowd that the issue is being addressed.

"With today's actions, we will help bring farmland back to life," he said.

The day following the document's signing, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Natural Resources Agency filed a lawsuit in federal court in response to the president's action. They are claiming the order violates federal environmental law.

### INITIAL 2020 WATER ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

The Bureau of Reclamation announced the initial 2020 water allocations for Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors last month. The initial allocations, which KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference described as "disappointing," are reflective of a very dry February and a Sierra snowpack measuring at less than half of the historical average.

South-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors are being allocated 15 percent of their contract supply, while San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors and San Joaquin Settlement Contractors are being allocated 100 percent. Water service contractors on the Eastside, including the Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District and Stockton East Water District, will receive 100 percent of their contract total. The Friant Division, which provides water to the Madera Canal and Friant-Kern Canal from Millerton Lake, will receive 20 percent of its initial allocation for Class 1 contractors, and nothing for Class 2 contractors.

Officials with Westlands Water District, which serves Kings and Fresno counties, said a 15 percent allocation in February is "good news." They said in a statement that this water year is looking similar to 2009, when south-of-Delta ag water contractors of the CVP received a 10 percent allocation that didn't come until April.

### WATER-RELATED LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY TWO DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN

KCFB is keeping an eye on two pieces of water-related legislation introduced by Democratic congressmen. The Conveyance Capacity Correction Act was introduced by Jim Costa (D - Fresno) and the Western Water Storage Infrastructure Act was introduced by T.J. Cox (D - Selma). Both bills seek to repair the state's aging canals and the water infrastructure damaged by subsidence.

Costa's bill would provide \$400 million for repairs to the California Aqueduct and the Delta-Mendota Canal on the west side, and Cox's would provide additional funding for surface storage, groundwater storage and the supporting conveyance facilities with \$800 million between fiscal years 2020 and 2024.

KCFB is monitoring the progress of these proposed bills and will keep members updated as to any significant developments. 🐾

“H-2A” cont’d from page 3

you to prove you are ensuring US workers are not being adversely impacted by foreign workers. This includes how your existing US workers and these temporary foreign workers are compensated in total, including wages, benefits, housing and transportation made available. More on this shortly.

Once you adequately demonstrate that there are not enough workers, the process of applying to bring in foreign workers begins. The process presumes that you have identified viable foreign candidates and when you submit the second set of paperwork to USCIS, Form I-129: Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, you are doing so on behalf of individuals known to you. From a practical perspective, this means you have already invested the time, energy and resources to recruit for the positions needed. You, or those you engage to assist you with this process, will now assist the foreign workers you have identified with their meetings at the US consulate or embassy you designate for them to have their visa applications reviewed. If that process is successful, those foreign workers will be allowed into the country for a maximum of ten months in a twelve-month period, but the specific length of time was determined based on the production need you identified in your application.

There are a number of other responsibilities you take on as the agricultural employer using the H-2A program, including:

- **Wages:** Whether paying an hourly wage or piece rate calculated to the hourly equivalent, foreign workers need to receive, at minimum, the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (an hourly wage determined annually by the USDOL specific to the H-2A program), the contracted rate you guaranteed or minimum wage, whichever is highest.



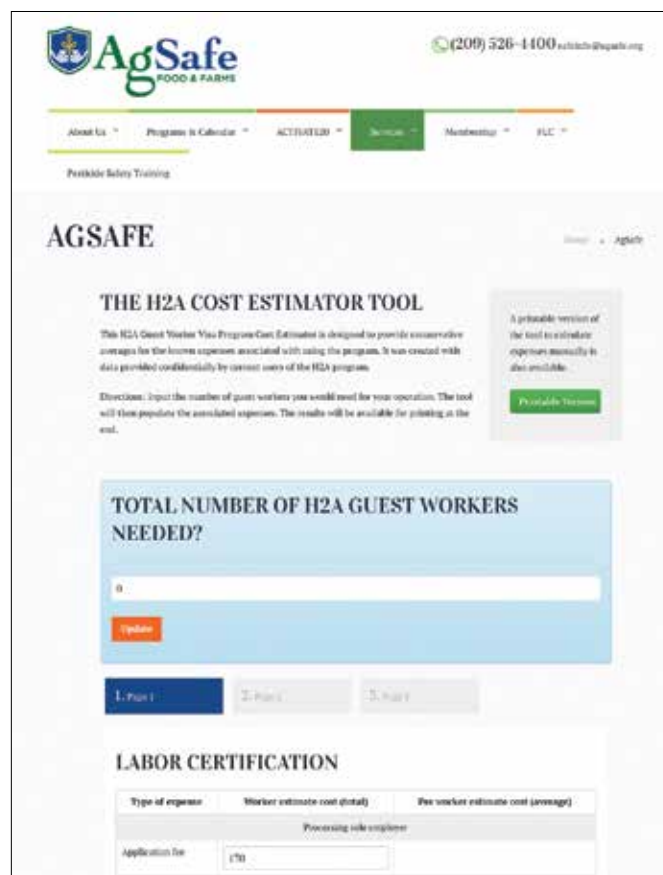
The Adverse Effect Wage Rate is determined by the US Department of Labor specifically for the H-2A program using a complicated formula. This map provides perspective relative to the 2019 and current rates by state. AEWR (Source: The Packer)

- **Transportation:** The employer assumes the responsibility for all foreign worker transportation at no cost to them, starting with their trip to the consulate or embassy to secure their visa, then to get to your farming operation from their home country, the day-to-day travel while working for you (including access to transportation options during their time off), and then travel back home once the contract is complete.
- **Housing and Meals:** Foreign workers must be provided housing, at no cost to them, that meets standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration with specific details relative to personal space, bathroom facilities and other elements. In addition, laundry facilities must be provided at no cost and you can either offer free and convenient cooking facilities or provide three, nutritious meals each day. If you opt for the latter, you may deduct \$12.07 each day from workers’ pay but doing so must be disclosed at the time of hire, allowing the employee the option to decline the position based on those terms.

While agricultural employers are cited by USDOL for a wide variety of employment violations relative to using H-2A, the two most common and costly citations focus on the relationship between US and foreign workers. The agency finds that most often, US workers who are willing, able and qualified are not offered the available jobs. As previously noted, it is essential that if a domestic worker applies for an open position and is capable of doing the work, that the individual is given the opportunity. This is such an important issue, the H-2A program requires you to continue actively advertising your available positions for half the length of the foreign workers’ contract. Meaning, if you are using the program for six months, you must prove that you are still recruiting domestic workers for the first three months of their time in the US.

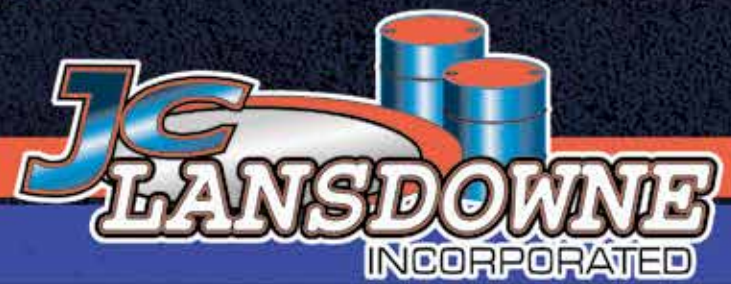
The other area of issue is that domestic workers doing similar work are adversely impacted by the foreign workers, namely relative to compensation. If you have two harvest crews, one made up of domestic workers and one of H-2A workers, the program expects that the domestic workers will receive higher total compensation. Note that this is total compensation, which means you need to calculate the total cost associated with wages, benefits, housing and transportation for the foreign workers and determine the rate your domestic workers need to be paid that is greater. The alternative is to provide the same benefits to your domestic workers relative to housing and transportation, which is a costly proposition.

In reality, the H-2A guestworker visa program is cumbersome and includes a litany of steps mired in bureaucracy. However, it is still the only viable, legal option currently available to the agricultural industry to fill our meaningful labor shortages. This recap of the program is by no means exhaustive. Each element has a series of additional specific details that must be reviewed to more fully understand the impact to your operation. In addition, it is critical to consider cost. AgSafe recently developed the H-2A Cost Estimator, a tool created with the support of current H-2A program users, designed to provide a more detailed analysis of the true costs of using the program. To learn more about the tool, visit <https://www.agsafe.org/h2a-cost-estimator/>



AgSafe has developed the H-2A Cost Estimator, an interactive tool designed to provide growers with significantly greater information about the true, complete cost of using this program. Use the tool, online or print out the worksheet, at <https://www.agsafe.org/h2a-cost-estimator/>

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## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
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## BeeWhere of bee hive locations before you spray

Contributed by Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

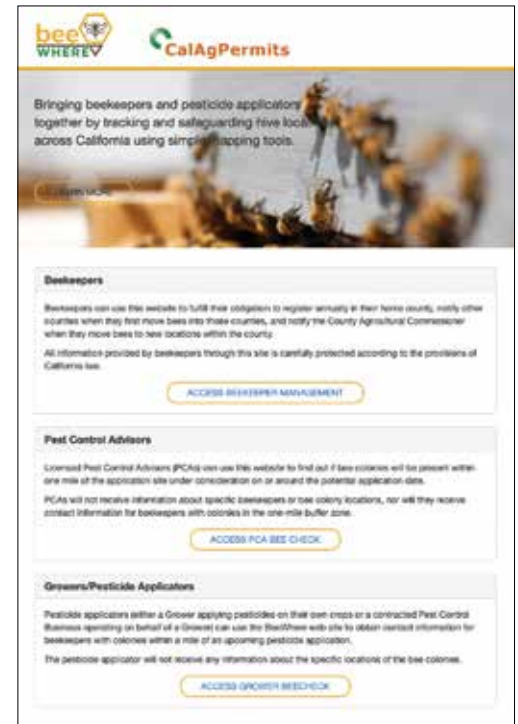
January and February are when Kings County experiences thousands of bee hives being moved into the county for pollination. All beekeepers are required to register their hives with the County Agricultural Commissioner for each county where hives are located. As of early February, there were 29 beekeepers registered, 404 registered apiary locations and 49,148 colonies in Kings County.

BeeWhere is a voluntary service for beekeepers and is now on its second year of implementation. BeeWhere is the result of collaboration between California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA), California Pest Control Advisors Association (CAPCA), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California State Beekeepers Association, as well as several other private companies and organizations to address the obstacles facing beekeepers to register, report colony locations and colony movements to the local County Agricultural Commissioners.

The protection of pollinators is essential to production agriculture and the growers that contract for pollination services can help by requiring the beekeepers hired register through the BeeWhere website, [www.beewherecalifornia.com](http://www.beewherecalifornia.com).

Growers that utilize pollination services are going to benefit from this new service because pesticide applicators (either a grower applying pesticides on their own crops or a contracted pest control business operating on behalf of a grower) can use the BeeWhere website to more accurately and timely obtain contact information for beekeepers with colonies within one mile of an upcoming pesticide application. With this new ability to obtain substantially better location information, growers and applicators can make the best decisions concerning the pesticides they select and methods for their application.

The system can help address colonies that are often relocated just prior to the application or within the reentry period. BeeWhere can notify the pesticide applicator of any new bee movements into the area after the applicator makes their required notifications, but before the planned application date. Beekeep-



ers may choose to use an “anonymized” contact method or can provide direct contact information (email, phone number).

BeeWhere is a very useful tool for growers, applicators and beekeepers making pollinator protection and dealing with all the pesticide label and required regulatory requirements much more accurate and easy to use. Check out the service for yourself at [www.beewherecalifornia.com](http://www.beewherecalifornia.com)

For more information or any questions, please contact Lynda Schrupf, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Kings County Department of Agriculture, [agstaff@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:agstaff@co.kings.ca.us), (559) 852-2830. 🐝

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“National Ag Day” cont’d from page 1

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry 🌾

## Why Celebrate Ag Day?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it’s important to recognize—and celebrate—Ag Day each year:

Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture.

Career choices include:

- farm production
- agribusiness management and marketing

- agricultural research and engineering
- food science
- processing and retailing
- banking
- education
- landscape architecture
- urban planning
- energy
- and other fields.

Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

Agriculture is too important a

topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture’s history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Source: Agriculture Council of America



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## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



### KINGS COUNTY

### Total Employment

More than 14,400 people are employed in agriculture in Kings County including: crop production, transportation, logistics, pesticide/fertilizer production, food processing, animal production, and many other industries.

### 10th

Kings County is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among California counties in agricultural production.

**\$2,351,983,000** is the gross value of agricultural crops and products produced in 2018. An increase of \$293,568,00 (14.3%) from the 2017 value.

### 87%

or 890,000 acres in Kings County is utilized for agriculture.

### Top Commodity

Milk, with a value of \$676.7 million. Other major commodities for the year include: pistachios, cotton, cattle & calves, almonds, and processed tomatoes.







“Farm Day” cont’d from page 1

Kings County Farm Bureau spends an average of \$18,000 a year to sponsor this event, which is earned through fundraisers like the annual Harvest Classic Golf Tournament. The majority of that money covers the cost of bussing nearly 3,000 students, teachers and chaperons to and from the Kings Fairgrounds, which is generously donated. Every year, all participants are provided with Farm Day t-shirts to wear. This year’s shirts are being sponsored by All Valley Printing and Recurrent Energy.



Farm Day file photo

Upon arriving at the fairgrounds on the morning of Farm Day, students travel in groups between a number of presentations. There’s a helicopter, large tractors and pieces of farm equipment to climb on. They’re introduced to animals that include alpacas, cows, goats, pigs and rabbits. Presenters from a number of Valley ag companies teach lessons on things like weather, veterinary medicine, how milk is used to make butter and ice cream, and how various commodities are grown.

Throughout Farm Day’s 15 successful years, countless businesses, equipment operators and animal presenters have given students the opportunity for hands-on experiences that teach about the many facets of agriculture through various interactive exhibits.

“Farm Day really exemplifies what Kings County Farm Bureau is about and the impact we strive to make in the community,” said Executive Director Dusty Ference. “In teaching kids about the farm to fork process that’s taking place in their own backyards, we’re planting a seed that we hope will grow into a lifelong appreciation of agriculture. It’s incredibly rewarding to realize that our organization has helped to positively influence 32,000 young people.”

Volunteers are always needed to help make Farm Day a valuable and memorable experience for the children. Those interested in volunteering should be available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 19. Please contact the KCFB office at 584-3557 to sign up. 🐾

# SAVE THE DATE



**KINGS COUNTY FARM DAY**

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## March 19, 2020 Kings Fairgrounds



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

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TriCal Inc.	559-673-5237
<b>Valley Ag Spraying</b>	<b>559-772-5515</b>
<b>Verdegaal Brothers Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-9205</b>

## CUSTOM SERVICES

<b>A Design for You</b>	<b>559-582-6200</b>
All Valley Printing/	
Treefrog Print Shop	559-584-5444
<b>Danell Brothers Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-1251</b>
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
<b>Mello Chipping</b>	<b>559-589-0300</b>
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

<b>Kings Dairy Supply Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-9459</b>
<b>Summerhill Dairy</b>	<b>559-468-6554</b>
Vet Pharmaceutical Inc.	559-582-6800

## EQUIPMENT DEALERS & REPAIR

<b>Hanford Equipment</b>	<b>559-582-0443</b>
HarvestPort	559-284-9107
Lawrence Tractor Co.	559-582-9002
Linder Equipment Co.	559-685-5000
<b>Quality Machinery Center</b>	<b>559-707-1638</b>
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
<b>J.G. Boswell Co.</b>	<b>559-992-5011</b>
<b>Keenan Farms</b>	<b>559-945-1400</b>
Miya Farms	559-309-3300
<b>Stone Land Co.</b>	<b>559-945-2205</b>
<b>Sullivan Farming LLC</b>	<b>559-289-2452</b>
<b>Summerhill Dairy</b>	<b>559-804-8148</b>
Taylor Farms	559-584-3798
The P Nut Farm	559-582-6952

## 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

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

## IRRIGATION/PUMPS/WELLS

<b>Bennett &amp; Bennett Irrigation Services</b>	<b>559-582-9336</b>
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
<b>Laguna Irrigation District</b>	<b>559-923-4239</b>
Lakeside Irrigation Water District	559-584-3396
Myers Brothers Well Drilling Inc.	559-582-9031
Myers Well Drilling	559-906-0930

<b>Rain for Rent/Westside Pump</b>	<b>559-693-4315</b>
Westlands Water District	559-905-6736

## LABOR

Sunrise Farm Labor	559-945-2292
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## MANUFACTURES

Dean Beck's Machine Shop	559-582-4144
Jim Harp's Stainless Steel Welding	559-582-6011
<b>Morgan &amp; Slates Manufacturing &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>559-582-4417</b>
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
<b>J.C. Lansdowne Inc.</b>	<b>559-651-1760</b>
Roe Oil Co.	559-584-5690
Valley Pacific Petroleum	559-732-8381

## PROCESSORS

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

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

<b>Pearson Realty</b>	<b>559-732-7300</b>
Sierra View Realty	559-410-5557

## SOLAR ENERGY

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

## TRANSPORTATION

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

## UTILITIES

<b>Pacific Gas &amp; Electric</b>	<b>559-263-5308</b>
unWired Broadband	844-650-3278

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Pacific Gas & Electric  
Renewable Solar

The Wonderful Company  
Verdegaal Brothers

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Danell Custom Harvesting  
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  
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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

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

# AG SAFETY



## 2020 KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU TRAINING CLASSES

KCFB is partnering with Nationwide to provide classes on a number of topics for free to members. All of these programs are facilitated by Nationwide's California-based trainers who are specifically trained to provide the most current information established by CHP, CAL OSHA, DMV, and California Department of Insurance for all commodities grown in California.

Unless otherwise noted, classes are held at the KCFB office, 870 Greenfield Ave. in Hanford. To reserve space in any of these classes, call KCFB at (559) 584-3557 or email [kcfb@kcfb.org](mailto:kcfb@kcfb.org).

### March 25

Respiratory Training and Fit Testing  
9 – 10:30 am, Spanish  
11 am – 12:30 pm, English

Target audience: Owners, managers and workers.

Course Content: An effective Respiratory Protection Program can help to prevent atmospheric contamination and control occupational diseases caused by breathing contaminated air. This program will be a high-level overview on what is required of a respiratory program and why it's important to use respirators. Fit testing will be available. Per OSHA guidelines, anyone who will be fit tested must bring their medical clearance with them.

### May 21

Heat Illness Prevention Training  
1 – 2 pm, English  
2 – 3 pm, Spanish

Target audience: Owners, managers and employees.

Course Content: Illness brought on by extreme heat is a serious risk exposure for California agricultural workers. This training is designed to identify the symptoms of heat-related illnesses. We will discuss steps to be taken to care for a victim, assist the participant in identifying personal and environmental risk factors, and strategies for preventing heat-related illnesses.

### June 3

Nut Harvest Safety Training  
8 – 11 am  
Kings Fairgrounds

Target audience: Nut commodity harvest equipment operators, crews and farm employees, in conjunction with farm managers/supervisors and growers.

Course content: Harvest equipment for walnuts, almonds and pistachios will be included and safety materials will be provided.

### June 4

Biannual Inspection of Terminal (B.I.T.) Training  
10 am – noon (English only)

Target audience: Fleet managers

Course content: Learn how keeping the scores low on CSA will reduce the number of inspections by the California Highway Patrol, understanding the changes to BIT that started in 2016 and the best practices to help pass a BIT inspection.

### July 16

Worker Protection Standard Training  
10 am – noon, English  
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Spanish

Target audience: Owners, managers and employees.

Course content: This training is aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisoning and injury among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.

### December, Date TBD

Agricultural Hazardous Materials Training  
10:30 am – noon, Spanish  
1:30 – 3 pm, English

Target audience: Anyone directly involved in transporting hazardous materials for agricultural use in class C vehicles.

These employees are required to attend a class compliant with CFR 49 part 172.704, be tested and complete the required forms. Attendees will be also need to submit their own application with a certificate of training to the California Highway Patrol who will then issue the HAM certificate. Training is required within 90 days of hire and every three years recurring. Once the certificate is obtained from the CHP, it must be submitted along with a medical certificate to the CA DMV with applicable fees.

*\*We will likely be adding Sexual Harassment Prevention and CPR sometime in September or October.*

## 2020 KINGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TRAINING CLASSES

All classes are held in the building behind the Department of Agriculture building, 680 N. Campus Dr, Multipurpose Room, Suite F, Hanford.

Cost is \$10 per person per class.

To sign up, call (559) 852-2830. Additional information is available online, <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/general-services/agriculture-department-measurement-standards/classes>.

### PESTICIDE HANDLER SAFETY TRAINING

The Kings County Department of Agriculture will be offering training sessions in Pesticide Worker Safety. These will satisfy the general training requirements under Section 6724 of the California Code of Regulations for Pesticide handlers.

**March 18**  
9 am – noon, English  
1 – 4 pm, Spanish

**March 19**  
9 am – noon, English  
1 – 4 pm, Spanish



### GROWER CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

The following courses have been approved for two hours of Laws & Regulations Continuing Education Credit. A total of 12 hours of Continuing Education are available (two hours per class).

**October 7**  
Field Inspection Procedures  
9 am – noon

**October 21**  
Review Director's Decision  
9 am – noon

**November 11**  
Vertebrate Pest Control  
9 am – noon

**November 18**  
Pesticide Handler Requirements  
6 – 8 pm

**December 2**  
Recognition & Management of Pesticide Poisonings  
6 – 8 pm

**December 9**  
Protecting Persons, Animals & Property  
9 am – noon

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- Myrtle Pointe, Oregon - 1060 Acres Turn-Key Organic Dairy
- Hanford, CA - 20 Acres with Residence *(Sale Pending)*
- Kingsburg, CA - Residence on 1.95 Acres *(Sale Pending)*

#### Contact Us For More Information

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- Ed Camara - Sales Associate  
DRE 01773451 • 559-410-5557 • [ecamara@sierraviewrealty.com](mailto:ecamara@sierraviewrealty.com)
- Tim Oliveira - Sales Associate  
DRE 01924732 • 559-381-6928 • [toliveira@sierraviewrealty.com](mailto:toliveira@sierraviewrealty.com)
- Emily Kahn - Sales Associate  
DRE 02019675 • 559-670-8525 • [ekahn@sierraviewrealty.com](mailto:ekahn@sierraviewrealty.com)

# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## More than 150 dead sheep dumped on private property

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Sgt. Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force had a slow month in February compared to recent months. I say slow, but don't let this deceive you. We conducted several investigations and are continuing to conduct follow-up investigations on several open cases.

Our unit took a report on the theft of a Harlo forklift from Tos Farms. We have no suspect or evidence to work with in this investigation. We also responded to the theft of a catalytic convertor from Wiscarver's shop on Highway 43. The suspect(s) in this case cut the convertor off one of his work trucks. The theft of these convertors has been prominent in Kern and Madera counties. We hadn't had any reports of this type of theft in our county until this report was taken. We have no suspect identified in this case and little to no evidence to assist us. We also conducted follow-up investigation on the theft of two quads from a local pistachio grower. We have no leads in the case and are currently looking on several web sites to locate the stolen ATVs.

Much of our time this month was spent dealing with the investigation of dead sheep that were dumped on property owned by Chevron. Our unit took the initial report on this case, and it took over two weeks to complete the investigation. Approximately 150-200 sheep were dumped on Chevron land. Upon arriving at the location, it was obvious it had been utilized as an illegal dump site. Detective Santos

was able to locate the original owner of the sheep from tags on the animals. The sheep had been sold, and tags were located on two other sheep registered to a rancher in Kings County. Detective Santos made contact with the sheep owners, who had no idea there were dead sheep with their tags on them dumped at this location. They spoke with Chevron personnel and all of the dead sheep at this location were removed from the property.

We are currently conducting another diesel fuel theft investigation for JG Boswell. This investigation is ongoing and I will update with more information when I can. I don't want to compromise the investigation with the information we have at this time.

The remainder of February was spent writing search warrants for the numerous residential burglaries we had in the north part of the county. The warrant-writing process doesn't take long, but the analytical portion is very complex. As I type this, we have two detectives going through over 20 pages of telephone numbers in an attempt to locate a suspect.

I want to remind all of you that if you see anything suspicious on or around your ranches, please give us a call. I also want to remind you of the Owner Applied Number (OAN). If you need a number assigned, contact me and I will get it for you and stamp your equipment upon request. We also have SmartWater CSI available now. If you would like to purchase this product, contact Dusty Ference at the Kings County Farm Bureau at 584-3557.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and assistance with our investigations. If you have questions, please call any of our detectives. 🙌

**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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Ron Fort

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## Search is underway for 2020 District 7 Dairy Princess

The local dairy industry is now accepting applications from young women wishing to compete for the District 7 Dairy Princess crown.

The winner will represent the dairy industry in District 7 as a spokeswoman and will also represent the California dairy industry in appearances at schools, fairs, industry meetings, service clubs, parades, and with the media. The newly selected Dairy Princess and alternate will participate in a mandatory training, July 7-10, 2020, in which they receive professional development coaching.

Contestants must meet the following requirements:

- 1) be at least a junior in high school during the current academic school year and not over 21 years of age by contest date;
- 2) be unmarried; and
- 3) family must own a dairy farm, work for the dairy industry or show dairy cattle for a 4-H/FFA organization.

More detailed information about qualifications can be found on the application, which is available at [www.californiadairyprincess.com/ca-dairy-princesses](http://www.californiadairyprincess.com/ca-dairy-princesses). Applicants are urged to submit their applications as soon as possible. The application deadline is Monday, April 20, 2020.

This year the District 7 Dairy Princess contest will be held on Friday, June 26 at the Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N. Douty St. in Hanford. The evening begins with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the contest and dinner at 7.



Morgan Spiro, left and Lauren Dutra, right were the two candidates for 2019's District 7 Dairy Princess. Photo courtesy of Jackie Giacomazzi

During the event, the current Dairy Princess will relinquish her crown to the winner, who will represent the dairy industry in Kings County during the 2020-21 program year. Scholarships will also be awarded.

Application forms may be accessed online at [www.californiadairyprincess.com/ca-dairy-princesses](http://www.californiadairyprincess.com/ca-dairy-princesses). Questions regarding the application can be directed to District 7 Dairy Princess Co-Chairpersons Debbie Raven ([debiraven1@aol.com](mailto:debiraven1@aol.com) or 559-281-0815); Jackie Giacomazzi ([jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com](mailto:jackiegiacomazzi@gmail.com) or 559-816-0707); or CMAB office at [cmacedo@cmab.net](mailto:cmacedo@cmab.net) or (209) 690-8240. 📧



2018 Kings County Dairy Royalty, pictured left to right: Milk Maids Erika Simas, Jenna Scott Searcy and Cassidy Sheldon; Dairy Princess Jolene Simas, Alternate Dairy Princess Kiera Scott Searcy; and 2019 Dairy Princess candidates Lauren Dutra and Morgan Spiro.

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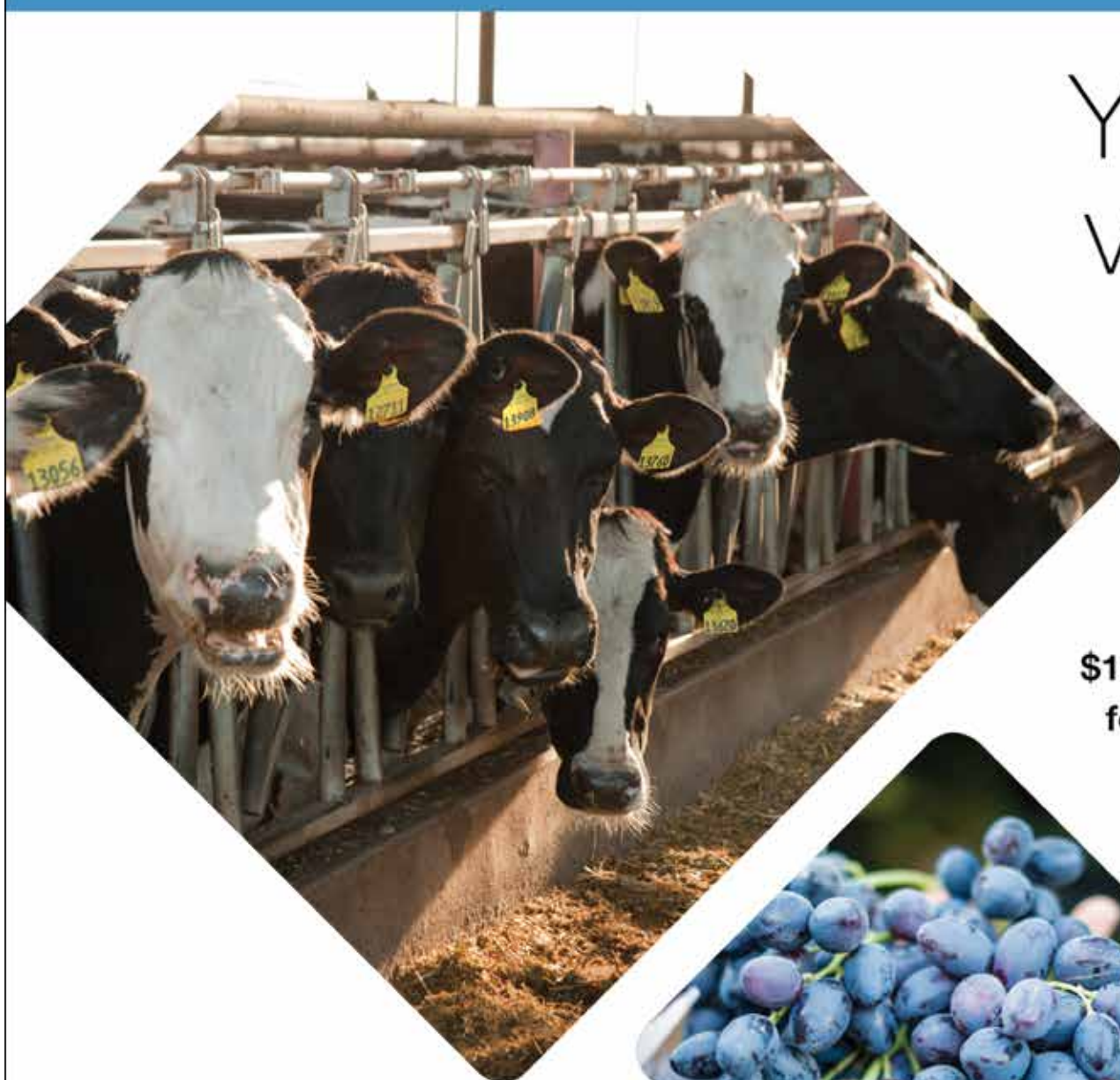
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