



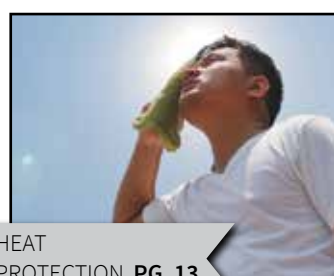
INSIDE



PPE ALTERNATIVES
PG. 3



AG COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT PG. 7



HEAT
PROTECTION PG. 13

Keeping farm workers safe during COVID-19 outbreak

Contributed by Amy Wolfe, President & CEO, AgSafe

It goes without saying that the country finds itself navigating unprecedented circumstances during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Every aspect of our daily lives has been impacted, especially when it comes to considering the safety, health and well-being of our agricultural workforce. Since the US Department of Homeland Security deemed agriculture an essential industry back in March, growers across the country have continued forging ahead in producing the safest possible food supply. That work has included a variety of challenges, the least of which is how best to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the farm. Agricultural operations have a number of aspects of employee safety to consider in an effort to minimize this ongoing health risk.



COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE IN AGRICULTURE

There are a variety of precautions to evaluate and implement on each farm to ensure the safety of farm workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Owners and management need to consider the following:

Communicating with Workers

Perhaps most essential of all is the need for daily communication with workers. The misinformation available through social media and other outlets has led to critical misunderstanding around how the virus is spread and what steps both employers and individual employees themselves need to take to minimize risk. As such, it is critical that employees receive information including:

"Keeping Farmworkers Safe" cont'd on page 8

KCFB scholarship recipient now advocates for agriculture at national level

By Amy D. Fienen

Each year, Kings County Farm Bureau awards academic scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in agriculture. These young men and women are the next generation of agriculturalists, going off to study at colleges throughout California and other parts of the country to prepare for a number of careers that support the ag industry. Many have grown up on a family farm, but others have gained a love of agriculture through participation in 4-H and FFA. Their scholarship applications express dreams to become ag teachers, veterinarians, pest control advisors, welders, communications specialists, and the next generation family farmer. Their career aspirations are as varied as their backgrounds, but all recipients share a desire to move the ag industry forward in their own unique way.

Many KCFB scholarship recipients have interesting success stories, but Emma Larson's is unique in that she's gone on to work for Farm Bureau at the national level. A 2014 Lemoore High School graduate, Larson grew up around agriculture. Her dad, Tim Larson, is a farmer and former KCFB president. Her mom, Cathie, is a registered nurse. Emma grew up witnessing her dad's commitment to the Farm Bureau organization, and knew well before she started college at Cal Poly, San



Emma Larson

"Scholarship Recipient" cont'd on page 9



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Protect, preserve and enhance agriculture in Kings County

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Dear Members,

We are facing a new world as we learn to live with COVID-19. As a Kings County Farm Bureau member, we hope you know that we are here to help. It is our job to work as tirelessly as you do, offering guidance on anything affecting how you do business. You are likely aware of the relief packages passed by the federal government in the past few weeks and may have questions.

Here are some things you should know:

- The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can help complete applications for assistance; in many cases, without a fee.
- Relief funds are coming available to agriculture through the USDA. The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program includes \$16 billion in direct assistance to farmers and ranchers suffering losses and \$3 billion to purchase food for distribution to food banks and other nonprofits.
- The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is planned to open again sometime in May. We have been led to believe that dairy producers that are not currently enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to sign up this go-round.

One of the most significant ways KCFB can help is by making sure your issues are heard by those who can help. Whether it's the County Board of Supervisors, a state senator or assembly member, or the Farm Service Agency or USDA, we can help share your story or concern with the correct resource. If you experience any hardship not covered by the current relief packages or other efforts, please let us know. KCFB is here for you now and will continue to be long after this is over.



Sincerely,

Dusty Ference

Dusty Ference
Executive Director



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Finding practical alternatives to agricultural PPE during the current shortage

Courtesy of West Coast Nut Magazine

By Whitney Brim-DeForest, Sutter & Yuba Counties; Lisa Blecker, Coordinator, Pesticide Safety Education Program; and Katrina Hunter, Pesticide Safety Writer, UCIPM Program

Since a national emergency was declared for the novel Coronavirus in March, the Defense Production Act was invoked to ensure that ventilators and PPE are distributed to healthcare workers in response to the pandemic.

This act empowers the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to work from the top of the supply chain and directly with manufacturers of PPE, such as 3M and Dupont, to prioritize supplies of N95 respirators, protective clothing, and other PPE for medical staff, ensuring that they receive the supplies necessary to address the pandemic.

Before the pandemic, 10 percent of N95 respirators from 3M went to healthcare; that number is now 90 percent.

This has led to significant backorders of PPE supplies for distributors. Carl Atwell, president of Gempler's, explains that normal lead times for PPE before the crisis was up to 10 days. Now, current reports from suppliers shift daily as manufacturers work to address the executive order.

Estimated times for the availability of disposable respirators suggest fall of this year; and the estimated wait for other PPE supplies is August.

Suppliers are working to significantly ramp up production of PPE: The company 3M announced plans to produce 50 million units of respirators in the U.S. by June for domestic distribution, compared to the 13 million manufactured in the U.S. before the crisis.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Kings County Farm Bureau's year-end financial report is available. Since the office is currently closed, it can be reviewed at the office upon its reopening, or a copy can be sent to any member upon written request.

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"PPE Alternatives" cont'd from page 3

"There is a tremendous need, but when you put that much supply chain resources behind it, you intuitively believe that we should catch up at some point," Atwell says. He encourages agricultural producers to find ways to communicate with each other and distribute PPE as one way to mitigate the shortage. Atwell also suggests looking for lesser known brands of PPE: "Don't just go to your first tier of choice."

On their company website, disposable protective clothing is available from brands like Keystone rather than the more recognizable Tyvek® coverall from Dupont, including reusable chemical-resistant clothing as opposed to their disposable counterpart. Supplies in high demand include reusable and disposable nitrile gloves, protective clothing, and disposable respirators, including certain protective eyewear, such as goggles and face shields. Although this could change in the days ahead, half-mask and full-mask respirators are more available than disposable N95 respirators for now.

Since there are many of us in agriculture that will be applying pesticides soon or in the near future, here are some common questions and answers on how to meet PPE requirements as the shortage continues.

Q. I heard that the CDC is loosening regulations on PPE requirements for health-care workers. Is this the case for agriculture?

Answer:

No. The label is the law. PPE requirements on pesticide labels are written by the U.S. EPA, while state PPE regulations are overseen by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation; neither of these agencies have loosened their regulations for PPE.

Q. Should I stock up on PPE?

Answer:

No. Purchase the PPE that you anticipate needing for the growing season to avoid overstocking and shorting available supplies. Choose reusable PPE whenever possible.



If the pesticide label requires a particulate respirator, such as an N95, you can wear an elastomeric mask respirator with organic vapor filtering cartridges, but only if N95 particulate pre-filters are added. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.

Q. What if I can't find the respirator that is required on the pesticide label?

Answer:

Option 1: Seek alternative, more protective respirators:

- Applicators may not know how to decide which is the appropriate respirator to choose if the one the label requires them to wear is not available. For example, if the label requires a particulate respirator, such as an N95, wearing a half mask respirator with organic vapor filtering cartridges will not protect you from particulates. However, wearing an organic vapor filtering cartridge with N95 pre-filters will.
- With an increase in PPE, the risk for heat illness increases.
- If an employee or applicator is wearing a different respirator than normal, they will need to repeat their medical evaluation, annual fit test and annual respirator safety training to correspond with the new respirator.

Option 2: Seek alternative pesticide products that do not require a respirator:

- Currently, there is no central list of pesticide products that require respirators, so a grower, applicator, or pest control advisor will need to consult all potential pesticide product la-



Some common chemical resistant materials for gloves are barrier laminate, butyl rubber, nitrile rubber, neoprene rubber, natural rubber, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride (PVC), and viton rubber. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.

"PPE Alternatives" cont'd on page 5

bels for respirator requirements. Consider visiting www.agrian.com to review PPE requirements quickly under the “safety” tab of a product.

Q. What if I can't find the right chemical resistant gloves that are 14 mils thick?

Answer :

Nitrile gloves are in high demand. Handlers must always wear gloves made of the material listed on the label but consider searching for reusable chemical resistant gloves made of other materials that still comply with the requirements of the label. Some common chemical resistant materials for gloves are barrier laminate, butyl rubber, nitrile rubber, neoprene rubber, natural rubber, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride (PVC), and viton rubber. With the exception of barrier laminate and polyethylene, chemical resistant gloves are required to be at least 14 mils thick.

Label Code	Materials Required by Law	Material Code
A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	1: Laminate
B	1,2	2: Butyl
C	1,2,3,4,7,8	3: Nitrile
D	1,2	4: Neoprene
E	1,3,4,8	5: Natural
F	1,2,3,8	6: Polyethylene
G	1,8	7: PVC
H	1,8	8: Viton

All but Laminate and Polyethylene must be 14 mils or thicker

Glove Category Selection Key developed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to help label readers identify the correct glove material. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.

Disposable gloves made out of chemical resistant materials listed on the label less than 14 mils thick can be worn, but for no more than 15 minutes at a time and then disposed of. This may be an option for mixers or handlers who are conducting tasks that require more dexterity. Consider that removing and replacing disposable gloves every 15 minutes is likely a requirement that is not feasible to comply with. Also, thinner gloves cannot be layered on top of one another to add up to 15 mil.

15 mil disposable nitrile gloves are manufactured by suppliers such as, Showa and Cordova Safety among others. If available, they can be worn for the duration of the handling task, so long as they remain intact.

Reusable 15 or 22 mil nitrile gloves are compliant with the majority of handling tasks.

Q. How do I know when to wear a coverall and which ones will protect me?

Answer:

Coveralls must be worn if the pesticide label specifies they are required in the PPE section, or if handling a pesticide with a DANGER or WARNING signal word. For applications where contact with spray residue is likely, such as a backpack or air blast application, coveralls should be added. They can be made of any closely woven fabric, most commonly Tyvek® or a tightly woven cotton.



For applications using a backpack sprayer, where contact with spray residue is likely, coveralls should be added. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.

Coveralls must be provided by the employer and if a reusable cotton coverall is chosen, the employer is responsible for laundering them. A chemical resistant suit worn over work clothing is an appropriate substitute for coveralls, but there is an increase in the risk of heat illness when worn because they are made of a heavier material than most coveralls.

Q: What if I can't find a face shield?

Answer:

Face shields protect against splashing during mixing and loading and must be worn if specified by the pesticide label. The only substitute for wearing



Reusable cotton coveralls can be used if Tyvek coveralls are not available. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.



Face shields protect against splashing during mixing and loading. Goggles and safety glasses that meet all the requirements are an appropriate substitute for other handling tasks. Photo Credit: UCIPM Program.

a face shield is using a full-face respirator.

If the label does not specify that eyewear is required, or if it requires “protective eyewear,” you can choose to wear either a face shield, goggles, or safety glasses that provide front, side, and brow protection and meets the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 standard for impact resistance.

If questions or concerns arise, contact your county agricultural commissioner for more information and assistance during this time. 📞

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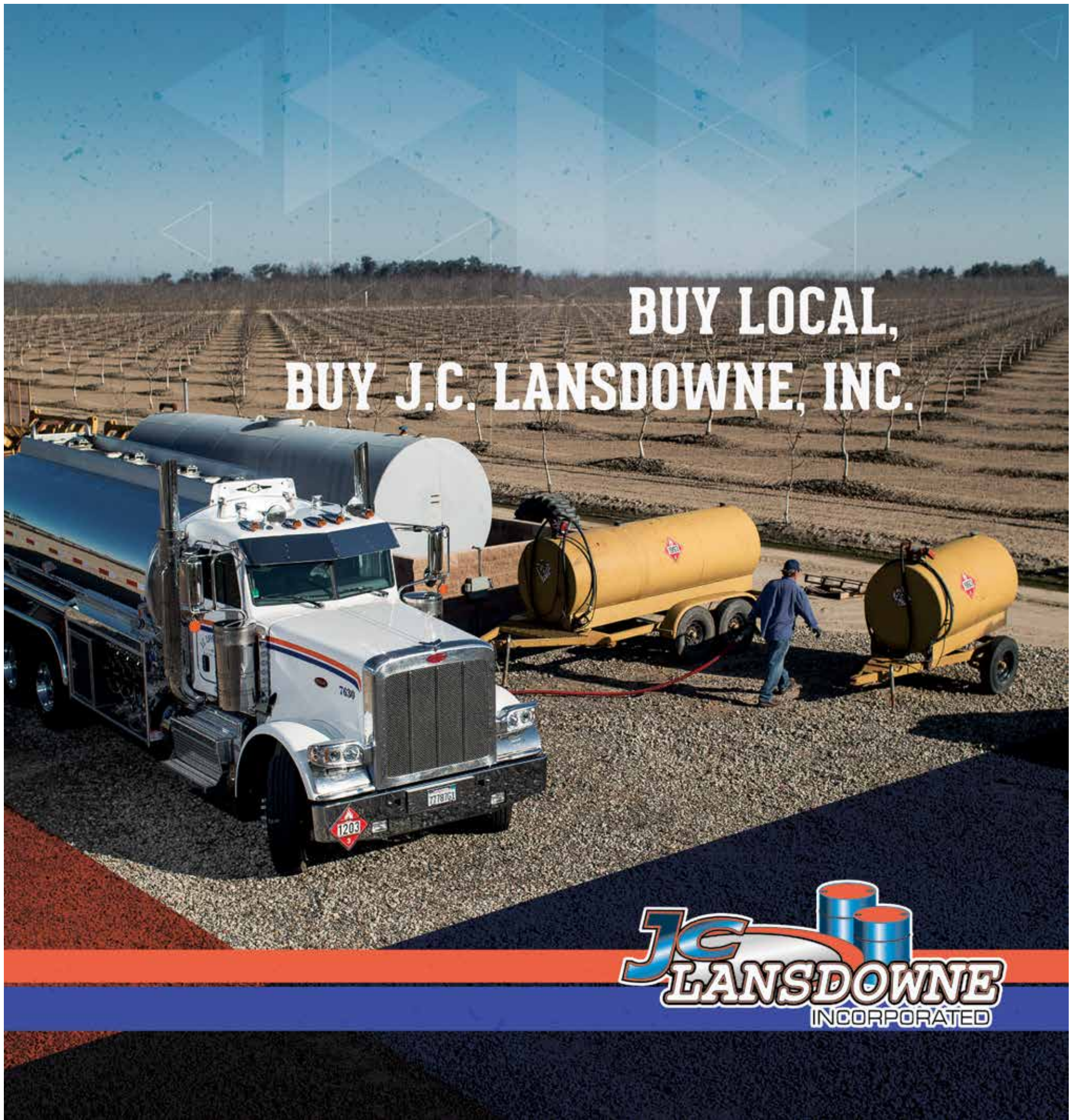
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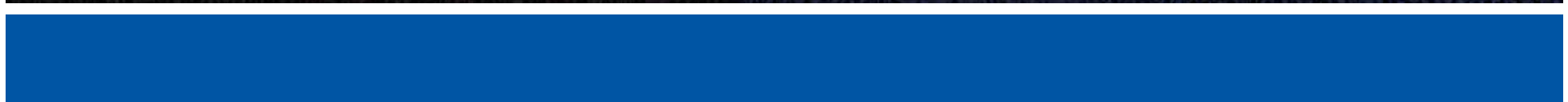
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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

Considering becoming an organic grower? Here's what you need to know to get started

Contributed by Steve Schweizer, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Periodically, we have growers ask about becoming an organic producer. One of the first questions ask in turn is "How soon do you want to get there?" Depending on the status of the ground, it may take up to three years to qualify as organic. The next question, somewhat tongue in cheek, may be "How are you with paperwork and documentation?"

To qualify your ground as organic, one of the main stipulations is that your site be free from conventional fertilizer and pesticide applications for three years; this includes no application of conventional insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides. Upon request, we can provide you with a report of your last three years of pesticide use data to help you determine if or when you may meet this requirement.

If your ground qualifies as organic or may soon qualify, the first major step you will take is to contact an independent third party USDA accredited certifying agency. A list of these agencies can be found on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA's) website (cdfa.ca.gov) under the Organic Program. These certifiers will inspect your property and guide you through the organic requirements. There are costs associated with this certification, depending on the respective operation. The one exception to the third-party certification is if your organic sales will be less than \$5,000 and your product will not be repacked or relabeled by a retail store. In this case, the agricultural commissioner will fill the roll of the third-party certifier. Of the 35 registered producers in Kings County, no registrants meet this exception.

The main component of organic certification is the Organic System Plan (OSP). The OSP generally describes the practices and procedures you will use to produce your organic commodity or commodities. Any deviation of this plan needs to be approved by the certifier.

The second major step is to complete your organic registration with CDFA. The registration is completed online at the website



mentioned above. You will be charged an annual fee ranging from \$25 to \$3,000 based on your organic sales, or projected sales for your initial registration.

The Agricultural Commissioner's role in this program is to provide guidance on the registration process and how to become certified. We also carry out site visits of registrants each year. During these visits, we inspect the records of the operation, including the OSP, and ask questions similar to the following: Was organic seed or planting stock utilized? Are organic sales records maintained? What management practices are used to manage insects, weeds and disease? What management practices are utilized to maintain or improve the biological condition of the soil?

As you can see, farming organically is not just about avoiding the use of conventional pesticides, but about the improvement of the soil biology as well.

Use of the term "organic" when selling commodities, as well as the USDA symbol, is strictly prohibited unless you have followed the requirements of the organic laws and regulations. The penalties are severe for growers who misrepresent their product as organic. As you can see from this very brief summary, additional requirements need to be met, as well as paying additional costs, in order to become an organic producer. But if these requirements are fulfilled, the additional costs may work out in the end.

For more information, please contact our office at (559) 852-2830. 📞

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"Keeping Farmworkers Safe" cont'd from page 1

Details on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and how to minimize the spread of germs

- Videos in English and Spanish are available on the AgSafe website, agsafe.org.

Tell workers what to do if they feel sick or have a sick family member at home. Recommendations from the CDC are available in English and Spanish at agsafe.org.

Remind workers about what steps you are taking to keep them protected and identify who (supervisor, HR or Safety Manager, owner) they should come to if they have questions or concerns.

Social Distancing

During the start of the shift, breaks and lunch, keep workers at least six feet apart.

- Provide additional seating, such as plastic or folding chairs, to ensure workers are off the ground.
- Stagger breaks and lunch if additional seating is not available.
- Stagger meetings and trainings at the start and end of the shift if additional seating is not available.

When working, space workers out to provide distance between them:

- One row separating them when planting, pruning, thinning, harvesting, and other work in fields, orchards and vineyards.
- Make more than one pass through a field when harvesting product with equipment.

Drinking Water for the Crew

Assign an employee to serve drinking water to crew members from the communal water receptacle.

- Ensure the worker serving the water has proper PPE (disposal gloves, face mask or covering).

Sanitize the spigot after filling disposable cups each break.

Sanitize the spigot if it comes in contact with a reusable water container drinking area (example: mouth of a water bottle).

Portable Restrooms and Handwashing

Assign an employee to sanitize portable restrooms (door handles, locks, toilet seats) and handwashing facilities (spigot, soap dispenser, paper towel dispenser) frequently during the day.

- Ensure the worker has proper PPE (disposal gloves, face

mask or covering).

Provide sanitizing product for employees to sanitize portable restrooms (door handles, locks, toilet seats) and handwashing facilities (spigot, soap dispenser, paper towel dispenser) after each use.

- Ensure workers are trained in how to properly sanitize and the expectation that they follow this procedure is communicated frequently.
- Assign a supervisory employee to monitor compliance.

Worker Transportation

If you provide a company vehicle or truck to your workers, ensure that those vehicles are being cleaned and sanitized on the inside and outside regularly, ideally once a day.

If it is essential to use transportation, such as a van or bus, to transport your workers:

- Sanitize at least twice a day (following employee pick-up and drop-off) all points of contact – seats, seat belts, knobs, doors, handles, buttons – that employees touch.
- Ensure ample ventilation and airflow inside the vehicle.
- If possible, seat workers spaced at least six feet apart.
 - Consider additional trips to allow seating spacing of workers.
- Assign seating so if a worker becomes ill, it is easy to identify those in close proximity and take the appropriate next steps around informing them, as well as asking them to stay home from work for 14 days.

Sanitizing Equipment and Tools

More frequent sanitation of all equipment and tools is critical. Ensure teams already responsible for cleaning do so more frequently, at a minimum daily. Do not forget the following items, which can be overlooked:

- Tractors, forklifts, ATVs, UTVs – seats, seat belts, knobs, doors, handles, buttons.
- Areas of congregation and meeting, both inside and outside – start of shift, tailgate training, breaks, lunch, and end of shift.
 - Chairs, shade trailers, buckets
 - Refrigerators, coolers, water jugs
 - Vending machines
 - Garbage cans
 - Bottles and containers used daily
- Employee equipment and tools
 - Bins
 - Hand tools
 - Garbage cans

The continued safety and health of our workers is paramount. It is critical that growers maintain their vigilance around year-round issues, as well as consider the unique circumstances now impacting our industry as we navigate safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about worker safety, human resources, labor relations, pesticide safety or food safety issues, please visit www.agsafe.org, call (209) 526-4400 or email safeinfo@agsafe.org.



Field restrooms: It is important that portable restrooms are sanitized more frequently and that ample handwashing supplies, including hand soap, paper towels and potable water, are available at all times. Best practice is to assign an employee to take responsibility for maintaining the conditions of the restrooms throughout the day.



Farm workers continue to ensure an abundant, safe food supply is available to U.S. consumers, and in that process, growers take additional steps to protect the workers' health as well. (Source: The Salinas Californian)



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“Scholarship Recipient” cont’d from page 1

Luis Obispo that she wanted to pursue a career in which she could advocate for the ag industry.

Larson majored in agricultural communications, and spent her summers working at internships that helped pave her way into the industry. She interned at Nutrien (formerly Agrium) in Denver, and Osborn Barr Communications in Kansas City. After graduating from Cal Poly in 2018, she went to work in the marketing department of Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc., a fertilizer company in Phoenix. It was while working at a trade show that she introduced herself to a mutual friend’s acquaintance at American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Larson followed up the introduction with a phone call seeking guidance about job possibilities in Washington, D.C., which led to a job offer at AFBF.

Larson has been an industry relations specialist at AFBF for nearly a year. Her primary role is to cultivate relationships along the supply chain to build strategic partnerships that support and strengthen Farm Bureau’s mission. For 24-year-old Larson, the opportunity to live and work in the nation’s capital advocating for U.S. agriculture is a dream come true.

“I never in a million years imagined I’d be working my dream job supporting America’s farmers and ranchers,” she said.

“It’s one of the most fulfilling and rewarding things I’ve done, professionally and personally.”

Larson has loved Washington, D.C. since she first visited

during her eighth-grade school trip. She attributes living and working there now to her parents’ unwavering support and her willingness to welcome new opportunities.

“What helped me end up here is saying ‘yes’ to things, and understanding that if one door closes, another will open,” she said. “You never know where saying ‘yes’ might lead and don’t underestimate the power of leveraging your network—the industry is quite small after all.”

Washington, D.C. is a long way from Larson’s Kings County roots.

“I don’t think there’s a better place to grow up,” she said of her childhood in the Valley. “Growing up there gives you a 360-degree view of the most productive and dynamic agriculture region in the world.”

Larson said moving so far from home was a huge leap of faith, but one she’s glad she was brave enough to take. She said life on the other side of the country has blessed her with a new perspective and helped broaden her horizons, but there’s a peace in knowing the sweet familiarity of Hanford and her family are just a plane trip away.

“My parents taught me not to be afraid of where life will take you but rather embrace it, because home will always be there,” she said.

Read about this year’s KCFB scholarship recipients below. 📖

SCHOLARSHIPS

KCFB awards nine scholarships to graduating seniors

By Amy D. Fienen

As part of their ongoing commitment to supporting agriculture education and investing in the industry’s future leaders, Kings County Farm Bureau awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. This year, nine outstanding students are receiving scholarships of \$1,000 each.

Scholarships are awarded to qualified students who plan to further their education at a two- or four-year accredited college, university or vocational institute and pursue a career in agriculture. The recipients are selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, determination, leadership skills and a commitment to a career in agriculture.

Congratulations to the 2019-20 Kings County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients.

Jonathan Avila, son of Mark and Cheryl Avila, is graduating from Hanford High School. He plans to attend College of the Sequoias before transferring to Fresno State, where he will major in ag mechanics and minor in ag business. He hopes to run his own welding business after college.

Journey Claycamp, daughter of Stacey Claycamp, is graduating from Sierra Pacific High School. She has applied to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she plans to major in ag communications before pursuing a career in ag marketing and public relations.

Adriana Dutra, daughter of Darrin and Christine Dutra, is graduating from Sierra Pacific High School. She has been accepted to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara and CSU Monterey Bay. She plans to major in English in preparation for a career in ag law.

Joe Gomez, son of Frank and Alisa Gomez, is graduating

from Corcoran High School. He has applied to a number of universities, including Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Fresno State, and plans to major in agriculture systems management.

Jacqueline Hutchinson, daughter of Sheryl Hutchinson, is graduating from Lemoore High School. She has applied to Fresno State and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She plans to major in viticulture and enology in preparation for a career in the wine industry.

Ally Martinez, daughter of Angel Martinez and Amy Brumit, is graduating from Sierra Pacific High School. She has applied to seven California universities and is in the process of deciding where to attend. She plans to major in animal science/pre-vet and become a veterinarian or forensic scientist.

Jacob Mendes, son of Edward and Michele Mendes, is graduating from Lemoore High School. He plans to earn an associate’s degree at West Hills College Lemoore before transferring to Fresno State to major in ag education in preparation for a career as an ag teacher.

Jared Thompson, son of Todd and Rebekah Thompson, is graduating from Lemoore High School. He will be attending Modesto Junior College and plans to transfer to Fresno State to major in plant and soil science. He plans to become dual-licensed in pest and crop control and work as a pest control advisor.

Wyatt Ward, son of Eric and Heather Ward, is graduating from Kingsburg High School. He has applied to College of the Sequoias and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He plans to major in bio-resource ag engineering in preparation for a career in ag machine development and engineering. 📖



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Tips for properly disposing of pesticide containers

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner

The smoke signal is one of the oldest forms of long-distance communication. It is a form of visual communication used over long distance. In general, smoke signals are used to transmit news, signal danger, or gather people to a common area. As an agriculture inspector, when I see smoke signals, it could mean someone is illegally disposing of pesticide containers by burning them. It was recently brought to the attention of the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's office that there is some confusion about the proper disposal of empty pesticide containers.

Burning, landfilling or stockpiling empty pesticide containers is not environmentally friendly. So if you cannot burn or bury your used pesticide containers, what should you do with them? In Kings County, one solution to the problem is to offer them for recycle at the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority (KWRA). Before you can offer pesticide containers for recycle to the KWRA, the KWRA requires the pesticide containers to be inspected to assure they are triple rinsed. The Kings County Ag Commissioner's office provides the service to growers of inspecting pesticide containers as required by the KWRA. A grower can transport the rinsed containers to the county office for inspection or an inspector can meet the grower at the location the containers are stored or at the KWRA for inspection. Section 6684 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) specifies the Rinse and Drain Procedures for emptied containers. The section states each empty container that has held less than 28 gallons of a liquid pesticide shall be rinsed and drained at the time of use.

Use the following amount of water for each rinse:

SIZE OF CONTAINER	AMOUNT OF RINSE MEDIUM
Less than 5 gallons	1/4 container volume
5 gallons or over	1/5 container volume

The required minimum amount of rinse water should be placed in the container, closed securely, and agitated. A minimum total of three rinses are required.

The following procedures should be used to triple-rinse your containers:

1. Shake vigorously and empty contents of container into spray tank, turning the container so that any product trapped in the handle is allowed to flow out. Once flow is down to a drip, allow the container to drain for an additional 30 seconds.
2. Immediately begin rinsing procedures or the product may become difficult to remove.
3. Fill container 1/4 full of water.
4. Replace the cap on the container. With the container opening facing left, shake the container left to right over a distance of four to six inches. Shake the container about twice per second for 30 seconds.
5. Drain rinse water into spray tank as previously described.
6. Fill the container 1/4 full of water a second time.
7. Recap the container. With the opening of the container pointed towards the ground, shake the container as described before. Then drain the rinse water into the spray tank.
8. Finally, fill the container 1/4 full of water once more with clean water.
9. Recap the container. With the opening of the container in the normal upright position, shake the container as you did before, 30 seconds with a four to six inch vertical motion, twice per second.
10. Pour the rinse water into the spray tank. Carefully rinse the outside of the container.
11. Remove foil seal and label booklet.
12. Recycle the container!

Once your containers are properly triple rinsed, you are ready to offer them for recycling. The Kings County Agricultural Commissioner's office issues a Certificate of Rinsing of Pesticide Containers for a fee of \$10 for 1-100 and \$20 for 101 plus containers inspected. The KWRA will have a separate fee for disposal in addition to the fee collected by the Kings County Agricultural Com-

"Tips" cont'd on page 13

Remember Heat Illness Protection Standards as warm weather arrives

Courtesy of Bryan Little, Farm Employer Labor Services

The cool, rainy weather we enjoyed this spring came to an abrupt end the last week of April, as temperatures reached 90 degrees in some parts of the Valley.

As we experience the first instance of hot weather in 2020, many workers may not yet be acclimatized to the heat.

Agricultural employers should be prepared to protect outdoor workers and to be in full compliance with the Heat Illness Prevention standard.

Some basic points to remember:

- Be sure shade is **available on demand when the temperature is below 80 degrees F**, shade must be provided **at all times when the temperature exceeds 80 degrees F**; as close as practicable to where employees are working;
- Shade must be provided to all employees on a rest or meal break, except those who choose to take a meal break elsewhere (*editor's note: provision of shade as usual may not be consistent with social distancing recommended by various COVID-19 guidance; ag employers implementing heat illness shade requirements can ensure adequate shade consistent with social distancing requirements by staggering meal and rest breaks, but additional*

shade may be necessary);

- **Fresh, pure, and suitably cool water** must be made available in sufficient quantities (replenishment is permissible) to allow each employee to drink **one quart per hour**;
- Water is to be provided as close as practicable to location of work;
- **Employees must be trained** about heat illness and the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Standard before they work in conditions where they might be exposed to heat;
- **Supervisors must be additionally trained** in HIP compliance procedures, emergency responses, and ensuring effective communication to facilitate emergency response.
- **A written copy of your HIP program in English and the language understood by the majority of the employees and be available to employees and Cal/OSHA inspectors on request** – this is the most frequently-cited part of the HIP standard – and probably the most easily-avoided HIP citation!
- **Remember:** When temperatures exceed 95 degrees, employers must implement “high heat”



procedures, including a mandatory 10-minute break every two hours (meal and rest periods can serve as these breaks, but if employees work beyond eight hours or waive meal or rest periods, you must still ensure the mandatory rest break occurs). 📄

“Tips” cont’d from page 12

missioner. Keeping empty pesticide containers on hand require proper storage and posting of the storage area. Containers stored improperly and outside become brittle, making the plastic unacceptable for recycling.

Complying with proper pesticide container triple rinsing and disposal procedures is easy. The recycling of the containers provides a sustainable and environmentally friendly use throughout the container’s life cycle. Should you choose to send out a smoke signal of illegal pesticide disposal by burning containers, the message sent may result in you receiving an unwanted response from the County Agricultural Commissioner in the form of a fine of up to \$400, or more should an inspector with the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District see the signal.

Should you have any questions, please call the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner at (559) 582-2830.



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Kings County Rural Crime Report

Criminals ignore stay-at-home orders, continue committing crimes throughout the county

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Sgt. Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Task Force has been very busy during this unusual time. Although social distancing and self isolation are the new normal, criminals don't subscribe to this theory. They have been keeping our unit extremely busy. During the past two months, we have conducted a number of theft investigations. We conducted several hemp theft investigations at Taylor Farms. On numerous occasions, suspects took hundreds of small plants. We have captured suspects and a vehicle on surveillance video, but haven't located or identified the suspects. We have seen a rise in copper wire theft and UTV/ATV thefts. Thousands of feet of copper wire were removed from the chemical plant on Excelsior just east of the railroad tracks. Copper wire was also stolen from a well in the 5500 block of Houston Avenue. A green 2012 Honda Recon was stolen from the Sozinho Dairy on 8 1/2 Avenue. Dover Dairy was the victim of a theft of a blue and white 2008 Polaris Ranger.

We are also conducting several burglary investigations. Quality Machinery has had three thefts in past two weeks. On one occasion, a suspect took a battery from an orchard sweeper. Just days after this theft, suspects burglarized the store, taking a Husqvarna pressure washer, a chain saw, and a pole saw. The third time, a Kawasaki Mule was taken. We have recovered the Mule and it has been returned. These thefts are Hanford Police Department's jurisdiction, but our unit has attempted to get video surveillance from the bank to the east and assisted with the investigations. Video we obtained was too dark to assist in identifying a suspect. We also have an open investigation regarding the theft of 13 baby goats taken from the area of 21st Avenue and Fargo. We have no leads on this case and little to no evidence to work with.

Our unit has been busy writing search warrants for thefts that took place at two solar farm projects. The solar farm at 15671 25th Ave. had connex boxes broken into. Numerous tools and spools of wire were taken. The same thing happened at the solar farm on Nevada and Highway 43. The suspects utilized a forklift to pry open the doors of three connex boxes. This is the same method

used by suspects at the 25th Avenue location. Spools of wire weighing over a thousand pounds were taken, along with numerous tools. We believe these thefts were committed by the same suspects that hit Baker Commodities' new construction site in a similar way. We have video surveillance of suspects utilizing a white Ford Van at this location. We believe these suspects committed the theft at the Nevada location because a tire was stolen from a Ford van at this location. These thefts were in close proximity in regards to the time and method utilized by the suspects. These three investigations are worth a total loss of over \$300,000. We are waiting for our search warrant information to get back to us so we can establish possible suspects.

When we weren't conducting investigations, we stayed busy eradicating illegal marijuana grows. We removed over 700 plants from three different locations over the past month. One grow was located in the 10500 block of 9th Avenue. This grow was removed, along with one in the area of 20th Avenue and Lacey Boulevard. The last grow was removed from the area of 5 1/2 Avenue and Niles. The total for the plants removed had an approximate street value of \$7 million.

We want to remind everyone that we are here and working if you need anything. If you see anything suspicious, please feel free to call us at anytime. 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

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