



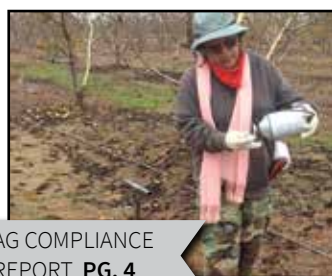
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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS **PG. 3**



AG COMPLIANCE REPORT **PG. 4**

Kings County supervisors declare drought emergency *Conditions being compared to those from 2015*

By Amy D. Fienen

The Central Valley is facing its sixth driest year in 126 years of record-keeping, and the ag industry is preparing to be hit especially hard.

On April 27, the Kings County Board of Supervisors declared a drought emergency in anticipation of the environmental, economic and social impacts expected to result from substantial reductions to the local water supply. The declaration states that the “projected impacts pose an imminent threat of disaster and threaten to cause widespread harm

to people, businesses, property, communities, wildlife and recreation in the County of Kings.” Declaring an emergency allows the county to seek resources to help mitigate the anticipated effects to the water supply and ecosystem.

The local declaration comes on the heels of Gov. Newsom pronouncing a state of emergency due to drought conditions in two Northern California counties, with Newsom acknowledging that the state is in its second drought year. Local mountain snow survey measurements were at 17 percent of average as of April 22. In March, the California Department of Water Resources reduced the State Water Project allocation for the 2021 water year to five percent, and the Central Valley Project announced that south-of-Delta contractors would not receive the five percent allocation of their contracted supply until further notice.

The California Farm Water Coalition is comparing this year’s conditions to those that devastated the ag industry in “*Drought Emergency*” *continued on page 5*



Virtual livestock auction will be held in place of cancelled 2021 Kings Fair

By Amy D. Fienen

For the second year in a row, COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of the Kings Fair. But to give local 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to sell their livestock projects, the Kings Fair is partnering with Overland Stockyard to host a virtual Junior Livestock and Dairy Replacement & Yearling Auction.

The virtual auction will be held Saturday, June 12 at 9 a.m. A buyer packet will be mailed to previous buyers the week of May 10.

Kings Fair CEO Jerome Coelho said the fair board had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year’s fair rather than attempt to host a COVID-friendly version.



File photo from the 2019 Kings Fair livestock auction. As COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of the fair for the second year in a row, this year’s auction will be held online.

“*Virtual Auction*” *continued on page 11*

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Shifting workplace views prove challenging for employers

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

In a pleasant turn of events, I have been able to have lunch inside actual restaurants once a week for the past three weeks. You may be wondering what it is like to have a meal from a restaurant without the Styrofoam clamshell, and I can attest that it's incredible. I did not realize how much I missed that interaction with friends and colleagues, and I find it exceptionally interesting because I am considered introverted by many.

Let's set aside the biological need for human connection and conversation with like-minded individuals and focus on a common theme covered over all three meals: the difficulty of filling organizational roles and how many career opportunities exist today despite the fears and concerns in today's society. To be clear, we are talking about mid- to upper-level career positions.

Many people would argue this is an excellent problem to have, and in a lot of cases, I would include myself in that group. Interestingly today, the workforce is offering good jobs that, in the past, workers would compete for, that now go weeks on end without receiving a single application. Or similar jobs are receiving massive numbers of applicants who possess no skills required for the advertised position. And let us not get started on those leadership positions that require actual work and life experience.

What I am seeing as an employer is an increase in the amount applicants expect to be paid and a decrease in the skills they think should be required to earn that higher rate. Perhaps this is a perfect example of the free market at work reflecting a lack of need for updates to minimum wage laws, but I digress. My concern is rooted much more in what I see as a lack of desire to perform and achieve than it is in hourly wages and annual salaries.

Growing up, my parents' voices seemed to play on a never-ending loop, telling me to go to college or I would never amount to anything, as was typical for most people my age. I guess people younger than I am were fed a heavy diet of the same based on the conversations I have had with folks who have recently graduated college and are entering the workforce. While, for many, this was a helpful push in the right direction, our parents could never have predicted how the workforce's views on careers would dramatically shift, beginning before COVID-19 and then being solidified during the shelter-in-place.

Those of us fortunate enough to have the responsibility of employing people are faced with a new challenge. Can we adapt and meet the needs of a workforce less interested in working "traditional" jobs while meeting the needs of our organizations? I wish I had the answer to that question or a suggestion to help you answer it. I am confident that the need to think creatively about hiring and work is more significant than ever before. And forgetting the "rules" that once dictated the employer/employee relationship is imperative to success in 2021. 🌱



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Member to Member *People, Products, Prosperity*

All Valley Printing

By Amy D. Fienen

Pauline Hershey, founder of All Valley Printing, has been in the business for 30 years – three decades during which technology has seen the industry evolve dramatically. That experience has taught her how to bridge the gap between old-fashioned customer service and current technology. At All Valley Printing, customers get the benefit of a full-service print shop with the kind of personal contact that is usually only found at a small, locally-owned business.

From their location in downtown Hanford, All Valley Printing provides digital and offset printing, branded wearables, signage, displays, promotional items, cards and invitations, and screen printing and embroidery. Specific to the ag industry, they print cotton tickets, weighmaster certificates and weight tickets.

With an on-site graphic designer, they can create and customize any product for any business.

“We protect our customer’s image by helping them maintain brand continuity,” Hershey said.

In addition to serving local agribusinesses, the other industries in the professional sector that All Valley Printing works with include healthcare, education, government and law enforcement.

As is the case with many industries, Hershey said All Valley has to compete with online retailers. She offers a shop local price match guarantee and will try to price match online prices whenever she can so that people can support a local business. Their web site allows people to shop and order online, but the difference is that All Valley Printing promises personal contact and service for all orders.

“The way we do business allows us to build relationships,” Hershey said. “We don’t ever want to lose sight of the value of our products and the services we offer.”

Hershey said she can attribute All Valley’s longevity to her commitment to what she calls “the five Cs:” care, communication, competency, currency of products and community.



The All Valley Printing team, pictured left to right: Suzie, Clayton, Vanessa, Nik, Pauline, Nathan and Lucie. Contributed photo

All Valley Printing is a gold-level Friend of Farm Bureau. While it’s not an agribusiness, it’s one of countless Valley businesses that relies on the ag industry for support, and that in turn provides farmers with products they rely on to do business.

“We support Farm Bureau because they support the agribusinesses that keep the Valley economy running,” Hershey said. “I’ve learned that we truly are the bread basket of the world, and nothing here works without ag.”

All Valley Printing is located at 110 W. Seventh St. in Hanford. For more information, visit their website, avprint.com, or call (559) 584-5444.

The “Member to Member” feature is our way of promoting the members that help make our work possible through their financial support. Please consider doing business with companies who show their commitment to the local ag industry through their support of Farm Bureau. 🙌

Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Free signs available for KCFB members

KCFB is offering these free field signs to our members to be distributed on a first come, first served basis.



Ag thefts are on the rise throughout the county, and we want to do what we can to help keep your property safe. Please stop by the office, 870 Greenfield Ave. in Hanford, and pick up what you need.

Keep your workplace safe with PPE

We want to continue our commitment to helping keep you and your employees safe from COVID-19. We are giving away free PPE, including N-95 respirators, cloth face masks and hand sanitizer. Please stop by the office to get whatever you need.



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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

Procedures to apply and report vertebrate pest control pesticides

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner

Every spring, our office receives calls about the use of rodenticide baits containing the active ingredients (A.I.) strychnine, chlorphacinone and diphacinone or burrow fumigants with A.I. aluminum phosphide, pesticides common for management of vertebrate pest populations in agricultural settings. If a person decides to try these products, what is the procedure to purchase, apply and report the use of the pesticides?

Frequently used to control rodents are strychnine and the burrow fumigants containing the A.I. aluminum phosphide. Strychnine and aluminum phosphide are California restricted use pesticides. What are the steps to purchase and apply these pesticides?

1. Obtain a restricted materials permit (RMP) from the Agricultural Commissioner.
2. Take a copy of your RMP to a pest control dealer to purchase the pesticide.
3. Submit a notice of intent (NOI) form (PR-ENF-126X) for each site to be treated to the Commissioner's office at least 24-hours prior to the intended use.
4. Use the pesticide according to the label requirements.
5. Complete a Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report.
6. Report the use of the pesticide to the Agricultural Commissioner by the 10th day of the month following the month in which the work was performed.

Each Agricultural Commissioner has the NOI form available at their office or you can find it online at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/prenffrm/enf126x.pdf>. The NOI allows

the staff in the pesticide use enforcement division within the Agricultural Commissioner's department the opportunity to inspect the proposed treatment site prior to the application. Because controlling rodents may require multiple applications within the site during the month, the applicator needs only to submit one NOI for each site, and it will cover all the applications for the entire month. This allows the applicator to go back during the same month to treat active burrows that did not achieve control after the first application.

The product's labeling and our county permit conditions for aluminum phosphide require a fumigant management plan. Completing a fumigant management plan documents your consideration for dealing with emergencies or accidental spills, training of handlers and addresses the required 100-foot setbacks from structures to prevent acci-

dental discharge of the fumigant into a structure.

Chlorphacinone and diphacinone are multiple-feed anticoagulants and are available for control of gophers and squirrels. The rodenticide baits chlorphacinone and diphacinone are federally restricted materials, do not require a restricted materials permit, but being a certified applicator is required. If these are used in agricultural related operations.

1. Obtain an operator identification number from the Agricultural Commissioner.

2. Take a copy of your operator identification number to a pest control dealer for purchase of the pesticides.
3. Use the pesticide according to the label requirements.
4. Complete a Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report.
5. Report the use of the pesticide to the Agricultural Commissioner by the 10th day of the month following the month in which the work was performed.

The other action needed is to report the vertebrate pesticides used. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 6626 states:

"The operator of the property which is producing an agricultural commodity shall report the use of pesticides applied to the crop, commodity, or site to the commissioner of the county in which the pest control was performed. This report must be submitted by the 10th day of the month following the month in which the work was performed."

CCR section 6627 states:

"persons required to maintain pesticide use records...shall report a summary of the monthly use of pesticides to the commissioner of the county in which the work was performed. The report shall be provided to the commissioner by the 10th day of the month following the month in which the work was performed."

Essentially, the two sections say the total amount of all pesticides used in agricultural settings, needs to report to the Agricultural Commissioner's office. The restricted material permit and operator identification number from the Agricultural Commissioner has information you will need to complete the pesticide use report (PUR). To report the use of rodent control products.

1. Use the Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report (DPR-PML-060) to report vertebrate pest control pesticides.
2. Follow the instructions and fill out all the required boxes (refer to your permit or operator identification number)
3. Report the total number of applications made for each pesticide.
4. Enter the pesticide name.
5. Enter the pesticides EPA registration number.
6. Enter the amount of the total product used.
7. Enter the number of application of the pesticide made.
8. Enter the crop code 60 for vertebrate pest control on the monthly summary form.
9. Leave the last two columns blank.

"Pest Control Procedures" continued on page 5



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#FINANCIALFUTURE

KCFB awards five scholarships to graduating seniors

By Amy D. Fiene

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. Since the scholarship program's start in 2007, KCFB has awarded over \$100,000 to more than 1,000 students. This year, five 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 2020-21 Kings County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients.

Tanner Cardoza, son of Brian and Stacy Cardoza, is graduating from Immanuel High School. Although still undecided on his career choice, he plans to attend McPherson College and major in agri-business.

McKenna Garcia, daughter of Manuel and Gina Garcia, is graduating from Lemoore High School. After completing college, she plans to attend law school

and practice agricultural law.

Curtis Lefler, son of Steven and Geni Lefler, is graduating from Hanford High School. He has been accepted to Fresno State, where he plans to major in plant science. He aspires to be an agronomist and work in the California crop production industry.

Chloe Scialo, daughter of Vincent and Kristin Scialo, is graduating from Hanford High School. She has been accepted to Cal State Fullerton, where she plans to major in ag business in preparation for a career in ag real estate.

Emily Vargas, daughter of Eulogio and Vargas and Erica Lupercio, is graduating from Corcoran High School. She has been accepted to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she plans to major in animal science in preparation for a career as a large animal veterinarian. 🐾



"Pest Control Procedures" continued from page 4

Property operators report the use of pesticides to the Commissioner's office 10 days following the month in which the pesticide is applied. You are required to report the use of all pesticides (100%) within agricultural settings on a pesticide use report to the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

In conclusion, when management of pest incorporates use of the pesticide baits containing the A.I. strychnine, chlorphacinone, diphacinone or aluminum phosphide, the applicator is to report to the Agricultural Commissioner's office the total amount used under the restricted material permit or operator identification number issued by the Agricultural Commissioner. Report pesticide use by the 10th day following the month of the pesticides application. 24-hours before the application of the restricted materials aluminum phosphide and strychnine, submit a notice of intent. You can contact the Kings County Ag Department Pesticide Division at 559-852-2830 for information or assistance with completing or submitting NOIs or PURs. 🐾

"Drought Emergency" continued from page 1

2015 with an economic loss of \$2.7 billion, over half a million acres of fallowed farmland and 21,000 lost jobs.

Currently, the state's critical reservoirs contain less water than they did in March 2015 and are at 56 percent of average. At the local level, Watermaster Steve Haugen with the Kings River Water Association said current Kings River runoff projections are 29 percent of average, compared to 54 percent for this time last year. The concerning difference between this year and last, Haugen said, is that there was water stored at Pine Flat in 2020, allowing for decent surface water deliveries last year. That's not the case this year, meaning that water deliveries will rely solely on very limited runoff.

The bottom line, Haugen said, is that farmers who depend on Kings River water deliveries will be facing little to no allocation.

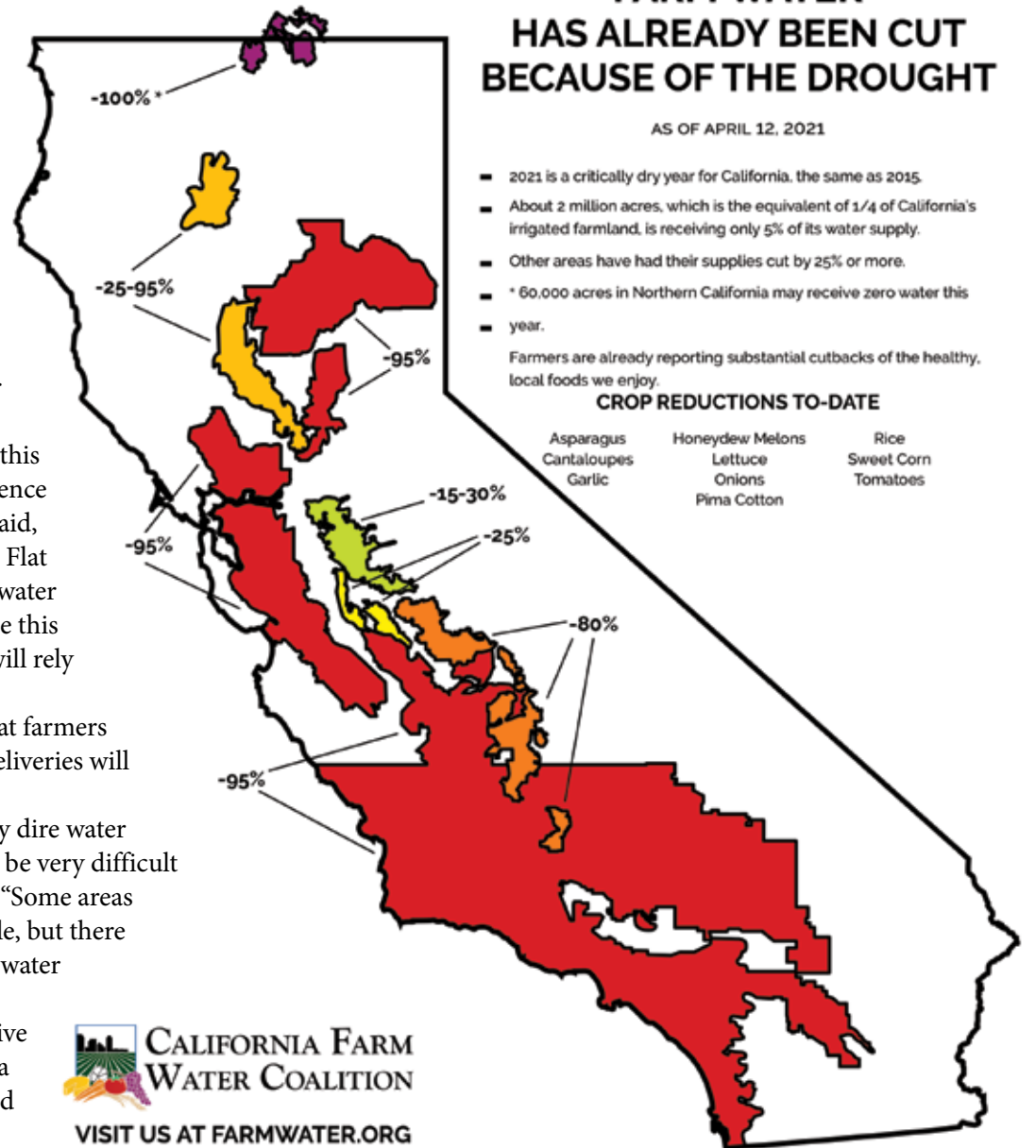
"The Valley as a whole is facing very dire water conditions this year, and it's going to be very difficult for the majority of farmers," he said. "Some areas will have some surface water available, but there are areas that will receive no surface water this year."

Kings County Farm Bureau Executive Director Dusty Ference said that area farmers are bracing for a dry year and preparing accordingly.

"We have growers who are planning for reduced acreage of tomatoes, cotton and other row crops," he said.

Ference said he appreciates the county's efforts to get out in front of what could be a tough year for agriculture and the many industries across the state that depend on it.

"It's good to see that our leaders are being proactive and planning ahead," he said. 🐾



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Kings County Rural Crime Report

Unit preparing for upcoming marijuana season

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Unit has been busy attempting to identify suspects in several investigations. Unfortunately, we have not been able to identify the suspects in the chemical thefts we told you about last month. We were able to identify the suspect who is responsible for stealing a truck and trailer from Kwik Break. We are currently trying to find this suspect, but to date we have had no luck.

Our unit has also been busy with several other investigations. We took over an investigation of a calf theft that occurred in the area of 12th and Elder avenues. With the assistance of the owner of the dairy from where the calf was stolen, we located the animal and returned it to the dairy. We also investigated a diesel fuel theft that occurred at JG Boswell. It appears approximately 30 gallons of fuel were taken from one of their lift pumps. We have no evidence to work with in this case. If you see trucks or vans around any areas where you have fuel and those vehicles don't belong there, please call our dispatch.

Our unit is ready for the upcoming marijuana season. We eradicated three illegal grows so far in April. At one of these grow sites, we located a stolen car, travel trailer, car dolly, and a felon in possession of a firearm.

This will be a busy season for illegal marijuana grows once again. If you see/smell any suspected illegal marijuana grows, please call one of our Rural Crime investigators. Your calls will assist us in locating these grows and enabling us to write a search warrant for the property.

I want to remind everyone to please call our dispatch for assistance if you see any suspicious activity or vehicles. Also, if you need an Owner Applied Number (OAN), call us and we will come out and stamp your equipment. SmartWater CSI is available through Kings County Farm Bureau as another measure you can take to protect your property. Contact Dusty at 584-3557 for more information regarding this product. I want to thank you for your continued support. We will continue to work hard during these tumultuous times. 🙌



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

Detective Carlos Santos:
559-904-6893

Detective Kody Holt:
559-362-8928

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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

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
Netto Ag Inc.	559-585-2097
Stoney's Sand & Gravel	559-924-9229
South Valley Harvesting	559-308-0871
Swinger Pruning Services	559-816-7711
Warmerdam Orchard Services	559-924-4662

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Summerhill Dairy	559-468-6554
Vet Pharmaceutical Inc.	559-582-6800

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Linder Equipment Co.	559-685-5000
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Myers Well Drilling	559-906-0930
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Westlands Water District	559-905-6736

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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

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Keenan Farms	559-945-1400
Marquez Brothers International, Inc.	559-584-8000
Olam SVI	559-584-2711
Warmerdam Packing LP	559-584-9211

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Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP	559-584-3337
Kings County EDC	559-585-3576
Zumwalt-Hansen & Associates Inc.	559-582-1056

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Sierra View Realty	559-410-5557

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REC Solar	717-515-4519
Recurrent Energy	415-675-1500
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Remember Heat Illness Protection Standards as warm weather arrives

Courtesy of Bryan Little, Farm Employer Labor Services

As the Valley starts to see 90-degree days in the forecast, it's important to remember that 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). 🙌

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KCFB hosts successful workplace safety training event

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director

Last month, Kings County Farm Bureau hosted its first all in-person event since October 2020. The Behavioral Threat Assessment: Preventing the Active Shooter course organized by the Central California Intelligence Center and sponsored by Needham Ag Services brought law enforcement and industry members together for a day-long education on threat assessment.

The course focused on identifying warning signs of people that may become a threat. After a shooting, law enforcement often identify troublesome behavioral traits or warning signs in the perpetrators that many of us would overlook or choose not to recognize.

One of the most eye-opening and possibly troublesome topics covered was how often people experience threatening behavior from a person who eventually carries out an active shooter scenario but chooses not to say anything beforehand. People often hear a shooter make a threat and decide not to report it because they do not want to "cause" the threatening person any harm.

The course was full of stories and situations that, after the fact, were riddled with red flags. After attending the session, the belief is that participants will be better at recognizing warning signs. Personally, I know I will be looking at people differently from now on.

As our world continues to re-open following the COVID-19 pandemic, some law enforcement professionals estimate the country will see a rise in active shooter situations. As learned in training, these tragedies take place where large groups of people are present. In Kings County, that means some of the riskiest locations are places of work, which means agricultural facilities.

KCFB is more than a group of growers talking solely about things happening on the farm. We care about our community and want to do our part in keeping it safe. As an employer, if you are interested in learning more about protecting your employees in the tragic event of an active shooter or other threatening workplace situation, we can help. This training was one of many that we host to help protect our community. 🙌



"Virtual Auction" continued from page 1

"With the restrictions from the state and local health departments, we simply can't put on a full fair," Coelho said.

Limited capacity, COVID test or vaccine verifications, the need for more employees to enforce mask and social distancing protocols, and the need to alter the layout of the facilities are just some of the challenges that add up to an insurmountable and unprofitable undertaking. The Kings Fair is hoping to host alternate events throughout the summer like farmer's markets or live concerts.

Even though there won't be a fair this year, the fair board is ensuring that local FFA and 4-H kids have a place to sell their livestock projects by hosting a virtual auction. Coelho said he hopes the community will support local youth who have already lost so much to this pandemic.

"Exhibitors have lost so many of the extra-curricular activities they normally participate in, and a livestock project gives them an opportunity to support their personal growth" Coelho said. "They need buyers to ensure they can repay their loans and make enough to purchase an animal again in the future. Exhibitors will remember the people who supported them for years to come."

The fair received approval from the health department for exhibitors to show their animals in person like they do during the fair the week prior to the auction. It has not yet been determined whether that event will be open to the public.

The registration deadline for the online auction is May 30, and add-ons are being allowed through June 30. The minimum add-on bid is \$25. Previous buyers who do not receive their packet in the mail by May 21 should call the Kings Fair, as should first-time buyers who want to participate in the auction.

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

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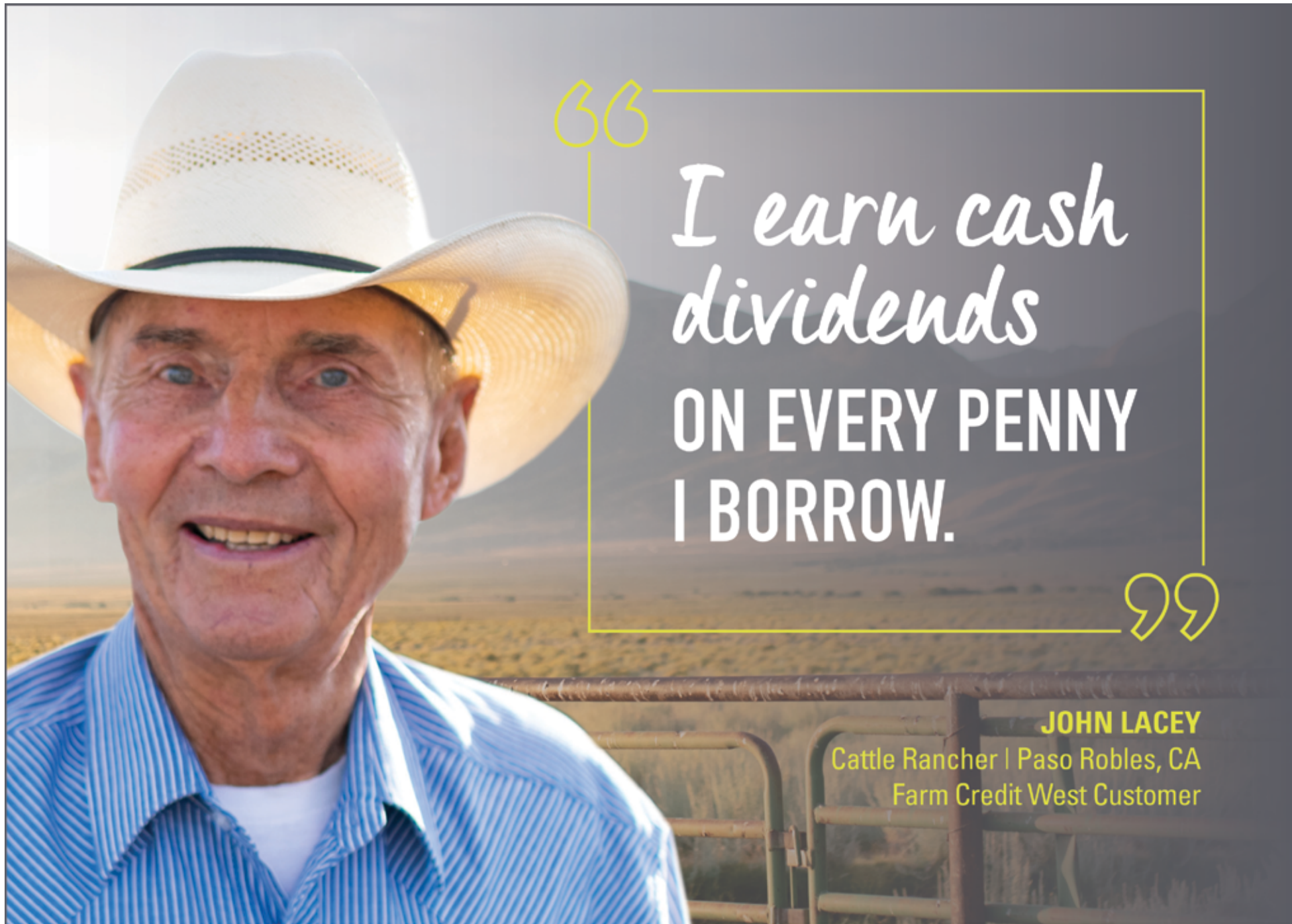
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