

**INSIDE**HARVEST CLASSIC SPONSORS **PG. 5**RESTRICTED MATERIALS PERMITS **PG. 7**CROP REPORT **PG. 9**

Harvest Classic Golf Tournament raises \$11,000

By Amy D. Fienen

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and players, Kings County Farm Bureau's 6th Annual Harvest Classic Golf Tournament raised \$11,000 to support Farm Day and scholarships for graduating Kings County seniors who plan to pursue a career in agriculture. This year's event attracted 88 golfers.

Presenting sponsor J.C. Lansdowne Inc. was joined by 23 area businesses that helped ensure the tournament's success with their sponsorships.

Farm Day has been taking place each March at the Kings Fairgrounds for the past 15 years, and we're proud of how the event has grown with each passing year. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of Farm Day 2020, but in 2019, we welcomed nearly 2,400 area third-graders to the fairgrounds for an interactive field trip that teaches valuable lessons about the many facets of Kings County ag. The number of students who attend continues to increase, as does the number of industry professionals who want to support Farm Day with their involvement.

"Farm Bureau remains committed to growing Farm Day to help educate Kings County students about the crucial role agriculture plays in their daily lives," said Harvest Classic co-chair Jonathan Garcia. "Thanks to the support of our sponsors and players, we can increase our efforts to ensure the future of agriculture is protected and that talented young people come home after college to advance the industry."

KCFB Executive Director Dusty Ference said the highlight of



Harvest Classic co-chair Jonathan Garcia shoots a golf ball launcher on hole three. Attached to an AR-15, the launcher shot golf balls as far as 400 yards.

"Harvest Classic" continued on page 5

County adopts new ordinance regulating hemp production

By Amy D. Fienen

The Kings County Board of Supervisors has passed an ordinance to continue regulating hemp production in the county. Adopted on Oct. 20, the ordinance takes effect on Jan. 1, 2021 and replaces the interim urgency ordinance that expires on Dec. 31 of this year.

Much of the new guidance is consistent with the requirements established in the interim urgency ordinance, but in order to protect both hemp growers and their neighbors, the Kings County Ag Commissioner's office worked with county council to make some additions.

Kings County Ag Commissioner Jimmy Hook said that the ordinance was established to protect both hemp growers and their neighboring farmers and homeowners. Pesticide residues from neighboring parcels that drift to a hemp crop can be devastating for the hemp grower, Hook said, as hemp that is sold for CBD products cannot contain any pesticide residue from a neighboring field. Setbacks, signage and security measures should help deter trespassers and theft that concerns homeowners that border hemp parcels.

"Hemp" continued on page 2





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KCFB makes difficult decision to cancel Wine vs. Beer Showdown

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

After much deliberation, KCFB has decided to cancel the 2021 Wine vs. Beer Showdown over COVID-19 concerns, citing variables outside the organization's control that are subject to change as the virus continues to be such a fluid situation. Our leadership agreed that canceling now instead of planning the event and being forced to cancel closer to the event date was the best option when considering both undesirable choices.

This cancellation is a perfect example of the need to be flexible and plan for the future no matter your organization, particularly amidst a pandemic. Planning, reviewing and adjusting plans must happen regularly. Whether we want to admit it or not, our operation methods have been changed for the foreseeable future, and before anyone gets back into a routine, the game will change again. Hopefully you have realized what living and operating during a pandemic has taught me: to be successful, you need a plan and that plan must be flexible. Don't take that

the wrong way and think the goal isn't essential if it's subject to change. The value in a plan is having a benchmark to measure your actions. In addition, setting goals allows you to determine if your efforts are moving your organization in the intended direction.

We planned to host the Wine vs. Beer event in January 2021, as we do every January. We reviewed that plan, identified the challenges that could result, and adjusted. In this case, the difficult decision was made to cancel our most popular annual fundraiser. Currently, we're planning for an event in 2022, and with any luck, I'll be writing in the future to explain how the strategy is working and extending an invitation. 🍷

"Hemp" continued from page 1

"We felt that these guidelines were important to protect all Kings County growers," Hook explained. "We took what we learned from the past two growing seasons and what we learned from other counties and put it into this new ordinance."

Hook highlighted the following modifications that growers should be aware of.

- **Setbacks:** Land on which hemp is cultivated must have a minimum setback of 200 feet from the property boundary of any parcel growing something other than hemp not owned by the hemp grower. A minimum setback of 700 feet is required for residences not owned by the hemp grower that border the hemp grow. Exceptions can be made with notarized written consent.

- **Destruction plan:** As part of the application process, grower applicants must submit a destruction plan that addresses the destruction, removal and abatement of a non-compliant "hot" or abandoned crop. Applicants must also submit a bond in the amount of 100 percent of the estimated cost to abate a crop that fails to meet the requirements for legal harvest and must be destroyed. Crops that exceed the legal THC limit must be destroyed within 45 days.

- **Regrowth:** Once a hemp crop is harvested, destroyed or removed, the grower is responsible for abating all regrowth from the harvested or destroyed crop.

- **Security:** For security purposes, the perimeter of each hemp parcel must be surrounded by a physical barrier like fencing, an irrigation ditch or similar impediment to access the property. All access points to the parcel must have the ability to be secured with a locking mechanism.

- **Signage:** Each hemp parcel must contain signage at the corners of and at all usual points of entry to the parcel. Parcels adjacent to public rights-of-way must have signs posted at 600-foot intervals. The ordinance contains specific wording and size requirements for the signage.

- **Greenhouses:** Indoor greenhouses are subject to the same requirements as outdoor grows, but additionally are required to control lighting and glare. 🍷



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CONGRATULATIONS!

As provided in Article VI, Section 2 of Kings County Farm Bureau's bylaws, the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors nominated these persons to serve on the Board of Directors. Congratulations to all them for being officially elected to serve the 2021-22 term.

Kevin Robertson

Todd Fukuda

Jared Little

Pete Hanse

Brain Medeiros

Brian Potter

Helen Sullivan

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Thanks to KCFB's New & Renewed Members

NEW MEMBERS

- Needham Ag Services
- Adventist Health
- Torrent Resources
- Shirley Avila
- Daniel C. Salas Custom Harvesting

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- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
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RENEWED ASSOCIATE

- Phillip Humbarger
- David Gomes
- Albert Duyst
- Rosemary Clark

Kings County Rural Crime Report

Unit investigates thefts locally and in neighboring counties

Contributed by Detective Ben Moore

As the year rolls on, October was another busy month for the Kings County Sheriff's Office Rural Crimes Unit. The unit started out the month assisting the patrol division investigating a chemical and copper wire theft in the 9700 block of Dover. The stolen items and suspect(s) are still outstanding.

The unit also assisted patrol with a fuel theft investigation that occurred in the 5100 block of Denver Avenue. This crime was captured on surveillance video and the unit is actively trying to identify the two suspects and the suspect vehicle.

A walnut theft in the area of 19½ and Everett is under investigation. About 500 pounds of walnuts were taken, which were valued at around \$300. The unit was able to capture two individuals on surveillance video and are actively trying to identify them.

The unit assisted patrol with an embezzlement occurring at a farming operation in 13,000 block of 1st Avenue. With patrol, the unit made contact with the suspect in Tulare and gathered his statement. The report was forwarded to the Kings County DA's office for review.

A found property report was taken in the 17,600 block of Iona after a citizen located a large, electrical transformer oil filtering machine dumped in an orchard. Investigators believe this piece of equipment was on a trailer and the suspects dumped it as they were only after the trailer. The unit is actively trying to locate the owner of the equipment and checked with all neighboring agencies regarding recent trailer thefts.

The unit received a call from a farming operation reporting a grape theft in the area of 7th and Dover avenues. Surveillance was deployed to this location, but the suspect(s) were not identified.

In the area of Houston and 13th Avenue, property owned by a Hanford Boy Scout troop was found dumped near a sand pit. The unit managed to gather the property and return it to the troop. This area has become a common dumping ground for stolen items as a stolen trailer was located at the same spot on Oct. 27.

The unit received a call from a farmer who located a vehicle in his orchard

near 7th and Dover avenues. We responded and discovered the car was a stolen from Fresno. CHP was contacted and responded to do the recovery. A witness saw the suspect earlier and described him as a white male in his 30s. A search of the area for the suspect yielded negative results.

Part of the unit's duties include eradicating illegal marijuana grows throughout the county. Last month, we executed three search warrants at illegal marijuana grows and eradicated more than 500 marijuana plants. Warrants were executed at 9894 Home Ave. (100 plants), 13845 14th Ave. (240 plants) and 13813 14th Avenue (200 plants). A total of four people were arrested, via citation.

In addition to the three above search warrants, the unit visited 18077 and 18078 Indiana Ave. after getting reports of illegal marijuana grows at this location. In both cases, the unit advised the owners that their marijuana grow was out of compliance with the Kings County ordinance and needed to be eradicated ASAP. The owners complied.

When the unit was not busy with their own caseload, they were able to assist the detective's units with some of their serious investigations. More specifically, the Rural Crimes Unit assisted detectives with the execution of a search warrant in the 1200 block of Edgewood pertaining to a weapons offense and a stabbing that occurred in the 400 block of Miller Street.

Finally, we want to continue to remind everyone about the Owner Applied Number (OAN) program we offer to the public. We will issue you a California OAN number if you don't already have one, and we will stamp your equipment

with that number as well, at no charge. Once again, thank you for staying vigilant and for your assistance during our investigations. If you have questions or concerns, please call any time. 📞



Task Force Sergeant

Rod Shulman:

559-469-4004

Detective

Carlos Santos:

559-904-6893

Detective Ben Moore:

559-589-3629

Detective Kody Holt:

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“Harvest Classic” continued from page 1

this year’s Harvest Classic was the addition of a golf ball launcher. The device, which attaches to an AR-15, could be used for the drive on hole three, and had balls flying as far as 400 yards. At \$20 a shot, the launcher helped raise additional funds to supplement our educational programs. A special thank you to Larry Micari for donating the golf ball launcher and manning it at hole three throughout the tournament.

We are grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support:

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Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,
Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer

The Ag Commissioner's role in the use of restricted materials

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner

It will soon be time for property operators to visit their local County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) for renewal of their restricted materials permit. California law allows the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to put special controls on pesticides designated as California restricted materials—limiting their use to trained individuals and only at times and places approved by the state's County Agricultural Commissioners.

The criteria to designate a pesticide as a California "restricted material" includes hazards to: public health, applicators, farm workers, domestic animals, honeybees, the environment, wildlife, or crops other than those being treated.

Permits for pesticide use originated in Imperial County in 1931, and incorporating permits as a general requirement at the state level began in 1950.

In 1970, California adopted the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the state's main environmental law. The purpose of the act is to ensure that when public decisions are made, long-term protection of the environment is a major consideration. CEQA requires, among other things, that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be developed that discloses the potential environmental impacts of a project. The act requires each public agency to consider the effects of their decisions and take every step necessary to provide California residents with clean air and water, and the enjoyment of California's nature, scenery, aesthetics, and history.

In 1976, the California Attorney General issued a formal opinion that the state's pesticide regulatory program was subject to CEQA when registering a pesticide, or granting a license, permit, or certificate. This meant that an EIR would have to be prepared before registering any of the several hundred new pesticide products that come into the market each year. Of even greater significance, it meant that an EIR would have to be prepared before approving any of the several thousand restricted material permits issued annually by the CACs.

The Restricted Materials Permit Program (RMPP) was developed as an alternative program to provide for an abbreviated environmental review procedure that serves as the "functional equivalent" to a full-scale EIR normally required by CEQA. Although the state and the CACs do not need to prepare an EIR, documentation of environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives are required. The RMPP was designed to meet these requirements. This program requires the CACs to issue time specific and site specific permits for the agricultural use of restricted materials.

DPR and the CACs must assure that our RMPP protects people and the environment while allowing for effective pest control. Generally, in addition to use by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator, applications of California restricted materials may occur only under a permit issued by the CAC. Restrictions apply to all pesticide applications approved through the restricted materials permit process. Regulatory restrictions may include:

- The amount of pesticide that can be applied;
- Methods of application;
- Where the pesticide can be applied;
- Additional personal protective equipment that must be worn or used, etc.

The permit application process provides CACs with the opportunity to discuss the additional use restrictions with the property operator or pest control business well in advance of the actual application. CACs must evaluate each proposed application before it occurs and document their determination that the application poses no unacceptable risks, or, that the permit is conditioned to mitigate identified hazards. CACs conduct pre-application site monitoring inspection when they determine that only an on-site evaluation will allow an appropriate assessment of risk.

The California Code of Regulations requires permit applicants to identify all known areas that could be adversely affected by the use of restricted materials. Permit applicants should plan their needs in advance, consider reduced use of restricted materials, and promote open dialogue with the people who live near application sites before applying for their permits. One of the items required is the identification of all known areas that could be adversely impacted by the use of the pesticide(s). This includes areas such as hospitals, schools, playgrounds, residential areas, labor camps, parks, lakes, waterways, wildlife management areas, livestock, or crops. An attached map or aerial photograph is generally used for designating such areas. This is the reason an updated map is requested at renewal.



Deputy Ag Commissioner Mario Gutierrez helps a customer with the permit issuance process. Contributed photo

It is necessary to make the permit time specific and site specific in order to assess the effects of restricted use pesticides on the environment. Accordingly, the permittee is responsible to ensure that the CAC is notified at least 24 hours prior to commencing the use of a restricted material (NOI). This is a CEQA requirement.

When you visit your local County Agricultural Commissioner to renew your restricted materials permit for the 2021 crop year, remember the system has been developed as an alternative to an EIR. It mitigates hazards, provides alternatives that lessen the environmental impact of the application of a restricted material and allows for responsible use by certified applicators while enabling people to succeed in the production of commodities of optimum quality and yield while assuring the safety of their partners, the public, and our environment.

Growers can drop off permit material or email crop maps to noi@co.kings.ca.us, **but new 2021 permits will not be issued prior to Nov. 1, 2020.** We are beginning the issuance process one month early to help ensure documents are ready prior to Jan. 1, 2021. The Kings County Ag Commissioner/Sealer's office issued 693 restricted materials permits in 2019 and conducted 192 pre-application site evaluations in the fiscal year 2018/2019. 🍌



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2019 Crop Report released

Kings County sees four percent decrease in crop values from previous year



Kings County’s 2019 Agricultural Crop Report was recently released, reflecting that agricultural crops and products produced a gross value of nearly \$2.2 billion last year, down four percent, or \$93 million from 2018. In the past five years, Kings County saw declining crop values in 2015 and 2016, with increases in 2017 and 2018, followed by another decline last year.

Kings County Ag Commissioner Jimmy Hook reported that fruit and nut crops had the largest increase in value at \$44 million, or seven percent, due to an increase in production and almond prices. Thanks to an increase in acreage, seed crops increased \$2 million, or 16 percent.

The dairy industry remains the county’s top commodity, valued at \$603 million, down from \$677 million in 2018. Milk is followed by cotton, almonds, pistachio

and cattle to round out the county’s top five commodities.

Livestock and poultry products saw the largest decrease, down 11 percent to \$73 million due to a decrease in milk production. Vegetable crops decreased \$34 million, or 16 percent because of less processing tomato acreage and production. Livestock and poultry were down 7 percent, or \$20 million due to less cattle, calves and poultry sold, in addition to lower poultry prices. Lower pima cotton prices resulted in a \$10.5 million drop in field crop revenue, and apiary products decreased just shy of \$1 million, or 7 percent, due to less acreage pollinated.

“My thanks and appreciation are extended to the many producers and organizations who contributed information for this report,” Hook said.

Commodities Grown & Exported from Kings County

Alfalfa seed, almonds, apricots, asparagus seed, blueberries, cherries, cotton, cotton seed, grapes, kiwifruit, nectarines, onions, oranges, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums, pluots, pomegranates, Sudan grass seed, tangerines

Kings County’s 2019 Export Trade Partners

Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Nations, United Kingdom, Vietnam

Kings County’s top three export partners in 2019 were Korea, China, and Japan.

TOP 10 COMMODITIES in 2019

1. Milk **\$603 million**
2. Cotton **\$248 million**
3. Almonds **\$200 million**
4. Pistachios **\$182 million**
5. Cattle & Calves **\$179 million**
6. Tomatoes, processed **\$119 million**
7. Livestock, Poultry **\$82 million**
8. Walnuts **\$69 million**
9. Corn, Silage **\$65 million**
10. Alfalfa, Hay **\$45 million**

TOP 10 COMMODITIES 50 YEARS AGO, in 1969

1. Cotton **\$22 million**
2. Milk **\$20 million**
3. Cattle & Calves **\$15 million**
4. Alfalfa **\$11 million**
5. Barley **\$7 million**
6. Cattle, Feed Yard Gain **\$6 million**
7. Poultry **\$4 million**
8. Corn **\$3.5 million**
9. Cattle, Feeders **\$3 million**
10. Sorghum Grain **\$3 million**

Kings County Ag by the Numbers

- Kings County is home to **890,545** total acres. **818,082** of those acres are farmland.
- In 2019, Kings County growers produced their first industrial hemp crop. A total of **663.5** acres of hemp were farmed by **17** registered growers.
- Kings County has over **33,600** acres registered as organic and **37** organically registered producers, processors and handlers.
- Since 1969, Hanford has received an average rainfall total of **8.48** inches. The 2018-19 season produced an above-average **9.46** inches.



Kings County Ag *Hall of Fame*

Kings County is ranked:

- **1st** among California counties in the production of cotton lint and cottonseed
- **2nd** among California counties in tomato processing
- **3rd** among California counties in the production of milk and cream, nectarines, plums and turkeys
- **4th** among California counties in the production of apricots and silage
- **5th** among California counties in the production of pistachios and peaches
- **8th** among California counties in agricultural production

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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ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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Mello Chipping	559-589-0300
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Kings Dairy Supply Inc.	559-582-9459
Summerhill Dairy	559-468-6554
Vet Pharmaceutical Inc.	559-582-6800

EQUIPMENT DEALERS & REPAIR

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

FARM SUPPLY

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

FARMS & RANCHES

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

FOOD SERVICES

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

INSURANCE SERVICES

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

IRRIGATION/PUMPS/WELLS

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

LABOR

Sunrise Farm Labor	559-945-2292
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MANUFACTURES

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

PETROLEUM

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

PROCESSORS

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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

SOLAR ENERGY

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

TRANSPORTATION

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

UTILITIES

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

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Pacific Ag Insurance
Quality Machinery Center
Rain for Rent

Southern California Edison
Summerhill Dairy
S&W Seed Company
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Wells Fargo Bank

Bronze

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Billingsley Tire Inc.
Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants
CalWest Rain
Central Valley Energy Coalition
Garton Tractor

Granger Water Specialties
Grower Direct Nut Company
Hanford Equipment Co.
Innovative Ag Services LLC
JP Honey Farms
Keenan Farms
Keller Motors

Kings Dairy Supply Inc.
Laguna Irrigation District
Mello Chipping
Pearson Realty Inc.
Rabobank
Richard's Chevrolet
Schuil & Associates

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



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