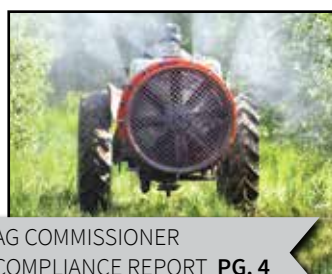




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## Wine vs. Beer Showdown returns in 2022

By Amy D. Fienen

Kings County Farm Bureau's Wine vs. Beer Showdown is returning in 2022. COVID forced its cancellation last year, but we're excited to announce that this popular annual fundraiser will be back on Thursday, Jan. 20. This event gives guests the opportunity to enjoy samples from California wineries, breweries and local restaurants while catching up with friends and raising money to support Farm Bureau programs.

Wine vs. Beer Showdown is expected to draw a sold-out crowd, so mark your calendars now and plan to join us. We'll have a number of vendors serving up their tastiest food and drink specialties, and guests will have the opportunity to bid on a host of silent auction items, an important part of the event's fundraising aspect.

Wine vs. Beer Showdown, which began 17 years ago, raises money to support local farmers and ranchers through educational programs, training classes, industry workshops, political activism and community involvement. Farm Day, which gives 2,300 Kings County third graders a hands-on lesson in agriculture, livestock and farm equipment, is one of the many Farm Bureau-sponsored programs that this event helps support. Farm Day will be returning in March 2022, and this fundraiser will help ensure its success after a two-year hiatus.

*"Wine/Beer" continued on page 10*



## Protect your operation and community with a Hazardous Materials Business Plan

By Amy D. Fienen

Farmers and dairymen who store hazardous materials on their property may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). In the interest of public safety, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Service (Cal OES) implemented the HMBP requirement in 1986, but in spite of the program's longevity, not every grower in the area is familiar with it. Kings County Farm Bureau and the Kings County Department of Public Health (DPH) are partnering in an environmental health campaign to inform members of regulations they may be overlooking in their operation.

California businesses required to submit a HMBP are those that manage hazardous materials of 55 gallons or more of liquids, 500 pounds of solids, and 200 cubic feet of compressed gasses. Hazardous materials most often found on area farms are fuel diesels, lubricants and propane.

HMBPs were the result of one of the largest industrial accidents in recent history. In 1984, a gas leak at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India resulted in the immediate deaths of two- to three-thousand people, and as many as 20,000 deaths in the following weeks due to gas-related injuries and illnesses.

Cal OES implemented the HMBP in response to the Bhopal tragedy, with the intent of preventing or minimizing

*"Business Plan" continued on page 4*



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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Garrett Gilcrease

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## What does the ports crisis mean for American exports?

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

There is a lot of talk about the global supply chain right now. The media and White House like to talk about whether we'll have Christmas gifts on the shelves and semiconductor chips for automotive manufacturers. As important as those things may be, why is there no mention of American exports?

With so much of the global food supply grown in the United States, it seems exports and their value to our economy and the rest of the world would receive more coverage. California grows approximately 90% of the tree nuts produced in the U.S., and the U.S. exports roughly two billion pounds of nuts annually.

Nuts are just one example of how exports from the U.S. fill a massive void in the world's food supply chain. How are delays impacting the food supply of countries that rely on U.S. exports? Where's the media coverage on that side of the issue? Where is the White House?

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, bottlenecks and weak links have surfaced in the global food supply chain. In hindsight, a shipping issue at our nation's ports seems like the next logical supply chain kink. I guess we should ask ourselves where the next issue is and how we get in front of it instead of waiting until it's nearly out of control.

For decades, we have enjoyed the benefits of a global market to supply the needs of our everyday lives. We've learned how fragile our seemingly bullet-proof system is in the last 19 months despite its size and complexity.

I wish this article ended with some advice or a glimmer of hope for the supply chains horizon. Unfortunately, that will have to come from someone else. I wish you the best in these trying times and encourage you to keep fighting the good fight. 🙌

## CONGRATULATIONS!

During last month's Annual Meeting of Members, the KCFB Board of Directors welcomed a new officer team. Your newly appointed officers, who will serve a two-year term in their respective offices, are President Kevin Robertson, Vice President Shane Bickner and Secretary/Treasurer Garrett Gilcrease. A heartfelt thank you to outgoing President Brian Medeiros for serving on the officer team for the past six years.

In addition to welcoming new officers, directors were put forth at the Annual Meeting. 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 of them for being officially elected to serve for the 2022-23 term.

Garrett Gilcrease  
Keith Grabow  
Frank Zonneveld  
John Ellis  
Jon Garcia  
Dino Giacomazzi  
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**Member to Member** *People, Products, Prosperity*

## Brian Medeiros, BAR M Ranch

By Amy D. Fienen

Brian Medeiros has spent the past 10 years serving as a director on Kings County Farm Bureau's board, the past six of which were as an officer. Last month, he passed the president's gavel on to his successor, but plans to remain on the board as he says there is much work yet to be done.

KCFB officers serve two years as secretary/treasurer followed by two years as vice president and then two years as president. It's a commitment not for the faint of heart, but willing volunteers are rewarded with a front-row seat to the inner workings of the ag industry. Medeiros said the role KCFB plays in supporting local farmers is more important than many people realize, which is why he's been so involved during what is arguably the busiest season of life.

Medeiros and his wife, Kelley, are raising 4-year-old Addison and 2-year-old Aidan while running BAR M Ranch, the family farm. In partnership with his parents, Rui and Alvarina, the Medeiroses farm walnuts, almonds, corn nuts, cotton, alfalfa and wheat. They also run Kent Ranch Management, which provides custom farming and orchard work, and their machine shop, KRM Fab & Repair.

Medeiros said his favorite thing about farming is driving tractor and working in the fields, but has committed so much time to advocating for the ag industry because so much is at stake.

"This last year, we did Dust Bowl farming. We fallowed 400 acres," he said. "I'm in

*"Member to Member" continued on page 11*



*The Medeiros family, Brian, Kelley, Addison and Aidan*

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## FARM DAY RETURNS NEXT MARCH AFTER A TWO-YEAR HIATUS

After making the difficult decision to cancel Farm Day the past two years due to COVID, Kings County Farm Bureau will be bringing back our field trip for all Kings County third graders next March. Farm Day 2022 will take place at the Kings Fairgrounds on March 17. We rely on about 100 volunteers and as many as 60 presenters to make this educational event a success, so if you can help out with next year's Farm Day, please mark March 17 on your calendar and plan to join us. Stay tuned for more information on Farm Day 2022.



## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/  
Sealer

# Changes to notification requirements in production agriculture are in the works

Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

In January 2010, the current notification requirements in California Code of Regulations section 6618 took effect. These regulations specified pesticide notification requirements for pest control businesses, property operators and other employers working in agricultural production sites when pesticides applications are intended to be made. A proposed regulation change by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for a statewide notification system would change the notification requirements for agricultural pesticide applications.

When a pest control business intends to apply a pesticide in an agricultural production setting, before making the pesticide application, the business is required to specify to the property operator, the date of scheduled application, location and description of field treated, the product name, EPA number, active ingredient, applicable re-entry interval (REI), posting requirements and precautions to the property operator. The operator of the property in turn notifies their employees, other employers or their fieldworkers and handlers working on the operator's property, and other persons who may enter or work near the area on the specified dates. The information provided by the operator needs to be in an understandable language, include the date, location treated and instructions persons are not to enter the area until authorized. Other employers, such as farm labor contractors, need to notify their employees of the scheduled application once received from the property operator.

The 2021-2022 state budget allocated \$10 million to DPR to begin a statewide system that provides information to the public about pesticides used around them. According to DPR, the system is a tool to advance environmental justice and further protect public health by providing transparent and equitable access to information in advance of pesticide applications occurring near where people

live, work or play. The information would provide the public with the opportunity to make their own decisions about any additional precautions they may want to take to protect their health. Examples of additional precautions may include shutting windows, avoiding areas around the fields, keeping children inside or bringing in toys and laundry.

DPR is developing the requirements for a statewide system to provide advance notification to persons living, working or playing in communities where pesticides are used. As part of the process to develop a statewide pesticide notification system, DPR is conducting a series of public webinars and workshops in November 2021 and early 2022, following earlier focus groups conducted in August 2021. Participants

*"Business Plan" continued from page 1*

the damage to public health and safety and the environment from a release of hazardous materials.

Troy Hommerding, division manager for the Kings County Department of Environmental Health, said that while he understands the burden of government regulations, having a HMBP in place is important to the safety of farm employees and first responders.

"If first responders are called to your property, they can access your HMBP and see what materials are on site, including a map of where they're located," he said. "It's really beneficial to them in case of emergency."

A HMBP should contain detailed information on the:

- inventory of hazardous materials at a facility;
- emergency response plans and procedures in the event of a reportable release or threatened release of a hazardous material;
- training for all new employees and annual training, including refresher courses, for all employees in safety procedures in the event of a release or threatened release of a hazardous material; and
- a site map that contains north orientation, loading areas, internal roads, adjacent streets, storm and sewer drains, access and exit points, emergency shutoffs, evacuation staging areas, hazardous material handling and storage areas, and emergency response equipment.

HMBPs are electronically submitted annually through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). Hommerding said that while March 1 is the state deadline, DPH allows anniversary submittals, as long as they're done annually. DPH sends out email reminders to those in their system reminding them when their HMBP is due.

For those who meet the requirements for submitting a HMBP but have not yet done one, help is available.

"Our office (DPH) can walk growers through the entire process and can help them produce their plans," Hommerding said.

Consultants like Innovative Ag Services can also help growers with compiling their plans in order to help achieve compliance.

Dennis Tristao, senior advisor for Innovative Ag Services, said the best place to start is the DPH website, as the requirements are outlined there.

Hommerding echoed that sentiment, and said that while DPH wants growers to be compliant with the requirement, his office takes an educational approach to HMBPs and wants to serve as a resource for anyone needing help, rather than as an enforcement agency.

For more information on HMBPs, please visit the DPH website at [countyofkings.com/ehs](http://countyofkings.com/ehs), or call (559) 584-1411. Kings County Farm Bureau staff are also available to help, and can be reached at (559) 584-3557. 🐾

*"Ag Commissioner Report continued on page 10*

# HMBP

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BUSINESS PLANS



**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Interface with Kings County Department of Environmental Health to ensure your facility is in compliance with HMBP requirements.
- Assist with establishing your facility's California Environmental Reporting Service (CERS) account.
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- Provide assistance with the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act requirements.

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# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## Unit investigating multiple thefts

Contributed by Task Force Supervisor Rod Shulman

The Kings County Rural Crime Unit is continuing to stay busy with several investigations. We took over two hay theft investigations and are continuing to try and locate the stolen trailer and hay. We do have a suspect vehicle description in these investigations. A green Dodge pick-up truck was utilized to steal hay from the Dutras on 4th Avenue. We are also looking for the trailer stolen from Dragt that was utilized to steal approximately 80 bales of hay. We have scoured the areas of Goshen, Traver and London looking for the green truck and stolen trailer.

Our unit also took over a theft investigation that took place at the solar farm being constructed in the 22000 block of Laurel Avenue. Suspects in this investigation broke in to an enclosed trailer and took hundreds of 18-volt Milwaukee batteries and chargers. They also took several other tools totaling around \$50,000. We have no leads in this investigation. The security guard didn't see anything and we couldn't recover any tire or shoe impressions due to heavy traffic on the job site.

Tevelde had two work trucks stolen from his shop in the area of Denver and 4th Avenue. This was reported to CHP so we are looking for those trucks as well.

We want to make everyone aware of several mail thefts that occurred last month. If you have any checks or other important mail, make sure to take it to the post office.

In other news, Detective Santos is leaving the unit due to promotion. Detective/Sr. Deputy Santos will be going back to our patrol division within the next couple of weeks. I would like to thank him for his hard work. He will be missed for sure. I will let everyone know when we fill his vacancy.


If you see any suspicious activity or vehicles, please call our dispatch or one of us for assistance. The OAN program is a service we provide to all farmers and ranchers. If you need equipment stamped, please call me or one of our detectives for an appointment. The Kings County Farm Bureau also has SmartWater CSI available for purchase. Contact Dusty at the Farm Bureau for further information. Please also notify us if you know of any illegal marijuana grows. We can be contacted at the cell phone numbers below anytime for assistance. Thank you for your support. 🙌

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

**Detective Carlos Santos:**  
559-904-6893

**Detective Kody Holt:**  
559-362-8928

**Detective  
Colten Verhoeven:**  
559-469-6146

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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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<b>Bressler &amp; Company Certified Public Accountants</b>	<b>559-924-1225</b>
<b>M. Green and Company LLP</b>	<b>559-584-2751</b>

## ASSOCIATIONS

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

## AUTO DEALERS & REPAIR

<b>Billingsley Tire</b>	<b>559-924-3481</b>
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
<b>Farm Credit West</b>	<b>559-584-2681</b>
<b>Golden State Farm Credit</b>	<b>559-584-5401</b>

## 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
<b>Tulare Lake Compost</b>	<b>559-840-4368</b>

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Blair Ground Services	559-924-1276
Crop Production Services	559-584-5583
Diversified Crop Services	559-582-5644
Gar Bennett LLC	559-638-6311
<b>Innovative Ag Services LLC</b>	<b>559-731-4924</b>
Lakeland Dusters	559-992-5716
SNF Agriculture	559-309-4301
TriCal Inc.	559-673-5237
<b>Valley Ag Spraying</b>	<b>559-772-5515</b>
<b>Verdegaal Brothers Inc.</b>	<b>559-582-9205</b>

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

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<b>Keenan Farms</b>	<b>559-945-1400</b>
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Golden State Crop & Insurance Services	559-587-9007
<b>Mackey &amp; Mackey Insurance Agency</b>	<b>559-583-9393</b>
Mitchell Insurance Services	559-713-1315
<b>Nationwide Insurance Services</b>	<b>877-669-6877</b>
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<b>Kahn, Soares &amp; Conway LLP</b>	<b>559-584-3337</b>
Kings County EDC	559-585-3576
Zumwalt-Hansen & Associates Inc.	559-582-1056

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Sierra View Realty	559-410-5557

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REC Solar	717-515-4519
<b>Recurrent Energy</b>	<b>415-675-1500</b>
<b>Renewable Solar</b>	<b>559-816-5088</b>

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M Green & Company LLP  
Mackey & Mackey

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Stone Land Co.  
Tachi Palace Casino Resort  
The Wonderful Company  
Verdegaal Brothers

## Silver

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Excellence Medical Group  
Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP  
J.G. Boswell Company Inc.  
Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP  
Meras Water Solutions

Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies  
Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients  
Pacific Ag Insurance  
Quality Machinery Center  
Rain for Rent  
Southern California Edison

Summerhill Dairy  
S&W Seed Company  
Trinkle Ag Flying  
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

## Bronze

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Bressler & Company Certified Public Accountants  
CalWest Rain  
Central Valley Energy Coalition

Gartron Tractor  
Granger Water Specialties  
Hanford Equipment Co.  
Innovative Ag Services LLC  
JP Honey Farms

Keenan Farms  
Keller Motors  
Kings Dairy Supply Inc.  
Laguna Irrigation District  
Pearson Realty Inc.

Schuil & Associates  
Sullivan Farming LLC  
Torrent Resources  
Tulare Lake Compost  
Valley Ag Spraying

“Wine/Beer” continued from page 1

“Wine vs. Beer Showdown is an important fundraiser for Farm Bureau,” said Executive Director Dusty Ference. “The money raised by this event allows us to continue advocating for local agriculture and providing the programs and services that local farmers have come to rely on.”



Wine vs. Beer Showdown is being held at the Hanford Civic Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each, and will be on sale soon. Those interested in sponsoring the event or participating as a food or drink vendor should contact Paula Vinzant at (559) 901-4278 or [pvinzant@kcfb.org](mailto:pvinzant@kcfb.org).

“Ag Commissioner Report continued from page 4

will discuss potential benefits and challenges of a pesticide notification system. Participants will help with the system design and discuss which pesticides should require notification, such as only those listed as California Restricted Material. Who should receive notice; people within a quarter, half or one mile from the proposed application? How far in advance is the notification given? Currently, California restricted materials require a 24-hour notice of intent to the commissioner’s office. Other topics of discussion include what information to provide and how to deliver the notification.

Professional applicators, growers and commodity organizations, community members and state and local organizations are encouraged to participate. To find more information or how to participate visit [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pesticide\\_notification\\_network/](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pesticide_notification_network/). DPR will use input gathered in the public workshops to write regulations that require advance notification of pesticide applications.

Contact the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers Office at 559-852-2830 for additional information.

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"Member to Member"  
continued from page 3

the business of figuring out what's next."

What's next depends largely on the industry's ability to weather the challenges of water shortages, regulatory issues and labor shortages, Medeiros said, adding that when it feels like everything is stacked against you, that's when you need the support of like-minded people more than ever. He cited three main reasons he devotes so much time to Farm Bureau.

First is the sense of community that results from fighting together in support of a shared cause. Second is the ability to see what's coming down the path as a result of his involvement.

"It's part of my mission to have a grasp on what the industry is facing so we can be working at the forefront," he said.

The third reason for his commitment to Farm Bureau is about family legacy and the opportunity for his kids to follow in his footsteps.

"I want my kids to have the opportunity to farm someday if they choose to," he said.

For Medeiros, involvement in KCFB is about so much more than being a member—it's an obligation to future generations.

"At the end of the day, we all need to be involved in Farm Bureau because it's a community, it's a support group, it's everyone who's trying to make it all come together at the end of the day," he said. "KCFB is working every day to make sure farming in Kings County is sustainable, to ensure that if you want to farm, you can. We have strength in numbers and look out for each other."

*On behalf of the board of directors and all KCFB members, thank you, Brian, for your tireless commitment to our organization and the time you spent on our officer team.*



**KCFB**  
KINGS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# wine vs. beer Showdown

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