



## INSIDE



AG COMMISSIONER'S  
REPORT PG. 5

## KCFB hosts state ag officials for local farm tours

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director

Kings County Farm Bureau hosted Director Julie Henderson, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Ag (CDFA) for lunch and area farm tours on Aug. 29. Both were in town for a meeting with Kings County Ag Commissioner Jimmy Hook, who participated in KCFB's meeting and tour. Kings County Supervisor Doug Verboon and several KCFB directors and members also joined the tour.

During lunch, the group generally talked about the state of agriculture in Kings County, emphasizing water and labor, before moving the conversation to pesticide regulations. Director Henderson gave an overview of some of the Department's priorities, stating the desire to "be supportive of agriculture, and reduce the use of pesticides when and where able."

Growers shared several real examples of their farms' integrated pest management (IPM) practices, describing the trials and successes of non-chemical pest management. Supervisor Verboon commented that growers do not get enough credit for existing on-the-farm IPM activities and asked for an "atta boy" from DPR for those practices. Other growers shared their desire to use pesticide alternatives, but are limited by the supply of those methods, many of which include live beneficial insects. One grower in the room mentioned the supplier they use for

*"Farm Tours" continued on page 2*



DPR Director Julie Henderson (left) and CDFA Secretary Karen Ross (right) during a Kings County farm tour last month. Here, they are learning how dairies use all available resources from crop to dairy, as demonstrated by these dried almond hulls that are later used for bedding in the free stall barn.

Photo by Breanna Larman

## Pesticide violations surge in Kings County A compliance audit can help

By Amy D. Fienen

The Kings County Ag Department has issued 46 pesticide violations so far this year, up substantially from five in 2021. The Department is encouraging growers to schedule a compliance audit to help decrease the likelihood of receiving a violation during an inspection.

When the Kings County Ag Department conducts official inspections, they are doing so on behalf of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer Janet Eckles said the Ag Department wants to work with growers to help ensure they are compliant with DPR's regulations before an inspection occurs, and that's where compliance audits come in.

"During a compliance audit, we let growers know what we look for in an inspection, help them fix what needs to be fixed, and set up training programs for their staff" Eckles said. "We strive to keep them in compliance; we don't want to hand out violations."

Once an audit is scheduled, an inspector will come out during a pesticide application to review some of the most

*"Pesticides" continued on page 4*







### Purpose

Protect, preserve and enhance agriculture in Kings County

### Vision

Ensure that every farmer has the right to farm and protect their heritage

### Values

Our Members | Proactive Representative  
Reliable | Trusted Resource

### Officers

**President:** Kevin Robertson  
**Vice President:** Shane Bickner  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Garrett Gilcrease

### Directors

John Ellis	Brian Medeiros
Todd Fukuda	Michael Miya
Jon Garcia	Brian Potter
Dino Giacomazzi	Brandon Sargent
Keith Grabow	Jared Silveira
Pete Hanse	Helen Sullivan
Monty Hoggard	Frank Zonneveld
Jared Little	

### Executive Director

Dusty Ference  
dusty.ference@kcfb.org

### Farm Life Editorial

Amy Fienen  
afienen@kcfb.org

### Farm Life Advertising

Dusty Ference  
kcfb@kcfb.org  
(559) 584-3557

### Farm Life Designer

Beth Greene

### KCFB District Representative

Brian Medeiros

### Contact

870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 584-3557  
www.kcfb.org



Kings County Farm Bureau



@KingsFarmBureau



@KingsFarmBureau

Kings County Farm Bureau's "FarmLife" does not accept responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "FarmLife," nor does Farm Bureau accept responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than content showing authorship by an officer, director, or employee of Farm Bureau or its affiliates.

© Kings County Farm Bureau, 2022

"Farm Tours" continued from page 1

beneficial insects is located in South Africa. A second grower shared how they couldn't release insects at a crucial time last season after their Southern California supplier lost its entire inventory due to an unexpected weather event, and the resulting damage done to that orchard without pest control.



Secretary Ross is looking at feed containing almond hulls in Tony DeGroot's free stall barn. Photo by Breanna Larman

The first farm tour stop was at Dwayne Dutra's cotton field near Hanford. Here, Dutra described what it takes to produce cotton and why plant growth regulators are applied so plants don't grow too large to harvest with today's machinery. He explained why controlling insects is essential so cotton lint quality is not impacted, how cotton plants must be defoliated before harvest, and why plants must be plowed for control of the pink bowl worm.

Next, the tour headed to Tony DeGroot's dairy barn. This location offered a unique perspective on the importance of pest management. Here, the group listened to a dairy nutritionist's thoughts on feed quality for dairy cows, and how feed not only impacts milk production and quality, but how good feed can reduce methane emissions from cattle.



From left to right, Steven Ozuna, Director Henderson, Dino Giacomazzi and Secretary Ross in Giacomazzi's almond orchard. Giacomazzi explains the process of shaking, sweeping and filtering the almonds up from off the ground; then, how they are hulled to look how they do in stores. Photo by Breanna Larman

The group also toured DeGroot's walnut and almond orchards and Dino Giacomazzi's canning tomato field. Along the way, growers shared compelling stories highlighting changes on their farms. Every grower on tour said they make more pesticide applications than in years past because of the efficacy of today's pesticides. And most of them explained that chemical-resistant insect species are increasingly prevalent because of the limited options of active ingredients available today.

Director Henderson seemed genuinely interested in the growers' thoughts and understood their challenges. She asked for ideas to better communicate with the industry after DPR recognizes a chemical of concern and for ideas on transitioning materials out of rotation if required. Participants offered suggestions that appeared to connect with her.

KCFB is honored to have hosted a successful tour, and we thank Director Henderson and Secretary Ross for attending. KCFB looks forward to working with both departments in the future to achieve goals that make sense from both perspectives. 🌱



# Path to aerial drone applications remains unclear

By Dusty Ference, Executive Director



Dusty Ference

Last month, I was invited to view a demonstration and speak with from a group of agriculture pilots interested in applying pesticides with drones. The invitation came after KCFB opposed legislation to reduce the licensing requirements for such applications. For now, that bill is dead, and with good reason.

Drone applications are inevitable in the future; however, the legal path to making such applications is unclear and must be charted carefully. For now, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) view drone applications and the requirements to make said applications the same as those required by helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft.

Part of last month's demonstration included testing the spray pattern of a drone built to spray as marketed by the manufacturer. Before testing, the pilots noticed their first concern: spray nozzles placed in a circle around the drone's base. While simulating an application using water, the pilots saw a second and more significant concern: the potential for substantial drift using the spray configuration of

the drone manufacturer. Both problems are consequential enough for the pilots to harden their position on maintaining the need for a pilot's license to apply pesticides with an aerial drone. Their concern centered around experience; not just with pesticide application, but the impact of spray system pressure, nozzle size, wind speed, inversion, and how those factors impact drift.

Private and qualified applicators understand how system pressure, nozzle size and wind speed affect the application, and this group of pilots acknowledged the importance of that training. Their concerns focused primarily on inversion and inexperienced applicators not understanding nozzle size.

In my opinion, a pilot's license should be required for anyone making drone pesticide applications. No one left that meeting doubting that drone applications are the way of the future; however, everyone agreed it would take a lot of work to create a path to licensing and permitting aerial drone applications. 🙌



## Why Wait?

- Top operators are already adding solar. Why aren't you?
- Solar can save Agribusiness owners 70-75% on their power bill.
- In most cases, Ag solutions currently have a 3-5 year payback.
- Solar provides between a 20-35% return on investment.
- Ag solutions generate between \$40,000-\$50,000 annually per acre.

Make Life Better! Save More. Enjoy More.

If you're considering solar, go with the leader—Renewable Solar. We're the local leader with fully staffed teams (no outsourcing), bringing skill, scale and best-in-class solutions to maximize your Return-On-Investment. Call today.

559-410-8640 • [www.RSI.SOLAR](http://www.RSI.SOLAR)

**RENEWABLE SOLAR**  
*Exceptional People. Exceptional Performance.™*

# Firestone

## IN-FIELD SERVICE

### WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

We are specially trained and fully equipped to meet your on-farm, in-field tire service and replacement needs

Call us for on-farm deliveries and on-the-spot tire repair

## BILLINGSLEY TIRE INC

6 WEST D STREET  
 LEMOORE CA 93245  
 (559) 924-3481  
[www.billingsleytireinc.com](http://www.billingsleytireinc.com)




Your ad could be HERE!

For advertising rates & specifications:  
[kcfb@kcfb.org](mailto:kcfb@kcfb.org)  
 (559) 584-3557





“Pesticides” continued from page 1

common violations and suggest ways to maintain compliance during an inspection.

The top five non-compliances the Ag Department has identified in the past 12 months are:

- 1) Labeling Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- 2) Emergency medical care postings
- 3) Eye wash immediately available
- 4) Regulation PPE
- 5) Pesticide handler training

There are three classes of violations with fines ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, and DPR is proposing an increase to the current fines.

Inspections are random and can happen at any time. Eckles said that when inspectors are driving around and see a pesticide application taking place, they can stop and perform an official inspection. She said that inspections typically occur every few months, but not

more than once a month. Many growers believe they have everything in place to pass an inspection, but sometimes they’ve inadvertently missed something.

A compliance audit will help identify those things before an inspection.

“We want to help farmers maintain records, get help with training and paperwork and whatever they need,” Eckles said. “We want to be sure they’re in compliance and keeping their workers in the ag industry safe.”

To schedule your compliance audit, contact the Kings County Ag Department at (559) 852-2830 or noi@county.kings.ca.us. 📧

### Kings County Farm Bureau Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

KCFB's Annual Meeting of Members will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the KCFB office, 870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford. Questions, call the KCFB office, (559) 584-3557

### KCFB now accepting 2023 scholarship applications

Kings County Farm Bureau has long been a proud supporter of agriculture education, and invests in the industry’s future leaders by awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. The window for the class of 2023 to apply for next year’s scholarships is now open, and applications can be found at [kcfb.org/scholarships](http://kcfb.org/scholarships).

Since the start of KCFB’s scholarship program in 2007, the organization has awarded more than \$100,000 to deserving students. 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.

Scholarship applications are being accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2023. More information, qualifications and applications are available on our website, [kcfb.org/scholarships](http://kcfb.org/scholarships).

Lic. Class A & C57  
#826935

# Kaweah Pump, Inc.

General Engineering Contractor

SERVING:  
**AGRICULTURE • DAIRY • MUNICIPALITIES  
INDUSTRIAL • DOMESTIC**

## 559.747.0755

Visit: [Kaweahpumpinc.com](http://Kaweahpumpinc.com)  
Email: [info@kaweahpump.com](mailto:info@kaweahpump.com)

**DEVELOPMENT & REHABILITATION SERVICES**

- Well Video Surveys
- Well Development & Yield Testing
- Up to 1000HP Development Pumps
- Well Swaging • Swabbing • Brushing
- Acid Wash & Other Chemical Treatments
- Fishing Services • Well Abandonment

**CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

- Agricultural Concrete Pads
- Custom Pump Facilities

**MACHINE SHOP SERVICES**

- Full Service Centrifugal Pump Machine Shop
- Custom Short Couple Lift Pump Fabrication
- Discharge Fabrication • Mid-Stretch Fabrication
- In-Field Welding, Pipe Repair & Fabrication

**ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

- Complete Pump Electrical Services
- Power Company Management
- Variable Frequency Drives
- Power Relocation to New Well • Electrical Panels
- Transformer Pads • New Services • Upgrades

**PUMP SERVICES**

- In-House Pump Designs
- Deep Well Vertical Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Deep Well Submersible Turbines - All Makes & Models
- Custom Built Lift Pumps
- Booster Pumps • Fertilizer Injection Pumps • Domestic Pumps



Serving the entire  
San Joaquin Valley and  
San Luis Obispo County



**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DETER CRIME**

**Now available in Kings County**




Available for members to purchase at the KCFB office

# THIEVES BEWARE




**KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FORENSICALLY PROTECTED BY SMARTWATER®**

[www.SmartWaterCSI.com](http://www.SmartWaterCSI.com)

©TM SmartWater, the SmartWater yellow atom logo, handprint logo and THIEVES BEWARE are trademarks of SmartWater Limited. SmartWater is a proprietary remote asset tracking system and strategy protected by worldwide trademarks and patents.



# Swarming bees indicate a healthy colony Contributed by Mario Gutierrez, Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

From spring through summer, the fascinating sight of thousands of buzzing bees swarming or clustered on a tree branch will catch a person's eye. Although interesting, the large number of bees engaged in the activity of swarming may be alarming since there is a threat the bees will sting to defend themselves. In reality, swarming bees are less likely to sting and management depends on whether the bees estab-

lished a hive colony inside your home.

What is going on when bees swarm? It indicates a healthy colony. A bee swarm is a bee colony's natural method of colony reproduction. The bee colony can split into two or more colonies. Worker bees build swarm cells called queen cups for the queen to lay eggs, one eventually being the new queen.

When a colony outgrows its home and becomes congested or too populated, the queen's pheromones cannot control the colony. Worker bees start the swarm process by scouting the surrounding area for a new nesting site. The queen will lay eggs into the queen cups and the workers signal by doing a dance that it is time to swarm. The colony's foraging slows and the queen reduces her weight to be able to fly and she stops laying eggs. When ready, the queen leaves the hive and about half of the worker bees leave their former nest and form a cloud of 5,000 to 20,000 bees.

This sight of almost 20,000 bees swarming usually frightens people not

familiar with bees engaging in this activity. The swarming queen will land in a nearby tree and emit pheromones that signal the workers to cluster around her as the scouts continue searching for potential new home sites. Scouts returning from a good site do another dance on the cluster to communicate the viable new location. The entire cluster takes flight, forming a cloud of bees as they move to the new location.

The cloud of swarming bees can be unnerving, but most swarms are passive because they are not protecting brood or honey storage. European honeybees are more concerned with finding a new home and clustering around the queen. It takes quite a bit of disturbing or stimulation such as spraying them with water or hitting them with an object before a swarming bee will defend the cluster. Usually, swarming occurs simultaneously with the flow of nectar in the spring, but later in the season, secondary swarms often run out of food, are not as predictable, and can be aggressive even as a swarm. Africanized honeybees are also less predictable; therefore, it is advisable for people to keep their distance from a swarm of bees to avoid being stung.

Management depends on the location of the bee cluster or swarm. A swarm may remain clustered a few minutes to days before moving to a new suitable location. A person first should make every effort to collect and relocate the bees. Why? Because bees are important. Bees pollinate flowering plants; many are food crops and others, which rely on pollinators to reproduce. A honeybee can visit more than 2,000 flowers a day. Bees help plants survive. Plants produce food, oils and fibers, medicines, prevent soil erosion, provide food and cover for wildlife, absorb CO2 and produce oxygen. If necessary, it is legal to destroy the cluster or spray bees with an insecticide labeled for the use. Killing the bees should be the last option and doing so may agitate the bees and increase the likelihood of being stung. Managing a swarm cluster is usually easy for experienced beekeepers unless high up within a tall tree or wedged between buildings. A concerned person can call a beekeeper willing to collect the swarm to start a new colony. Bees clustered or resting on a buildings or homes are difficult to



determine if they are swarming or establishing a colony within the structure. When they first arrive at the new hive site, bees are short on food and have to build combs from wax they produce from the honey they are carrying. If the bees continue entering and exiting the new home foraging for nectar for the

colony to survive and the cluster size is shrinking, it is highly possible they are moving in. At this point, a person could seal the entry with steel wool, a screen or something else the bees cannot chew through to trap the bees. Trapped bees may search for a way out, making it into the living quarters, but most will die of dehydration within a week or two.

Once in a building, the bee colony will quickly build wax combs, store pollen and honey, lay eggs and begin to rear more bees. A swarmed colony can grow from a few pounds of adult bees to near 100 pounds of honey, adult and developing bees, and beeswax when established. Killing the bees within the structure with a labeled pesticide without removing could lead to decomposition and rotting of bees from the moisture in their bodies. This can attract rodents and pests. Professional pest control companies generally kill the bees before removal. You can find a beekeeper willing to help remove the bees without killing them. This requires opening a large hole in a portion of the building and is best completed by a professional contractor.

Beekeepers removing bees will commonly save and relocate the beehive and comb removed from a structure. Bees and scouts travel long distances to forage and seek new nesting sites. Bees have an acute sense of smell and attraction to any remaining beeswax. It is essential to seal entry holes following bee removal to prevent future infestation.

The majority of Kings County residents live within a mile of a rural or farming area and are likely to be a spectator of a swarm. The site of a swarm should not alarm a person because their focus is on protecting the queen and finding a new home. The fascinating site of a swarm is rather comforting since it indicates a healthy environment for honeybees. If you see a cluster or swarm, call a beekeeper and save a bee. Our office maintains a bee swam list. Should you have questions or need assistance, please call our office at 559-852-2830. 🐝

## Ag Commissioner's Compliance Report



Jimmy Hook,  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer



**BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS**

**CARVER**

**PUMP SERVICE**

*Serving The Central Valley*

**CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS**

**24-Hour Service**

**Lic #547257**

**(855)622-7837 TOLL FREE**

**DOMESTIC & IRRIGATION PUMPS • SALES • REPAIRS**

**VISA** **SINCE 1976** **MasterCard**

**www.carver-pump.com**



**PACIFIC AG**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
License # OC84245

*Allow us to utilize our background, knowledge, and expertise to go to work for you...*

Commercial | Farm | Workers' Compensation | Tribal | Life & Health | Employee Benefits | Home | Auto & More

Hanford 559.584.3391      Corcoran 559.992.1245      Chowchilla 559.665.3434

**GARTON TRACTOR INC.**  
Since 1954

1-877-TRACTOR  
www.gartontractor.com

**Brett Garcia**  
Sales

4780 S. "K" Street  
P.O. Box 87 • Tulare, CA 93275  
(559) 686-0054 • Fax (559) 686-3718  
**Mobile (559) 331-3239**  
bgarcia@gartontractor.com

## New passenger vehicles sold in California must be zero emissions by 2035

Contributed by Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

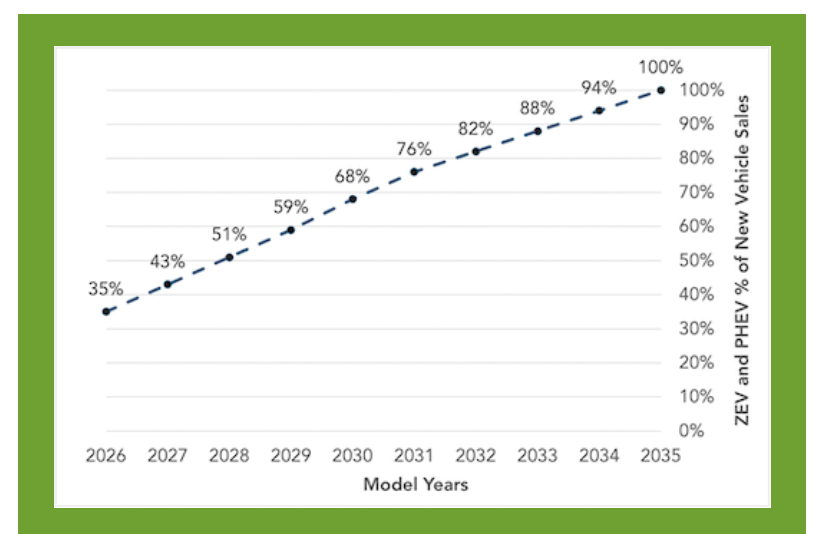
The California Air Resources Board unanimously approved the Advanced Clean Cars II proposal last month, which requires all new passenger cars, trucks and SUVs sold in California to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

The ruling, lauded by Gov. Newsom's administration for its "world-leading," establishes a roadmap to ramp up ZEV sales

year over year, culminating in 100% ZEV sales in 2035, and codifies the light-duty vehicle goals set out in Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20.

Specifically, the regulation accelerates requirements that automakers deliver an increasing number of zero-emission light-duty vehicles each year beginning in model year 2026. Sales of new ZEVs and plug-in hybrids (PHEVs) will start with 35% that year, build to 68% in 2030, and reach 100% in 2035.

According to the California Air Resources Board FAQ: "You will be able to purchase the same body styles of vehicles offered today, but they will be electrified. Pick-up trucks, crossovers and SUVs are all available as well as all other vehicle classes. There are currently over 70 different makes and models of battery-electric, plug-in hybrid electric and fuel cell electric cars available with



This graphic shows the proposed annual zero-emission vehicle requirement that will take effect in 2026 and run through 2035.

that number expected to grow to nearly 200 in the next few years." This summer, the Newsom administration and the state legislature allocated \$2.7 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, and \$3.9 billion over three years, for investment in ZEV adoption, as well as clean mobility options for California's "most environmentally and economically burdened communities." These programs include:

- **Clean Cars 4 All** provides up to \$9,500 to low-income drivers who scrap their older vehicles and want to purchase something that runs cleaner.
- **The Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP)** provides up to \$7,000 for income-qualified drivers to buy or lease a ZEV.
- **The Clean Vehicle Assistance Program** provides low-income car buyers with special financing and up to \$5,000 in down-payment assistance. 🗳️

**bressler & company**  
Providing accounting and payroll services to save your business time and money.

**559.924.1225**  
bresslercompany.com

**OUTSOURCE YOUR ACCOUNTING TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY.**

**DIAS LAW FIRM, INC.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

502 W. Grangeville Blvd.  
Hanford, California 93230  
Telephone (559) 585-7330  
Facsimile (559) 585-7335  
www.diaslaw.com

Michael A. Dias • Jonette M. Montgomery  
Sarah M. Hacker • Steven E. Alfieris  
Ella Floresca • David M. Lange  
Dustin J. Moses  
Attorneys at Law

Jimmy J. Rodriguez • Alicia D. Wrest  
Of Counsel



Farmers and ranchers are eligible for these grants.

# County of Kings American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Small Business



## TO QUALIFY A BUSINESS MUST

- Maintain a current and valid businesses license (if applicable);
- Be a business that has been in operation prior to March 15, 2020 in Kings County;
- Have 100 or fewer full time employees; and,
- Must be able to demonstrate a financial hardship or decrease in year over year gross receipts attributed to COVID-19.

Businesses in the following categories will not be eligible for funding from this program:

- Businesses with over 100 employees;
- Nonprofits; and,
- Businesses in the cannabis industry



**GRANTS AWARDED  
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE**

## Grants Available Up to \$25,000 for Kings County businesses financially impacted by COVID-19 that meet eligibility requirements.

Funds will be used on certain expenses such as:

- Payroll and benefit costs;
- Costs to retain employees;
- Rent;
- Mortgage;
- Utilities; and,
- Other operating costs.

**Application Period Opens  
Monday, September 1, 2022 at 8 AM-  
APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE  
ACCEPTED ELECTRONICALLY:  
[countyofkings.com](http://countyofkings.com)**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION AND TO  
RECEIVE NOTICE WHEN THE  
APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE  
CONTACT THE  
JOB TRAINING OFFICE:**

[info.KingsJTO@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:info.KingsJTO@co.kings.ca.us)



# STOCKPILING FOR EXTENDED STORAGE OF INHULL ALMONDS

california  
**almonds**<sup>®</sup>  
Almond Board of California



The key to successful stockpile management is controlling moisture content and insects, which requires commitment and close coordination among growers and hullers/shellers.

Scan the QR code to learn about best practices for stockpile management to prevent aflatoxins and minimize the formation of concealed damage.





# FRIENDS *of* FARM BUREAU

## DIAMOND



**Nationwide**<sup>®</sup>  
is on your side



## Platinum



## Gold

- |                                   |                                  |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| All Valley Printing               | Leopoldo's Farm Service Inc.     | Tachi Palace Casino Resort |
| Bacome Insurance Agency           | M Green & Company LLP            | The Wonderful Company      |
| Daniel C. Salas Custom Harvesting | Mackey & Mackey Insurance Agency | Verdegaal Brothers         |
| Dias Law Firm Inc.                | Stone Land Co.                   |                            |
| J.C. Lansdowne Inc.               |                                  |                            |

## Silver

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Danell Custom Harvesting                | Meras Water Solutions                    | Stifel Investment Services               |
| Four Seasons Ag Services                | Morgan & Slates Manufacturing & Supplies | S&W Seed Company                         |
| Griswold, LaSalle, Cobb, Dowd & Gin LLP | Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients      | Trinkle Ag Flying                        |
| Innovative Ag Services, LLC             | Pacific Ag Insurance                     | Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District |
| J.G. Boswell Company Inc.               | Rain for Rent                            |  |
| Kahn, Soares & Conway LLP               | Southern California Edison               |  |

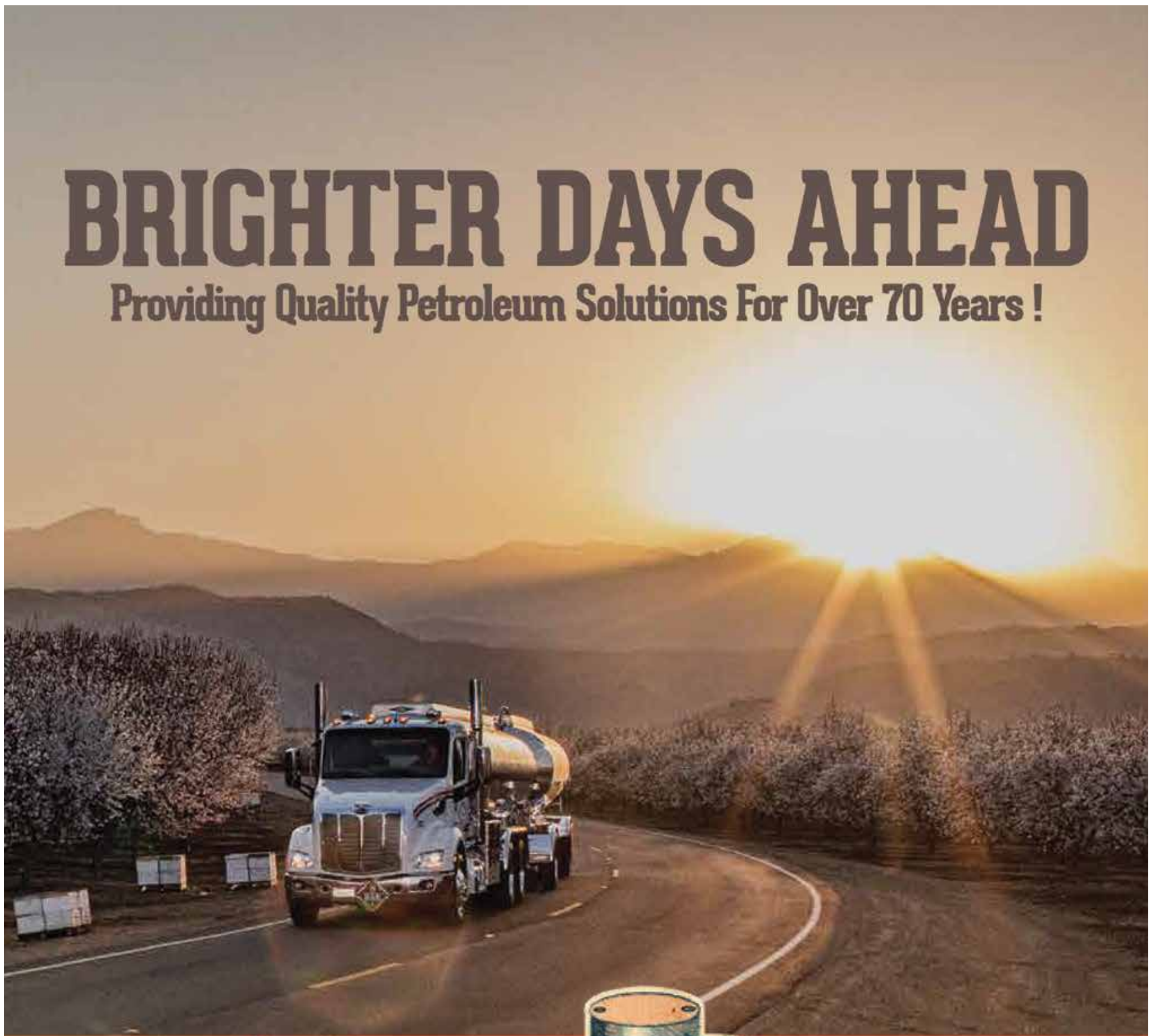
## Bronze

- |                              |                            |                      |  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Billingsley Tire Inc.        | Granger Water Specialties  | Pearson Realty Inc.  | Valley Ag Spraying   |
| Bressler & Company           | JP Honey Farms             | Schuil & Associates  | Weinberger, Fukuda, and Associates Agricultural Consulting, Inc. |
| Certified Public Accountants | Keller Motors              | Sullivan Farming LLC |  |
| CalWest Rain                 | Kings Dairy Supply Inc.    | Torrent Resources    |  |
| Garton Tractor               | Laguna Irrigation District | Tulare Lake Compost  |  |



# BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

Providing Quality Petroleum Solutions For Over 70 Years!



559.651.1760 Office 559.651.8156 Fax



# Kings County Rural Crime Report

## Thieves are targeting porta-potties

Contributed by Sr. Deputy Dakotah Fausnett

Throughout the month of August, the Kings County Rural Crimes Task Force was busy in the northeast end of the county regarding copper, hay and diesel fuel thefts. We also served multiple search warrants relating to illegal marijuana grows in which we removed over 1,000 plants, 11 firearms and several thousand dollars in cash. As the marijuana harvest season continues, so will the search warrants. We are planning on executing several more in the near future and hope to shut down some of the larger operations.

Copper and wire thefts, as well as porta-potty thefts, are staying steady. We are working several leads into the porta-potty thefts with ties to Riverside and Fresno counties. Regarding the wire thefts, they are very difficult to investigate because more often than not, the theft is happening in the middle of the night and they're typically discovered by a worker who tells another then another then the foreman, so on and so forth. By the time we receive the call, half a dozen people and vehicles have walked or driven over the scene, ultimately destroying any evidence such as shoe or tire impressions left by the suspects. I was speaking with a local farmer about the panel boxes and mentioned him putting Bluetooth door sensors on the inside of the panel box door. Up front, it may seem costly, but on the back end, I feel it will pay for itself in dividends. I have included a picture of what I am talking about. A three-pack is \$92, which is a small investment compared to the cost of repairing a complete panel box and wire. Also with those, it will give you real time response so we can get a deputy or one of the ag detectives out there and hopefully catch the criminals in the act.

It is imperative that if anyone knows of or hears of anyone buying or selling obviously stolen equipment to call the sheriff's office. If we do not receive calls from our Farm Bureau members and community, we may not be aware of certain crimes occurring in your area. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or any of our unit members at any time.



**Detective Dakotah Fausnett: 559-639-8704**  
**Detective Kody Holt: 559-362-8928**  
**Detective Colten Verhoeven: 559-469-6146**  
**Detective Grace Thomas: 559-530-1701**



- Soil Amendments:**  
Gypsum, Limestone, Dolomite, Sulfur and Compost
- Solution Gypsum:**  
Machines and Silos
- Road Dust Control:**  
Dust Off and Road Oil: SC800, SC250 and Dust Oil
- Duarte Potted Trees and Vines:**  
Almonds, Pistachios, Grapevines and Kiwis
- Tree Stakes, Pistachio Rods and Vineyard Posts**

**Edward Needham**

**559-977-7282**

**Ed@NeedhamAgServices.com**



**Find out more at**  
**NeedhamAgServices.com**







“WHEN I WANTED TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MY OPERATION, FARM CREDIT WEST WAS up for the challenge.”

**SARAH SAMPLE**  
 Apiarist | Lindsay, CA  
 Farm Credit West Customer

As a grower or processor, you’re always adapting to changing times. Whether keeping up with shifting markets, upgrading technology, or expanding to support the next generation, Farm Credit West is ready to help. We love that our customer-owners think outside the box, and work with you to weigh the risks and rewards. **Because sometimes, the best way forward is the one no one else has tried.**

**DINUBA**  
 559.591.9378

**HANFORD**  
 559.584.2681

**TULARE**  
 559.684.1478

[FarmCreditWest.com](https://FarmCreditWest.com)



*Committed. Experienced. Trusted.*

