

YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU

croptalk

VOLUME 19 NO 5

YUBA-SUTTER'S ROLE IN
ALMOND PRODUCTION

YUBA COUNTY COMMUNITY
FOSTERS FOOD LITERACY

5TH GRADER WRITES
AWARD WINNING STORY



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YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU CROP TALK

is published monthly by the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, a non-profit trade organization whose mission is to represent Yuba-Sutter agriculture through public relations, education

and public policy advocacy in order to promote the economic viability of agriculture balanced with appropriate management of natural resources. This magazine and the activities sponsored by the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau are paid for by the annual dues of its membership.

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Article suggestions are encouraged, and we also encourage our members to submit their own articles for review. These should be mailed to our office. Use of articles is at the sole discretion of the Crop Talk Editor.

Bonsai Robotics Secures \$15 Million in Series A Funding to Advance Its Physical AI Solutions for Agriculture Applications

Courtesy of Business Wire

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Bonsai Robotics Inc. (“Bonsai”), a leading developer of physical AI solutions for agriculture applications, today announced it has raised \$15 million in Series A funding. Bison Ventures led the oversubscribed round with participation from a new investor, Cibus Capital, and existing investors Acre Venture Partners, Congruent Ventures, Fall Line Capital, E14 Fund, SNR and Serra Ventures. The new funding will enable Bonsai to continue enhancing its software capabilities, expanding its physical AI platform and data set, driving additional OEM partnerships, and accelerating commercialization efforts.

“Bonsai represents exactly what we look for at Bison — founders who combine deep technical expertise with industry knowledge to solve critical challenges”

“We have made significant progress building our AI model and data set for autonomous orchard management since our seed round of funding a year ago, so this additional funding is strong validation of the incredible work our team has accomplished and our future growth prospects,” said Tyler Niday, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bonsai Robotics. “Additionally, this capital will allow us to continue to expand our partnerships with manufacturers and growers by delivering innovative physical AI technology solutions that address the most pressing challenges in agriculture today.”

With its flagship product, Visionsteer™, Bonsai provides technology designed to meet grower needs, offering data insights, crop analysis, notifications, job planning, and autonomous vehicle control. The Company is currently partnered with multiple equipment manufacturers and has deployed over 40 units with its integrated autonomous solution for tree nut orchard applications both in the U.S. and Australia. Furthermore, the Company has collected data from operations on over 500,000 acres, enabling it to provide leading physical AI technology that is helping



Bonsai Robotics has designed a vision-based technology that allows farm vehicles to autonomously traverse orchards faster than machinery operated by people. Photo: Bonsai Robotics

a variety of orchard growers reduce operating and capital equipment costs, increase yields, and gain unparalleled insights not available before.

“Bonsai represents exactly what we look for at Bison — founders who combine deep technical expertise with industry knowledge to solve critical challenges,” said Tom Biegala, Founding Partner at Bison. “Their vision-based approach to agricultural automation has the potential to transform how specialty crops are grown, addressing the urgent labor and efficiency challenges facing growers while building toward a more sustainable future for agriculture.”

Bonsai is at the forefront of re-thinking basic autonomy from a first principle perspective for agriculture applications and is addressing some of the industry’s most urgent challenges including climate change, food security, labor shortages and rising grower costs.

About Bonsai Robotics Inc.

Bonsai Robotics Inc. is reimagining farming production systems with an AI-first approach to provide vision-based autonomous solutions for harsh environments. Based on patented AI models, a leading orchard data set and computer-vision software, Bonsai’s solutions integrate seamlessly to make

OEM equipment operate autonomously. Bonsai technology can navigate in GNSS-denied environments, without a cellular or internet connection, making the highly affordable technology ideal for the toughest physical conditions where dust, darkness, debris, elevation changes and vibration may occur. Learn more at <https://www.bonsairobotics.ai/>.

About Bison Ventures

Bison Ventures is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in frontier technology companies that use innovative science and deep technology to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges. From solutions that address climate change to treating disease to meeting the world’s insatiable demand for compute, Bison backs bold, technical solutions that have potential for massive scale. Bison’s investors — Founding Partners Ben Hemani and Tom Biegala and Principals Ari Wright and Caleb Appleton — all come from engineering backgrounds. The team believes the most attractive investment opportunities exist at the intersection of multiple technical disciplines and are often ignored by the mainstream venture capital community. For more information, visit <https://www.bison.vc>. 🌱

Yuba-Sutter's Role in Almond Production

Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

Driving through Yuba and Sutter counties in the spring, one thing is noticeable: the almond orchards in bloom. This seasonal beauty isn't just a sight to see, it marks the beginning of another crucial cycle in one of California's most valuable agricultural industries.

Almonds are a powerhouse crop in California, and Yuba and Sutter counties play a key role in their production. With thousands of acres dedicated to almond orchards, local farmers contribute to an industry that generates billions of dollars in economic activity, from exports to job creation. The region's ideal Mediterranean climate, rich soil, and access to irrigation make it a prime location for growing this high-demand crop.

Almonds are a crop that requires careful attention and year-round management. After the flowers are pollinated, the process of almond development begins. During the growing season, almond trees require consistent irrigation, particularly in regions like Yuba and Sutter counties, where drought conditions can be a challenge. Farmers rely on advanced irrigation techniques such as micro-irrigation systems to deliver water efficiently to their orchards, ensuring the almonds grow steadily.

Farmers monitor the trees regularly, making sure they remain healthy by addressing potential issues such as pests, diseases, and soil health. While the bloom period is the most visible sign of almond farming, the growing process involves meticulous care throughout the year. Proper maintenance during the growing season is essential for the final yield and quality.

After months of careful cultivation, harvest is the moment almond farmers in Yuba and Sutter counties work toward. Almond harvest typically begins in late summer to early fall. As the almonds continue to form, the nuts shed their outer shells (husks), and farmers use mechanical shakers to remove the crop from the trees. Mechanical harvesters gather the fallen almonds, which are then sorted, dried, shelled (if not sold in-shell), and prepared for packaging and shipping.

It's a labor-intensive process, but it's rewarding, as almond growers watch the fruits of their labor transform into a product that is distributed around the world. From local markets to international exports, almonds are one of California's most significant agricultural exports, with Yuba and Sutter counties playing an integral part in meeting global demand.



Almond Blossom - Corinne Mendonca

Despite the beauty of the almond bloom and the economic benefits the crop brings, almond farmers in Yuba and Sutter counties face a range of challenges. One of the most pressing concerns in recent years is water availability. California's recurring droughts, coupled with strict water regulations, have made irrigation more challenging. Almond trees are water-intensive, and farmers have had to adapt by using advanced irrigation technologies to make every drop count.

Additionally, unpredictable weather patterns have become an increasing concern. According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Yuba and Sutter counties experienced early warm days this year, which can cause almond blossoms to open prematurely. This early bloom can be detrimental if a late frost hits, potentially damaging the delicate flowers and reducing crop yield. Farmers are finding themselves more reliant on weather monitoring and forecasting to protect against these sudden changes in climate.

Pests and diseases are another challenge, and almond farmers must constantly monitor their orchards for potential threats. Integrated pest management systems, which rely on both natural predators and careful pesticide use, help minimize harm to the environment while keeping almond crops healthy.

Finally, the labor shortage continues to impact the agricultural industry across California, with almond farming being no exception. The demand for seasonal labor to assist with planting, maintaining, and harvesting crops remains high,



Almonds on a Tree

and farmers must navigate the challenge of finding reliable workers during peak seasons.

In addition to their economic importance, almonds are woven into the fabric of the Yuba and Sutter communities. Local farmers and businesses rely on the almond industry, and annual events like the Almond Blossom Antique Tractor Drive celebrate the crop and its impact on the region. The

festival brings together locals and visitors to celebrate everything almond-related, from food to art to agricultural education.

For many farming families in the area, almond orchards have been passed down through generations, creating a legacy of hard work and dedication. The bond between farmers, the land, and the almonds they produce is strong, making almonds more than just a crop—it's a way of life.

As almond orchards continue to bloom across Yuba and Sutter

counties, it's clear that these beautiful blossoms represent much more than the start of the growing season. They symbolize the resilience and innovation of local farmers, their commitment to sustainability, and the ongoing importance of almonds to the region and beyond. 🌰



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The Yuba County Community Fosters Food Literacy at Ella Elementary School

Written by Veronica VanCleave-Hunt, Community Nutrition, Health and Food Security Advisor University of California Cooperative Extension, Sutter and Yuba Counties



Ella Elementary School proudly accepting a generous donation from the Yuba River Endowment.

The Yuba County Community is serving up food literacy skills for students in the afterschool program at Ella Elementary School (home of the Ella-Gators!). Food literacy is a term to describe important life skills: making healthy food choices, and growing, preparing, cooking, and storing different types of food. These skills can improve overall health and food security over a lifetime. The Ella Elementary “Cool”inary Cooking Club was established at the beginning of the ‘23 - ‘24 school year, Monday to Thursday. Areli Ubias, English Learning Facilitator, and Joanna Leal, After School Program Outreach Consultant for Ella Elementary had a major role in developing the “Cool”inary Cooking Club. They both said: *“If it wasn’t for community partnerships, we could not have had this huge success.*

We were able to partner with CalFresh and 4 H to use the Cooking Academy Curriculum to ensure what the students are learning to make in our club is nutritious and delicious. Thank you to the Marysville Police Department who donated about \$250 to help us purchase some materials, and the Yuba Sutter Food Bank who allowed us to shop at the food bank for the ingredients needed for our creations once a month.”

The After School Program Educators directly observed the impact that their club had on the 60, 2nd-6th grade students that were involved, and their school’s community. Joanna Leal said: *“We are proud of our students’ growth and independence. We love the positive feedback from parents sharing that their kids are involved more at home in the*



The Ella Elementary School Garden

kitchen. They come home from school excited and share what they did or learned. We love how it has brought our Ella Gators joy, unity, responsibility and overall pride. It is rewarding to see how our once small idea of creating a cooking club has made an impact [on] not only

our school, but our community.”

This school year (24 - ‘25) The Ella Elementary After School Program is enhancing their opportunities to teach students food literacy skills through their Garden Club. UC Master Gardeners are collaborating with CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Yuba County to provide garden enhanced nutrition education, where students learn how to grow fruits and vegetables that they can then prepare and cook in the “Cool”inary Club.

The community has rallied together again to make these after school program clubs a big success! Thanks to contributions from: Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Yuba River Endowment, Rock Yard, Sutter Yuba Food Bank, Rotary Club, Homewood Lumber, Sutter Orchard Supply, Sierra Plant Nursery and Home Depot.

These community partnerships and generous donations will ensure the continued success and sustainability of the food literacy-focused after school program clubs for Ella Elementary School students in the school years-to-come. These clubs teach important life skills and promote the life-long benefits of healthy food choices and food security. 🌱

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5th Grader Writes Award-Winning Story About Her Cousin and His Farm Dog

Courtesy of The Appeal Democrat, Written by Angela Guglielmino

Chasing after birds as the wind rushes past, a lil' farm dog in Sutter County is a spirited fellow. He has multi-colored fur and watchful eyes, and he has a storybook quality about him. Or at least that's what a 5th grader at Twin Rivers Charter School in Yuba City, Josephine Slattery, has folks feeling. For the "Imagine this... Story Writing Contest," Slattery wrote a short story about that farm doggo and his owner, Sutter County rice farmer Joel Giusti. Slattery ultimately became the 5th-grade state winner of that contest; the writing competition is for young California-based students.

For the contest, students select an agriculture topic and write a creative story, real or imagined.

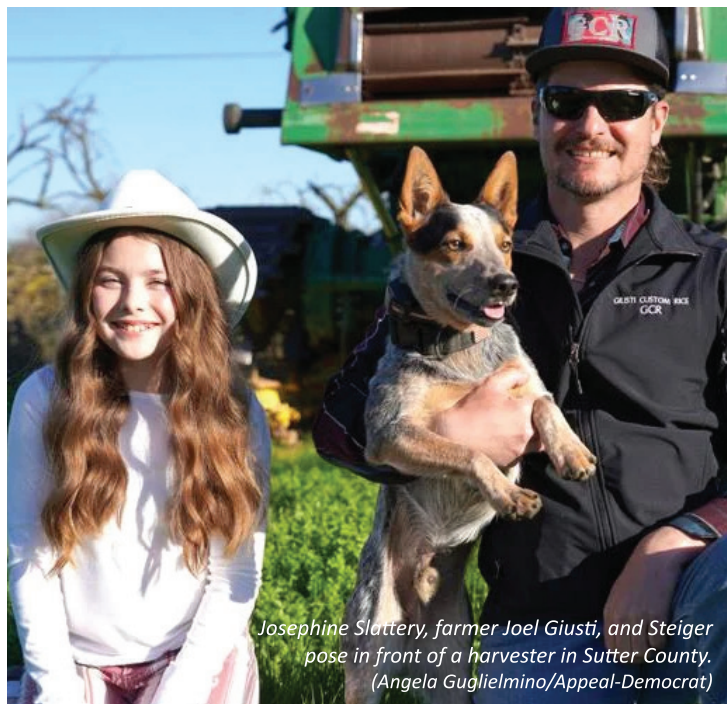
Not having to imagine a farmer, Giusti is Slattery's dog-loving cousin. Giusti, who owns Giusti Custom Rice & Spraying, thought it was neat that she wanted to write about him.

"It reminds me of when I was her age. And that's why I'm a rice farmer – I was running around my dad," Giusti said. "Around her age is when I started getting an inkling that I wanted to be in the industry."

Giusti said that his dad, grandpa, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather were all local rice farmers. However, farming does still have its challenges.

"I mean, I don't know how big of a paper you've got, but I could go on for hours about challenges," Giusti said. "You go from the financing end of it to the legislature, to the rules, the laws, everything that we encounter."

He could talk a person's ear off about that topic. However, Giusti said that farming is ultimately very, very rewarding. One perk of the job is having his dog, Steiger (like the tractor brand), by his side.



Josephine Slattery, farmer Joel Giusti, and Steiger pose in front of a harvester in Sutter County. (Angela Guglielmino/Appeal-Democrat)

"He is my companion," Giusti explained about his dog. "I spend a lot of time in a pickup out in the fields, and so he goes with me everywhere. He's small enough that he doesn't take up a lot of room in the cab, and I can put him in. Most (of) all the equipment I run, besides the spray tractor, he can go with me, jump in the cab, and run around. And if I had a 150-pound lab with me, yeah, it might not fit so well."

The focus on Steiger in Slattery's story added an element of whimsy, which intrigues.

"It added a personality to the story," Giusti said. "What she did with the story to add in about Steiger and watching the process of his first rice crop was really interesting."

Giusti and Slattery have a wholesome bond and good things to say about each other.

"He's like a best friend to me," Slattery said. "And I really like to go on the harvester."

Together, they will climb a ladder to sit in this large green contraption called a harvester.

"We're just looking for the grain. Just the seed out of the plant," Giusti said. "So

when it's ready to harvest, to get the grain, it's ready at the right moisture. We take these machines out. They cut the top of the plant off. It digests all the straw out the back end and puts the grain – that's what we're after – into the tank." He said that the rice that is in your sushi and whatnot, that's what it is.

Going forward, Slattery will be recognized on March 19 at the state capitol for her win. Slattery's story will also be illustrated by a high school art student and published in a contest book. Her mom, Chelsey Slattery, who is the director of nutrition services for Yuba City Unified School

District, said that they plan to purchase extra copies of the book. Attached below is the story that Josephine Slattery wrote:

The Little Farm Dog

Once upon a time there was a farm dog named Steiger. He was living a very happy life, and he got to go to the Sutter County Rice Farm with Farmer Joel every morning. Steiger is a Miniature Blue Heeler who weighs 20 pounds and stands 15 inches tall. One morning Farmer Joel drove to the farm with Steiger. Once they got to the farm, Farmer Joel let Stiger out of the truck. Stiger got out and saw a huge plane flying by at 100 miles per hour planting the rice. He was so excited to watch the rice fall from the sky.

After the rice was planted by the plane, Steiger couldn't wait to go check on the rice with Farmer Joel each day so he could chase the Tweety Birds. Chasing Tweety Birds is Steiger's favorite thing to do of all time. To Steiger, all of the birds that fly by are Tweety Birds to him, but in reality the birds that migrate through rice fields are different each month. For example, in April the birds that visit the rice fields are called Bank Swallows, in May they are

called Snowy and Great Egrets, in July they are called Aleutian Canada Geese, and in August they are Red-tailed Hawks. Sometimes you can even find Bald Eagles in the rice fields near the Sutter Buttes, but in Steiger's mind, they are all just Tweety Birds.

After chasing Tweety Birds and checking the rice every day for four months, it was finally September and Farmer Joel said to Steiger, "It's harvesting season!" All of the sudden Steiger jumped for joy and let out a loud bark. Steiger thought to himself, "this

means that the Tweety Birds are going to be everywhere." As soon as they arrived at the field for the first day of harvest, Steiger ran as fast as he could and chased all the Tweety Birds he could find. After he had scared them all away he got very tired and then Farmer Joel said to Steiger, "It is time to get in the harvester." Steiger ran back and jumped up the ladder and into the harvester where he laid down near Farmer Joel's feet and took a big nap.

While Steiger was asleep, Farmer Joel filled up the back of the harvester seven times

full of rice and then filled up three bankouts with rice. Each time after Farmer Joel filled up the bankout with the rice he harvested, the bankout driver would take the rice and empty it into the rice trailer.

By the time Steiger finished his nap, Farmer Joel had already harvested over 80,000 pounds of rice and it was time for dinner. For dinner Farmer Joel and Steiger ate rice and chicken, and after that they went home, and Steiger went and laid in his doggy bed. He fell fast asleep and dreamed about chasing Tweety Birds all night! 🐾

Report Storm Damage Promptly to Your Ag Commissioner

Courtesy of the California Almond Board

A series of storms are sweeping across California's almond-growing regions, bringing rain, wind, and even hail at a critical time — bloom. Growers know that poor weather during bloom can significantly impact nut set and yield, but timely reporting of damage is just as important as mitigation efforts.

County agricultural commissioners need to hear from you if your orchards suffered damage. Whether it's petal loss from heavy rain, broken limbs from high winds or direct blossom damage from hail, reporting these conditions promptly helps local officials assess the impact. Commissioners have only 30 days from the event to compile reports, which are crucial for communicating regional losses to the USDA. If disaster relief funding becomes available, these reports provide the necessary documentation to support aid requests. Almond growers across the almond growing regions of California should remain vigilant as more storms are forecasted this week and next. Even if damage appears minor, aggregated



reports from multiple growers can paint a clearer picture of the overall impact.

What Growers Should Do

Assess Your Orchards: After each storm, check for petal loss, branch breakage or excessive moisture that could lead to disease.

Document Damage: Take photos and make notes on the date, location and extent of any harm.

Report Promptly: Contact your county agricultural commissioner as soon as possible to ensure your losses are recorded within the 30-day reporting window.

Storms during bloom are a challenge almond growers know all too well, but accurate reporting ensures that local and federal agencies recognize the full extent of damage. If aid becomes available, your early action could help secure much-needed support for the industry.

To report damage or for more information, contact your county agricultural commissioner's office. 📞



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‘Gross’ Moth Invasion Wreaks Havoc on Forests and Property Values: ‘A Very Bad Effect’

Courtesy of NY Post, Written by Ben Cost

The butterfly effect has got nothing on moth mayhem.

Thanks to warming temperatures, California could soon be under siege from a “gross” winged terror that decimates trees and could send property values plummeting, per a study published in the journal *Nature*.

After causing mayhem on the East Coast, the spongy moth has infiltrated parts of Northern and Southern California, where it’s wreaked havoc due to its insatiable appetite — it feeds on over 300 species of plants.

The insect plague “could have a very bad effect” on California’s millions of acres of oak forest, study author Greg Dwyer, who teaches ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago, told SFGate.

The critters devour the trees’ plant leaves, preventing them from photosynthesizing, which can prove deadly if they’re defoliated for several years in a row.

Endemic to Africa and Asia, the spongy moth was first introduced to the U.S. in 1869 by scientist Leopold Trouvelot, who wanted to use them for silk production.

His plan backfired after some of the caterpillars escaped and ballooned across the country via air currents, notably settling in the Northeast, where they come out every spring to consume forests and lay urban foliage bare.

Researchers believe that climate change could be to blame because it hinders one of the ecological terror’s key threats: a fungal pathogen named *entomophaga maimaiga*.

While the moth-killing mushroom is supremely effective at mitigating the scourge — data from 1996 shows that the fungus helped curb defoliation decline by 85% in multiple states



Along with the notorious lantern fly, the spongy moth is one of the most “economically and environmentally destructive invasive insects,” according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tim’s insects – stock.adobe.com

compared to the year prior — it requires cooler temperatures to thrive.

Rising temps have allowed the moths to evade their fungal regulator.

Notably, 16 spongy moths were trapped in the upscale Los Angeles community of Calabasas between October 2023 and July 2024, prompting officials to announce emergency measures to exterminate them.

And while the California Department of Food and Agriculture aims to eliminate them by September 2026,

officials say that timeline might have to be extended.

It would be prudent to nip the threat in the bud — past outbreaks in Michigan have resulted in hundreds of square miles of forest being stripped clean.

Along with the notorious lantern fly, the spongy moth is one of the most “economically and environmentally destructive invasive insects,” according to the United States Department of Agriculture, CBS News reported.

The two species are responsible for causing \$40 billion in annual damages to crops, trees and other plants, explained Kathryn Bronsky, national policy manager for the spongy moth at the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Forests aren’t the only thing under threat.

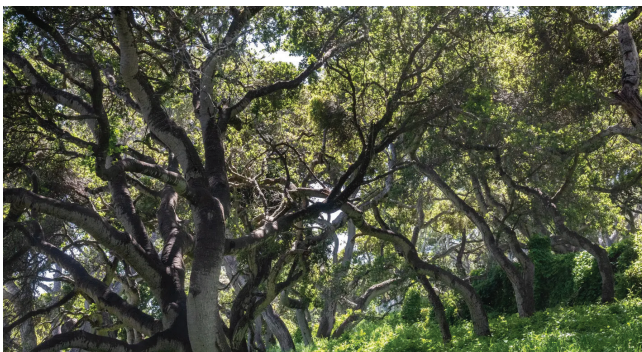
This butterfly effect can also torpedo the housing market because “nobody wants to buy a house in an area where the trees don’t have any leaves,” according to Dwyer, adding that they also “leave a terrible mess behind.”

“Their poop is mostly kind of just squishy, cellulose-y kind of stuff, like ground-up celery or something,” said Dwyer. “It’s pretty gross. The insects will be all over the houses and people’s cars and whatnot, so that’s pretty disgusting too, and that reduces property values.”

Unfortunately, exterminating the scourge is no easy feat either, requiring authorities to swaddle trees in burlap to net the larvae, which are then drowned in soapy water or put in a freezer. 🐛



One of the moths feeds on a tree. antasfoto – stock.adobe.com



This insect plague “could have a very bad effect” on California’s millions of acres of oak forest, according to study author Greg Dwyer, who teaches ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago. David A Litman – stock.adobe.com

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State to Revisit Ban on Driverless Tractors

Courtesy of CAFB AgAlert, Written by Caleb Hampton

New technologies have transformed the world during the past half-century. Agriculture has been no exception, with the emergence of aerial drones, autonomous tractors and other equipment changing the way crops are planted, cared for and harvested.

One thing that hasn't changed since 1977, however, is a regulation from California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/OSHA, that prohibits the use of autonomous agricultural equipment without a driver at the helm.

The regulation requires that all "self-propelled equipment shall, when under its own power and in motion, have an operator stationed at the vehicular controls."

Conceived long before the first driverless vehicle existed, the regulation has nevertheless prevented farmers from taking advantage of many types of autonomous equipment developed in recent years. "It has the effect of preventing the use of any kind of autonomous vehicle in any agricultural location where people are employed," said Bryan Little, chief operating officer of Farm Employers Labor Service and senior director of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau.

Around the world, farms have benefited from driverless blast sprayers that apply pesticides to orchards and vineyards, autonomous weeders that use visualization technology and lasers to burn weeds, and assistive machines such as driverless carts—or mules—that work alongside people, ferrying bins of produce from the end of a row to a collection point to save workers time and labor.

In California, "Everyone in the industry is trying to determine the best way to operate within the confines of that regulation," said Sean Sundberg, business integration manager at John Deere.

After years of advocacy from farm groups such as California Farm Bureau and California Association of Winegrape Growers, change may be on the horizon. In August, Cal/OSHA issued a memorandum



Attendees of the 2024 FIRA USA farm show in Yolo County observe a demonstration of an autonomous Burro robot in a model vineyard in October.

clarifying that driverless tractors and other agricultural vehicles may be used when no field workers are present. When employees are absent, the memo stated, the location does not qualify as a worksite under the agency's jurisdiction.

The directive gave a clear greenlight for farmers in California to use equipment such as an autonomous blast sprayer manufactured by the Fresno County-based company GUSS, which applies pesticides in orchards and vineyards, doing so without workers on site for chemical safety reasons. "Essentially, one person is sitting in a pickup truck on the side of the field with a laptop computer monitoring a fleet of up to eight of these machines," said Gary Thompson, chief operating officer at GUSS.

The August memo has given farmers some clarity, Little said. However, for many types of farm work, he added, "you need to have people around, and that restricts the use of autonomous equipment."

In November, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board announced it was empaneling an advisory committee that comprise stakeholders to examine the regulation, signaling that the board may consider revising it.

Proposed changes may face pushback from labor advocates, who in the past have raised concerns about the safety of autonomous equipment and cautioned that widespread adoption of it could lead to job losses for agricultural workers.

Farm groups have vouched for the technology's safety and said autonomous technology in many cases may improve

worker safety and create upskilling opportunities for employees.

When it comes to safety, "We should be comparing the autonomous technology to the real world and what we have right now," not an unachievable ideal, said Little, who will serve on the advisory committee.

The autonomous sprayer made by GUSS, for example, eliminates a job that traditionally required someone to be present in orchards and vineyards when pesticides were being sprayed. The

vehicles move at about 2 miles per hour, and they have redundant safety features, including LIDAR that detects people and obstacles, safety bumpers that trigger the engine to shut off and brakes to lock, and a safety vest supervisors wear that signals the machine to pause when within 30 feet of the vest.

Operating a traditional blast sprayer is "very tedious, boring work, most of the time done at night, going very slowly with chemicals spraying all around you," Thompson said. "This was a job that was ripe for automation."

Should Cal/OSHA end its ban on driverless tractors, farmers may see new types of equipment become available in the state.

"We are doing testing and product development so that when we are able to work with Cal/OSHA to modify the regulation, we will be ready to bring the products to market," said Sundberg of John Deere. He said the company has a large autonomous row crop tractor used for tillage that it has introduced in the Midwest. "Eventually, we would like to work with the state to bring those out here to California," Sundberg said.

The committee's first hearing is scheduled for next month.

"Hopefully, it's going to result in a common understanding between employer advocates and employee advocates," Little said, "that we want to encourage this technology because it's safer than the technology currently being used." 🌱



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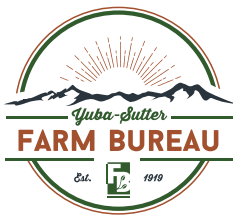
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