

YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU

croptalk

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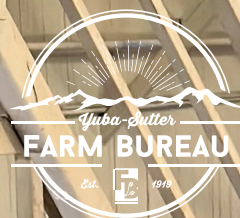


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FARM DAY 2023

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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.

Meet Our New Directors

With Shelby Stricklin and Sy Honig



I grew up in Colusa, CA and now live in Yuba City with my family. I graduated from Colusa High School and went on to receive my BS in Agribusiness from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Growing up in Colusa, my family has been involved in agriculture my whole life. My passion for agriculture started at a young age when my brother, sister and I started a registered angus cattle operation as part of our 4-H and FFA project. My family is still actively involved in agriculture, and my brother still runs the cattle operation today.

My excitement for agriculture continues with my children, as my son is now involved in 4-H and loves showing his pygmy goats at the Yuba Sutter Fair.

My passion for agriculture also led me to a career in agriculture lending, helping local farmers and ranchers grow their businesses. I currently work as a Portfolio Manager for AgWest Farm Credit in their Yuba City branch and have been with them for 15 years.

I am excited to serve on the Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau Board and continue to advocate for the local farmers and ranchers in our community, as well as promote agriculture within our community, especially as it relates to youth and the next generation of young farmers and ranchers. **Shelby Stricklin**

I am a 4th generation rice farmer in Robbins, CA. Before farming, I went to CSU Chico where I received my bachelor's degree in Crop Science. Upon graduation, I worked for several years as a Crop Advisor, and I currently hold both the Pest Control Advisor and Certified Crop Advisor License's.



I want to serve on the board of directors because I want to be a voice for the farming community. I believe that being a young farmer, emerging into the industry, I can provide a unique perspective to issues faced by all farmers. **Sy Honig** 🌾

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Planning for Reforestation — Cone Crop Crowdsourcing

By Ricky Satomi, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resource- Forestry Advisor

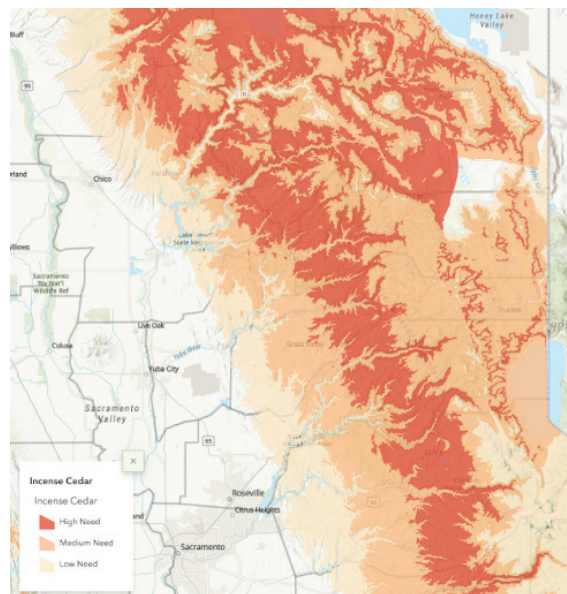
California is currently experiencing unprecedented shortages of conifer seed. CAL FIRE's most recent assessment estimates 76,304 bushels of cones are needed to reforest just 25% of impacted land. Furthermore, most seed zones are lacking stored seed for one or more conifer species while high-severity disturbances are disrupting the natural reforestation processes across much of the region. As such, human intervention is necessary to rebuild California forests.

Artificial reforestation is a multi-year process of seed collection, germination, planting, and management.¹ The process begins with survey crews working to identify developing cones in the early spring. Cones are routinely monitored throughout the growing season for ripeness and damage. Once cones ripen, tree climbers have only a few weeks before cones fully mature and release their seeds. Timing is critical to this process as collection of immature or overmature cones results in a lower volume of viable seed, and often of inferior quality. These concerns are further complicated by the limited availability of survey and climbing

crews. To learn more about the cone collection process, please visit this interactive guide (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4a589d022a284ae7a5050a7daf5f2d40>).

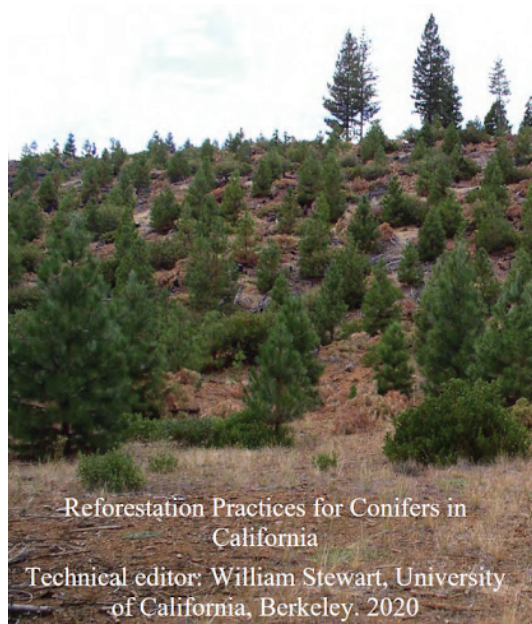
Due to the effort required to collect, germinate, and plant seedlings, and the overall lack of seed, it is critical that planted seedlings be provided with the best chance of success. As such, forest managers only use high-quality seedlings with locally adapted genetics. To guide this process, California is divided into 85 seed zones based on physiographic and climate variables. These regions can be further refined using slope, aspect, and elevation to improve seedling success. This system helps ensure that seedlings are adapted to the growing conditions found in an area. Several climate-informed seedling selection tools are also available to help landowners identify seed adapted not only to current conditions, but future conditions when trees reach maturity.

While seedlings are being prepared, forested landscapes must also be managed to maximize the chances of survival. Before seedlings are planted, consideration should be given to remove or suppress the growth of competing vegetation. In the absence of mixed severity wildfire, grass, herbaceous and shrubs can rapidly outcompete seedlings for water and light resources, setting back forest recovery by decades. For more



information, refer to the Reforestation Practices for Conifers in California – UC press 2020 <https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Reforestation/>.

To address this urgent gap, CALFIRE, USFS, and American Forests have been developing cohesive reforestation strategies to improve collaboration between agency and private nonindustrial landowners. Among these efforts include CALFIRE's "Reforestation Because of You" campaign where landowners can provide cone survey and collection access to CALFIRE in exchange for seed processing and storage at no cost. Participation in this program not only helps bolster the state's declining seed stores, but will ensure landowners have local seed in the event of a future reforestation need. Under this program, CALFIRE will collect, process, and store seed at no cost to the landowner while also retaining a portion of the seed for the property owner's use. (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/wildfire-resilience/reforestation-services-program>)



Reforestation Practices for Conifers in California

Technical editor: William Stewart, University of California, Berkeley, 2020

¹ Note: Hardwood acorns are difficult to store for long durations and follow a different reforestation process. Direct seeding and stump sprouting are well documented as an effective means of regeneration. <https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu/oak-regeneration-restoration/>

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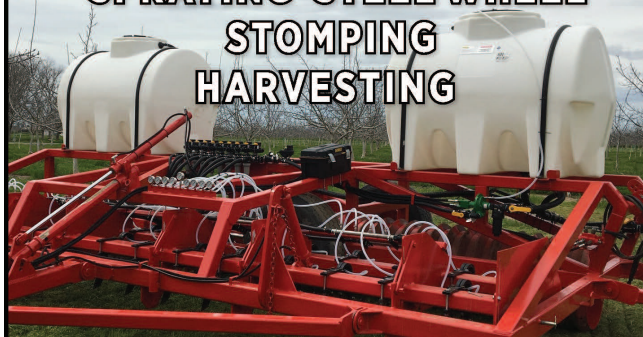
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2023 Yuba-Sutter Farm Day

By Ciera Mannan, Yuba-Sutter Program Coordinator

September 29th, 2023, marked the 18th Annual Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau's Farm Day. This year we hosted over 1,800 third-grade students, teachers, and parents at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds for a fun filled day of all things agriculture related. For those of you that may not know, Farm Day allows teachers from all over Yuba and Sutter counties to bring their third-grade students to the fairgrounds and tour numerous agricultural presentations by local businesses, organizations, FFA Chapters, 4H Clubs, and community members. The presentations provide basic and current facts about the agriculture industry, introduce food and animal production to the students and teachers, as well as allowing personal contact with farmers from our areas. Our goal every year is to get our local youth interested in agriculture and increase awareness of



Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau Staff
Enjoying Farm Day

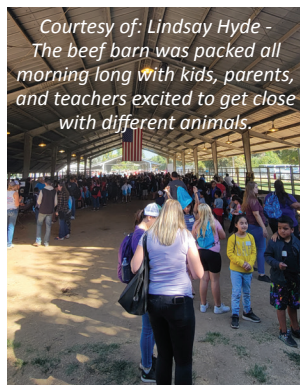
the positive contributions that agriculture makes to our community and to our economy.

The highlight of this event every year for the staff at YSFB is getting to see the excitement on the students' faces as they learn all about the agriculture industry. We surveyed all the teachers that attended the event to see what the highlight of Farm Day was for their class. The kids were in awe with the interactive presentations, different kinds of animals, and machinery.

Tom Duffy and his stock dogs were a huge hit with the classes as well as East Nicholas High School's FFA ice cream making booth, Sutter County Agriculture Department's weight and measures truck, and Twin Cities Aviation's helicopter. We would like to give a huge shout out to our 50 presenters, 25 volunteers, and 15 sponsors for making the 2023 Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau's Farm Day possible! 🌾



Courtesy of: Ciera Mannan
Pape Machinery's presentation had kids asking all sorts of questions about their equipment.



Courtesy of: Lindsay Hyde -
The beef barn was packed all morning long with kids, parents, and teachers excited to get close with different animals.



Courtesy of: Ciera Mannan
Wheatland FFA volunteered their time to assist YSFB with Farm Day



Courtesy of: Wheatland FFA Member
Students visiting the California Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom booth.



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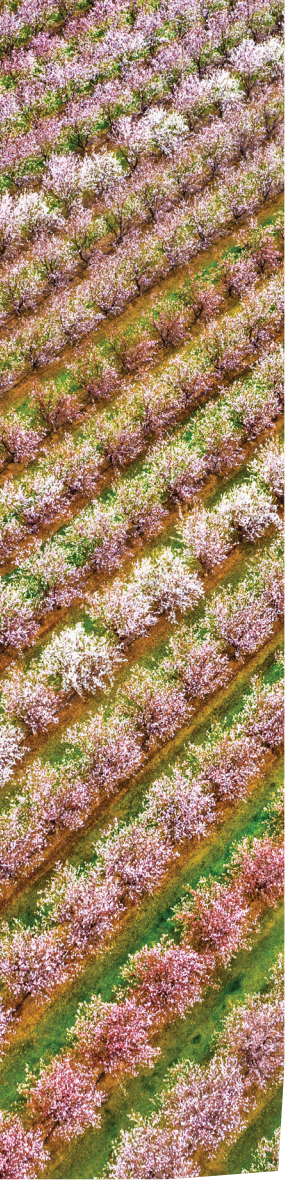


Courtesy of: Ciera Mannan
Students enjoying Farm2You's animal exhibit.



Courtesy of: Wheatland FFA Member
A group of students listening to Twin Cities' presentation.





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Back to Basics: 6 Ways to Measure and Improve Soil Health

By Wilbur Ellis

As the foundation for a healthy crop and sustainable production, soil health is top of mind for growers. But with many different components coming together to answer the question, 'What is healthy soil?', it can be hard to know what to look for or how to test soil. "To me, soil health is how well it serves as a medium for plant and microbial life resulting from historical farm practices," said Wilbur-Ellis Agronomist Kelsey Schneider. "It includes assessing the ratios of carbon to nitrogen, fungi to bacteria, water holding capacity, compaction and the condition of soil organic matter."

While growers can't predict the future, they can work with a trusted advisor like Schneider to use data to make informed decisions and develop strategies to improve soil health.

Soil components: chemical, biological and physical

"Accurately checking and measuring as many aspects of the soil as we can gives us data to make decisions that directly affect the current and future health and productivity of growers' fields. Soil chemistry tests, the physical properties of soil and soil biology tests can all be used," explained Schneider.

The most common tests measure the chemical aspects of soil including pH, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and important micronutrients like zinc, boron and more. The salinity and cation exchange capacity of the soil can also be found with a soil chemistry test.

Farmers and researchers recognized the importance of soil biology and looked for insects, worms and other signs of life in the soil long before biological tests were developed. Monitoring harmful soil organisms like pathogenic fungi, protozoa and bacteria, is also key to soil health.

Additionally, the physical properties of soil can be good indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Soil structure and organic matter play a large role in the soil's ability to hold water and nutrients.

These are six steps growers can take to measure and optimize soil health.

1. Examine micronutrients

Look beyond NPK and pH and examine micronutrients closely. Micronutrients in adequate levels and the proper ratios to other nutrients are very important for extracting the maximum yield from crops. In addition, soil that hasn't had manure or micronutrients applied can be severely deficient in zinc, boron, manganese, molybdenum and even magnesium.

2. Perform soil tests frequently

Currently, growers are completing soil nutrient tests every three to four years, but Wilbur-Ellis recommends doing them every two years in high-yielding fields to get more frequent information on the true nutrient removal rate of the corn and soy rotation. Testing every two years can help growers proactively address changes in soil pH, which is an important factor for supporting beneficial fungi and bacteria in the soil. Applications of liquid lime help maintain the soil pH, but these applications can wear off after three or four years, meaning progress towards increasing the soil pH could be lost if tests are not taken more often.

3. Monitor organic matter content

Organic matter levels show if changes to the farming practice are needed. "It can tell us if we're depleting organic matter, or if the organic matter is buried due to tillage practices. It gives us a gauge to help growers decide what they should do," said Schneider. A traditional nutrient test can provide a good indication of the organic content present. Soil with a suitable organic matter content will hold nutrients and water better than soil low in organic matter.

4. Look for compacted soil

Working soil when it is wet or driving the grain cart or tractor on the same path throughout the season, minimizes the pore space in the soil — creating compaction that can affect yields along that path for years to come.

"If you see rainwater pooling above the ground's surface, the soil may be compacted or lacking organic matter. A soil penetrometer is a

precise tool for gauging soil compaction or for digging up a small section of soil to check for aggregation or bulk density," said Schneider.

5. Assess the health of plant roots

Growing crops can be an excellent indicator of soil health. Roots that are deep in the soil and fibrous show that the soil isn't compacted. They can also indicate fungal or bacterial infection within the soil if they are discolored or damaged. Plant roots will have exudates and fine root hairs when beneficial bacteria, fungi, nematodes, arthropods and insects exist in the rhizosphere.

6. Incorporate biological tests

"We know that farmers want to take care of the soil for future use while pushing the envelope on yields. Growers striving to maximize yield can really benefit from soil biology tests to check soil microbial life and quantify soil wellness," said Schneider.

Soil biology tests completed by companies like Trace Genomics help us better understand soil microbes that are responsible for nutrient cycling functions. The tests can identify pathogens like fungi and bacteria held in the soil from the previous year's crop residue that can cause foliar disease, for example.

Depending on the available budget, Schneider suggests growers start with a benchmark and then compare larger regions of a field. A great place to do a benchmark test is an undisturbed grassy area of a fence row or a pasture alongside the field that has never been in crop production.

"My advice to growers looking into soil biology tests is to make sure you are choosing reputable testing companies. This is a new technology and working with a tried-and-true company like Trace Genomics will ensure you get accurate and useful results," stressed Schneider.

Connect with your agronomist to implement biological testing and get more in-depth insight into your soil this fall. 🌾

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Sun, Dust, and Sleep: Farmers' Hazards Even On the Open Rural Road

Written by Brian Boyce, Courtesy of AGDaily

With a windshield caked in dust and sunshine beating down, the farmer pulls his combine out of the field and onto the public road. And right into the path of a speeding car?

Observers are often left to wonder how this could have happened and why neither party was able to prevent it.

Whether the farmer was dazzled by the sunlight, or unable to see through a windshield fuzzed with crop residue, farm vehicle accidents are too often tragic in nature and certainly a phenomenon to be avoided. Additionally, the non-farming public needs to be aware that harvest time means more tractors, combines, and grain trucks will be on the road — and these are not nimble machines. Ultimately it takes all parties working together to keep people safe.

Tabby Flinn, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Purdue Extension in Vigo County, Indiana, said that in addition to workshops with farmers, her agencies make regular social media posts to alert the general public to the presence of farm vehicles throughout the year.

“Being stuck behind the combine five minutes isn’t going to ruin your day,” she noted.

National Farm Safety and Health Week has run annually the third week of September since 1944, but with work underway well before then in many parts of the country, it doesn’t hurt to start now to help prevent drivers from being caught in tragedy amid the traffic.

A ‘dazzling’

Hindsight is always 20/20 as the old saying goes, and thus many theories have been cooked up over the years to explain accidents that appeared, at least to observers, to have been avoidable. A social media video, for example, may get posted that makes it seem as if a tractor or grain truck driver intentionally pulled into the path of an oncoming car on a straight, flat roadway. Was sunlight in the eyes of the drivers in question, was there too much dust on the windshield, were the drivers overly tired, or perhaps the drivers were distracted by other devices?

Sun glare can indeed be cause for any motor vehicle collision, and studies have been done to back this up, even though every driver has experienced it. One study, titled Sun glare and road safety: An empirical investigation of intersection crashes, indicates that early spring and fall days — those times of year



Picture Courtesy of: Gretchen Tipps

when the sun is more often lower on the horizon across prime U.S. farmland — present the highest level of glare.

And yes, that coincides with planting and harvest times.

That said, farm vehicles accidents can happen for many reasons. According to the Purdue Agricultural and Safety and Health Program, 25 people were killed in Indiana farm-related accidents in 2020. A part of the annual Indiana Farm Fatality Summary with Historical Overview, the reports note that this number is below the 50-year average of 30.2 annual farm-related deaths, but an increase over 2019’s tally of 21. Over the past 41 years, 1,115 Hoosiers have been killed in farm-related incidents, with more occurring in northern communities heavily populated by Amish/Old Order families. Of the 25 deaths in 2020, nine involved tractors and four off-road or utility terrain vehicles.

Bill Field, Purdue agriculture and biological engineering professor stated in a summary of the accidents, said, “Historically, farmers over the age of 60, including many who work only part time, have accounted for a disproportionate number of farm-related injuries. Recent spikes in frequencies of fatalities over the past 10 years makes this population of older farmers a special concern.”

The topic is likewise an issue of national concern, and according to a study published in 2021 in the Open Journal of Safe Science and Technology, these crashes peak during planting and harvest seasons, occur most frequently on rural roads, during the work week, and between the late morning and early afternoon hours. These are indeed times and seasons where sunlight is as much of an enemy as other factors.

“Especially since most harvest happens later in the day, and US roads are often oriented on a perfect 90° grid, so the probability that the setting sun will be right in your face is pretty high,” a Reddit user by the name of Drzhivago138 observed.

Couple that with longer working hours (commonly 12- and 14-hour shifts day after day, for multiple weeks) during planting and harvest seasons, and the risk compounds itself for agricultural producers.

Flinn said the problem of farm vehicle accidents is ongoing and ever present. “I don’t think it’s a growing phenomenon. It’s something that farmers will continue to deal with over the course of their lifetime.”

One of the factors to consider is the urban sprawl that has brought more non-farmers into rural areas, with subdivisions now tucked into the middle of cornfields. Officials say that drivers from the subdivisions speeding down rural roads just aren’t as cognizant of farm equipment being there compared with those raised on a tractor themselves.

And just as the farmer whose vehicle was struck may appear to have pulled out into traffic, it’s equally correct to ask how fast the other driver was going.

Farmers do report being able to see clearly enough in their vehicle until they turn into the sun, Flinn said, adding it’s tough to keep the windows clean when harvesting. But for their part, the agricultural community does emphasize road safety for producers, from adding warning blinkers and lights to machines to promoting awareness throughout social media.

Another factor to consider is the size of the equipment. Bigger combines mean more blind spots, and now as in the good old days, young people do a lot of driving.

What to do

Flinn said her agency works regularly with local emergency management teams to prepare for farm accidents, be they grain bin entrapments of vehicle crashes. Educating producers is one part of the solution, but so is public awareness.

Much like road crews repairing highways and police officers offering roadside assistance, farmers are providing a critical service to the community and often find themselves in harm’s way. Unpaved rural roads can be dusty, and overgrown brush along the sides can also hinder visibility.

Tractors and combines are noisy, and operators can’t easily see and hear everything around them. More public awareness of their presence can go a long way in increasing safety. And in the end, it is a worthwhile cause as farmers feed the world. 🌾

HAWK RANCH

By Ciera Mannan, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau- Program Coordinator

The Hawk Ranch, a family-owned farming operation, planted its roots in Sutter County 112 years ago. E.L. Hawk bought the ranch in 1911 where he put his son, Arthur Hawk, in charge of overseeing the ranch. Once Arthur felt it was time to pass the legacy on, his daughter, Blanche Buckley, took over the ranch. In 1987, Blanche passed the 400-acre ranch onto her son, Joe Marquering. Joe has owned and operated the ranch since then, carrying on the legacy of his family's farming operation.

While the Hawk Ranch is known for their high-quality walnuts now, it was not always walnuts that they produced. When the ranch was first bought in 1911, the Hawk family made a profit from growing hops and raising cattle. When the peach market skyrocketed, the ranch started to produce peaches. In time, the peach market declined, and the family decided to move onto new endeavors, farming walnuts. The Hawk Ranch's mission is to honor and continue the legacy of over a century of dedicated walnut farming by cultivating the highest quality walnuts, upholding sustainable and time-tested farming practices, and nurturing the deep-rooted connections between our land, our community, and the generations to come.

The Hawk Ranch started commercially hulling walnuts in 2014. However, the original huller on the ranch was put in sometime in the early 70's. Sat Dallar, a Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau Director, has managed the Hawk Ranch for the Marquering family since 2016.



Ranch Manager, Sat Dallar and Chrissy Soulies (Marquering) standing on the walnut dryer at the Hawk Ranch.

to give you a glimpse into the harvesting process here at the Hawk Ranch. Harvesting begins around mid-September. A mechanical shaker will travel through the orchards to vigorously shake thousands of walnuts to the ground. Once the walnuts have dropped to the ground, the nuts are swept into windrows and then picked up with a harvester where they are taken to the huller.

Upon arrival, the shuttle unloads the walnuts into a pit which moves the nuts up a conveyor to start the hulling process. This process starts with tumbling the nuts to remove any small debris. After any sticks are removed, the walnuts are transported into a wash tub

which helps to remove any larger debris and then moved through a conveyor where hulls are removed by wire brushes. The clean walnuts will continue to a set of electronic eyes. The eyes will detect any

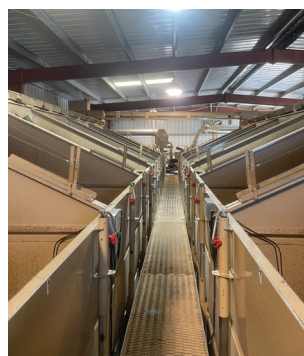
shrivels or empty nuts and discard them into the garbage. Walnuts that are deemed "good and clean" by the electronic eyes continue to the drying process. Any green or black nuts get sent to another pair of electronic eyes. Black walnuts are discarded, and green walnuts will be sent through to start the hulling process all over again. Only about 5% of bad walnuts will get through the electronic eyes.

Once the walnuts are hulled, they are transported by conveyor belt to the dryer. The drying process is to help prevent the nuts from deteriorating and to uphold the quality of the walnuts during storage. Drying the walnuts starts with transporting

the nuts into a bin. Five tons of walnuts later: the bin is full, the gate to the bin will close, and the walnuts will continue onto the next bin, until all the bins are full. The full bins will indicate that the actual drying process needs to start. The dryer at the Hawk Ranch is quite fascinating. Underneath all the bins, there is a tunnel that runs to a burner connected

with propane and a large fan. The fan will blow the heat from the flame through the tunnel into each bin to speed up the drying process. For walnuts to be deemed as dry, the moisture content must reach 9%. As soon as they reach the desired moisture content, walnuts will proceed to a conveyor belt that drops them into a semi-trailer for transportation to one of the Hawk Ranch's buyers for processing.

Considering 99% of the United States' walnuts are grown in California, it is important to know that there are growers in Yuba and Sutter counties dedicated to providing the highest quality walnuts possible. The Hawk Ranch stays ahead of their competitors with their cutting-edge technology and their high-quality walnuts, all while maintaining sustainable farming practices and cultivating relationships with the community. 🌱



Picture by: Ciera Mannan - Looking down the row of bins in the dryer.



Picture by: Ciera Mannan- Old walnut truck



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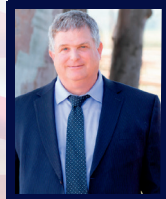
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U.S. Experiences Growth in Livestock Imports:

CATTLE AND SWINE TRENDS IN 2023

By Jim Eadie

In the first half of 2023, the United States witnessed notable developments in its livestock imports, particularly in cattle and swine. Data from the USDA's Economic Research Service reveals intriguing insights into these trends, reflecting changes in supply, demand, and economic factors affecting the livestock industry.

Cattle Imports Surge in 2023

One of the standout trends is the significant increase in cattle imports during the first half of 2023. This surge, amounting to 953,000 head, represents an 11% rise compared to the previous year. A key driver behind this growth is the tightening supply of cattle within the United States, accompanied by higher domestic cattle prices. Over the past five years, approximately 75% of cattle imports consisted of feeder cattle, 25% were intended for immediate slaughter, and less than 1% were for breeding purposes. During the first half of 2023, feeder cattle imports, totaling around 687,000 head, increased by over 19% year over year, although they remained below the 2018-2022 average. Impressively, 88% of these feeder cattle originated from Mexico.

Swine Imports Reflect Industry Dynamics

Swine imports, on the other hand, witnessed a unique pattern in 2023. The United States imported approximately 3.3 million head of swine during the first half of the year, marking a nearly 1% increase compared to the same period in the previous year. Notably, these imports primarily consist of young pigs destined for finishing, ultimately reaching slaughter weights and being processed within U.S. borders. Although pig imports for finishing were 2% lower year over year, they remained 8% higher than the five-year average. This trend traces back to 2021, driven by plant closures and increased costs of pig rearing in Canada.

Outlook for the Livestock Industry

Looking ahead, the outlook for the U.S. commercial beef sector remains relatively stable in terms of production and prices for 2023 and 2024 compared to previous projections. Beef imports are expected to increase in the second half of 2023 and into 2024, while beef exports face a decline due to a revised lower demand outlook from Asia.

In the pork sector, lower dressed weights have offset higher August slaughter numbers, resulting in slightly reduced pork production compared to the previous year. However, pork exports are anticipated to rise in 2023, reaching 6.8 billion pounds, marking a 7.2% increase from the previous year. This reflects evolving dynamics in the global pork market.

These trends in cattle and swine imports offer valuable insights into the evolving landscape of the U.S. livestock industry, influenced by a complex interplay of factors including supply, demand, and international trade dynamics. As the industry continues to adapt, these developments will shape the future of meat production and consumption in the United States. 🌱



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The Floodplains Help Juvenile Salmon Reach a Healthy Size for Improved Survival

By David Guy

As part of the Floodplain Forward Coalition, there are significant efforts to re-imagine and better use our system of flood control levees and bypasses, the farmlands in the historic floodplain, and oxbows and other features within the river to benefit salmon, birds, and agriculture while ensuring the flood protection system functions well when needed. By reactivating Sacramento River floodplains and allowing bypasses to connect to the river more frequently and for longer durations, the Sacramento Valley can better mimic historical flood patterns and reintegrate natural wetland productivity into the river ecosystem needed to promote salmon recovery while simultaneously improving flood protection and enhancing water security.

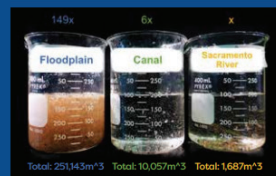
To promote salmon recovery, the primary objective is to help juvenile salmon reach a healthy size for outward

migration and survival. Juvenile salmon historically fed on the floodplains throughout the Sacramento Valley during their outward migration to the Pacific Ocean. Due to the abundant food source provided by these wetlands, salmon grew bigger and stronger—two critical factors in their overall health and survival. Since the levees disconnected the floodplains from the rivers, the rivers no longer have the food required for a healthy salmon population. Reconnecting the floodplains, both on the dry- and wet-side of the levees, offer an opportunity for the salmon to grow and return to sizes that will help them survive and complete their journey to the sea. The graphics below show the importance of size to salmon survival and why floodplains are so important to the future of modern water management in California. 🌊

Why Size Matters

Helping juvenile salmon reach a healthy size for outward migration

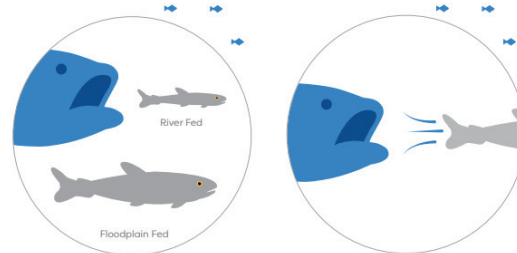
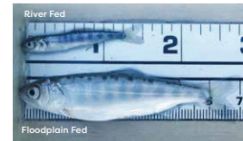
Juvenile salmon historically fed on the floodplains throughout the Sacramento River Basin during their outward migration to the Pacific Ocean. Due to the abundant food source provided by these wetlands, salmon grew bigger and stronger - two critical factors in their overall health and survival. Since the levees disconnected the floodplains from the rivers, the rivers no longer have the food required for a healthy salmon population. Reconnecting the floodplains, both on the dry- and wet-side of the levees, offer an opportunity for the salmon to grow and return to sizes that will help them survive and complete their journey to the sea.



Comparing fish food availability

Floodplain vs. River

The Sacramento River system and Delta is filled with a number of predator species (native and introduced) seeking to consume juvenile salmon. The floodplains offer a better way for salmon to grow to a size that will increase their chances of survival.



Avoiding Predators

Unlike many mammals and underwater species, predator fish can only rely on the size of their mouth to capture juvenile salmon. The larger a juvenile salmon becomes, fewer predators can swallow them whole.

Faster Swimmers

Larger, healthier salmon are faster swimmers and have an increased stamina which gives them a better chance of avoiding predators versus their smaller counterparts.



Graphic Courtesy of: Floodplain Forward

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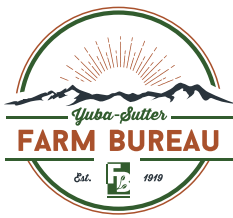
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