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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 Tuba-Sutter Farm Bureau are paid for by the annual dues of its membership.

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Grazing Summer Cover Crops: Species Selection is Key

Courtesy of Sarah Light, UCCE Agronomy Advisor; Ted Kingsley, Kingsley Farms; Brian Carter and Ben Carter, Benden Farms; Josh Davy, UCCE Livestock, Range, and Pasture Advisor

wo years of trials have been completed evaluating the economics and soil health benefits of grazing summer cover crops. We evaluated termination treatments for a summer cover crop. The cover crop mix was planted at the end of summer and irrigated up. After good growth and establishment, plots were terminated in one of three ways:

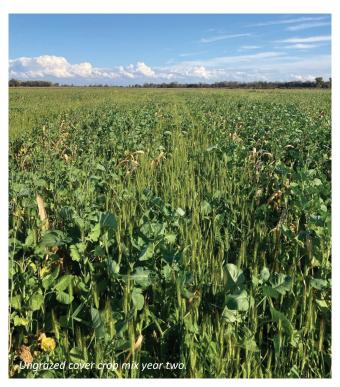
- Control: chopping and discing for incorporation
- Grazing: cows grazed directly in the plots and weighed before and after
- Baling: cover crop cut and windrowed, then baled for forage

Soil samples, crop yield, cattle weight gains, and economic data were collected.

In the first year a mix of sunnhemp, blackeyes, kale, and Piper sudangrass were planted at the end of August and grew rapidly in the warm weather.

Cows were put on the field about a month later and grazed the mixture.

The second year we doubled the size of the trial area and planted mix of buckwheat, blackeyes, kale, turnips, white proso millet, and 'Piper' sudangrass. Plots were planted in August and the cover crop established well and grew rapidly. However, when the field was ready to be grazed, cows were calving and could not be moved. This caused a delay by several weeks and pushed the grazing time into early fall, which unfortunately was met with an early frost.





'Piper' sudangrass is a variety with a reputation for not developing as much prussic acid during dry spells when compared to other sudan varieties, however, all varieties are susceptible after frost. This early frost triggered the need to test for prussic acid prior to putting the animals on the field. Forage samples were submitted to the UC Davis CAHFS lab for analysis and produced dangerously high toxicity levels. When ingested, prussic acid converts to a cyanide compound that will cause death in livestock. With these risks the decision was made to not graze the field. The cover crop was incorporated into the soil for increased organic matter and associated soil health benefits.

We originally chose sudangrass as a main component in our mix for several reasons. Sudangrass is fast-growing and produces substantial biomass quickly. The seed is low in cost and the forage is high quality if not allowed to mature. However, if it is not grazed prior to frost, it can be toxic for animals.

To avoid this risk this summer, we plan to select a different cover crop mix and repeat the same trial design.

In this scenario the cover crop is planted in mid to late summer after a cash crop has been harvested.

The risk with sudangrass is that although there is ample time to grow a large amount of biomass, it also creates a short grazing window due to the risk of toxicity. In addition, summer cover crops are grazed at a busy time of year for other farm operations. A cover crop with a more flexible grazing window will make it easier to implement harvest strategies and will ensure animal safety.

Thank you to the Western SARE for funding this project.

Ag in the Classroom leader Judy Culbertson Retires

Courtesy of CAFB AgAlert, Written by Christine Souza

udy Culbertson, executive director of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, has retired after more than 40 years of guiding the organization.

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass lauded Culbertson for playing a significant role in raising awareness of agriculture. Ag in the

Classroom provides educational resources to about 1 million students and thousands of teachers each year.

"Judy has introduced agriculture to generations of teachers and students, providing information about the value of the state's diverse food and agricultural sector and showing how it connects to their everyday lives," Douglass said.

On behalf of the foundation, created by the California Farm Bureau in 1986, Culbertsonwho retired April 1—said

she has spent her career creating resources, programs, events, and other opportunities for teachers so students can learn more about where their food and fiber come from.

"To reach more people, we found that our niche was in curriculum, so we developed free resources that fit into every subject area, including science, math, English, nutrition, art and physical education," Culbertson said. "Many teachers have never been on a farm or don't know much about agriculture, so we try to make it as easy as possible."

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross praised Culbertson for her dedication to agricultural education.

"Throughout her career, Judy has touched so many lives of children, teachers and parents she may never meet but who have benefitted from her passionate commitment to ag literacy," Ross said. "She has worked tirelessly to grow Ag in the Classroom to reach

more students every year, and she has mentored talented young staff members to constantly evolve the program in changing times."

After graduating from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business management, Culbertson took a job with the California Farm Bureau's



Judy Culbertson, executive director of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, speaks at Capitol Agriculture Day at the state Capitol in 2017. She retired April 1, after more than 40 years of dedication to agricultural education.

Young Farmers & Ranchers program. The role evolved to include development of agricultural education programs.

The idea to focus on agricultural education grew out of a phone call, Culbertson said.

"It was 1980 when we got the call from the San Francisco Unified School District," she said. "The district asked if we could arrange a field trip for teachers to visit apple orchards in Sonoma County."

The event was so successful, she recalled, "pretty soon, there were more field trips, and then schools wanted curriculum, so it blossomed."

A year later, the Farm Bureau held San Francisco Farm Day, an event that attracted some 10,000 students from 20 schools and featured presentations by farmer volunteers from 10 different county Farm Bureaus.

"No matter if you are a city kid or a country kid, teachers find that kids relate to agriculture because it brings commonality among us, and all kids are interested in food." Culbertson said. "I think teachers innately know that their students may not know much about their food and fiber, so if we can get them enthusiastic about school gardening, for example, that is a win."

Culbertson said she has watched people's interest in agriculture grow during her

> career, adding, "Ag in the Classroom has been promoting, educating and celebrating Californiagrown agriculture for decades." She pointed to the 1995 initiative by the state Department of Education that launched "A Garden in Every School." She said it brought hands-on learning about agriculture to thousands of schools statewide.

Under Culbertson's leadership, one of Ag in the Classroom's longestrunning programs, the "Imagine this..." story-

writing contest is now in its 30th year. It invites third-through eighth-grade students to write agricultural-inspired stories. Winning stories are illustrated by high school art students and published in

The contest grew out of a partnership with Sacramento-based KMAX-TV, which held a story-writing contest. At Culbertson's request, the theme for two years was agriculture. After the station dropped the contest, Ag in the Classroom kept it going. This year's winning authors were celebrated last month during California Agriculture Day at the state Capitol.

Another popular resource, Culbertson said, is the "What's Growin' On?" student newspaper offered free to teachers for their classrooms. Viewed by 1 million readers annually, the paper began 22 years ago as a partnership with The Fresno Bee and is loaded with activities and information for students.

"The theme of the newspaper this year is 'Fields of Innovations' and contains information on all kinds of new technologies used in agriculture," Culbertson said.

An event each September that attracts about 200 teachers is the Ag in the Classroom annual conference, which offers workshops, field trips, exhibits and more. Julie Cates, who teaches sixth grade at Linwood Elementary School in Visalia, described the event as innovative and "beyond any other teacher conference."

At a recent conference, she said, "people were blown away" after hearing from a hospital chef who spoke about health and nutrition benefits of local produce that he sources from farms for the University of California, Davis, Medical Center.

Citing her professionalism and dedication, Cates credits Culbertson for engaging her to bring agriculture into her classroom.

"It was such a great experience to meet Judy and work with her. She just is very clever and conscious of bringing the agriculture industry to the regular teacher," Cates said.



Judy Culbertson, executive director of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, speaks about the benefits of agriculture during a 2018 interview with Michael Marks of Good Day Sacramento.

Ag in the Classroom, which has thousands of supporters and social media followers, Culbertson said, is working to expand its reach. One promising new initiative is a web-based application called "Knowin' What's Growin'." Funded by a \$500,000 Specialty Crops Block Grant, the app will help travelers through California identify and learn more about crops growing in the state's 58 counties. A fourth-generation farmer, Culbertson

grew up on her family's pear farm. As a child, she sold lemonade at the family's packing plant and later managed fruit processing and distribution.

"As us kids got older, we just took on more responsibility," she said.

Culbertson is a past president of the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization, past chair of the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Council, chair of the State Fair's California Agricultural Heritage Club and is involved in many community organizations. Culbertson is a recipient of the California State Fair Agricultural Progress Award.

Culbertson said she is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends and spending time in the garden and volunteering. She and her husband, Jim, grow Bartlett pears and winegrapes in Courtland. They have two adult children and two grandsons.

Learn more about Ag in the Classroom at www.learnaboutag.org.

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Enrollment Opens for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program

Courtesy of The California Bountiful Foundation and California Farm Bureau

he California Bountiful Foundation, the 501(c)3 science, research, and education nonprofit organization of the California Farm Bureau began enrollment on Feb. 21 for a new program called Expanding Our Roots: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Mentorship Program.

The program has a website where beginning farmers and ranchers with one to 10 years of farming and ranching experience in California may enroll for free in the mentorship program.

Farmers and ranchers interested in serving as mentors may also sign up via the webpage. Mentors are financially compensated for providing six hours of mentoring services to beginning farmers and ranchers.

The program will allow 200 beginning farmers to be paired up with mentor farmers and ranchers with more than 10 years of experience. Half of program participants must be specialty crop growers. Under program funding requirements, priority consideration will be given to socially disadvantaged farmers and military veterans in farming and ranching.

Mentoring will focus on a range of topics, including market access, climate stresses, navigating the regulatory system, production management and business aspects of farming in California.

The program will also provide educational workshops that offer insights on regulations for farming and ranching in California. Additionally, participants will learn about financial incentives, including grant opportunities that can help them fund conservation management practices and climate-smart agriculture. They will be exposed to resources from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and UC Cooperative Extension.

Grant funding for this project was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"This program is designed to bring our agricultural community even closer together as a family through mentoring opportunities," said Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, science and research director for the California Bountiful Foundation. "Mentoring the new generation of farmers and ranchers by experienced farmers and ranchers will ensure agriculture and food security is sustained into the future."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members.



Suite 1502 Yuba City CA 95991



Monthly Gardening Tips

Courtesy of UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County

May

Melons - Marvelous Melons!

Melons originated in Africa and Southwest Asia then gradually appeared in Europe toward the end of the Roman Empire. Melons were among the earliest plants to be domesticated in both the Old and New Worlds resulting in numerous cultivars worldwide. Interesting information, yes, but not as interesting and "tasty" as biting into a marvelously ripe, sweet, juicy melon!

The following is a general guide with tips on growing melons in the Sacramento Valley. For more detailed information and helpful resources, review our Environmental Horticulture Note Growing Melons in Sacramento (sacmg.ucanr.edu).



Melons are a warm season crop requiring high temperatures and grow very well in the Sacramento Valley. Depending on the variety, average time required is about 90 days from sowing to harvest.

These are some favorites grown by the Sacramento County Master Gardeners:

- Muskmelons— 'Ambrosia'
 Cantaloupe, 'Hale's Best'
 Cantaloupe, 'Sweet 'n Early'
 Cantaloupe, 'Hearts of Gold'
 Cantaloupe, 'Honey Girl Hybrid'
 Charentais, 'Arava' Galia, 'Crème de la Crème Hybrid' Ananas
- Late melons— 'Bartlett' Honeydew, 'Crane' Crenshaw, 'Burpee's Early Hybrid' Crenshaw, 'Lambkin Hybrid' Piel de Sapo, 'Amy Hybrid' Canary

Plants can be started indoors in pots a few weeks before planting, or sow seeds in the ground ½ to 1 inch deep.

Melons can be grown in most types of soil conditions but prefer light, well-drained soils high in organic matter. When planting, choose a site that gets full sunlight. Optimal soil temperatures should be between 68° and 78°F with nighttime temperatures consistently above 50°F. This is typically late April or May in the Sacramento Valley.

Bees are important in transferring pollen from the male flowers to the female flowers for fruit to develop. Plant melons in a sunny location near a pollinator plant that attracts bees to help encourage successful pollination. At the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 'African Blue' basil is a favorite flowering plant to attract bees.

When fruits begin to form, melons in contact with soil may develop rotten spots or be damaged by insects. To avoid this problem, place a board or a few inches of mulch beneath each fruit.

Another option is to grow vines vertically. A single melon plant can spread its vines over 16 to 24 square feet of soil, so training melons to grow on a trellis, fence, or concrete reinforcing wire is a good solution to avoid rotten spots and damage by insects. Growing melons vertically will also save space, simplify harvesting, and improve air circulation to prevent powdery mildew.

When growing vertically, remember that a melon stem will not support the weight of maturing melons that hang, so each fruit must be given extra support. When the melons are approximately 2 inches in diameter, they should be



cradled in slings made of netting, old nylon stockings, or tee-shirts cut into strips (anything that will stretch as the melons enlarge and mature).

Keep soil evenly moist and give deep soakings until fruits reach mature size. Reduce the frequency of irrigation at the first ripe melon to concentrate flavors and eliminate cracking, but do not allow the plant to wilt. After harvesting the first melons, return to the original watering schedule so the next crop of melons can obtain optimum size.

Remember to mulch soil around plants to help maintain consistent moisture and suppress weeds. Apply liquid fertilizer, such as fish emulsion, when the first true leaves emerge. Both fish emulsion and seaweed/kelp can also be applied when vines begin to sprawl, and fruits begin to form.

Check out the September tip for harvesting clues (including the somewhat tricky watermelon). sacmg.ucanr.edu



Plant this month

Tomato and pepper transplants can be planted this month. Seeds of pumpkins, beans, corn, squash, cucumbers, and melons can be sown in the garden around the middle of this month. For interesting and unusual fall decorations, consider growing pumpkins or winter squash that are unusual and not your ordinary jack-o-lantern. Here are some varieties to consider.



'Jarrahdale' - slate, blue-gray; shape is flat, ribbed, and very decorative



'Marina di Chioggia' - large turban-shaped fruits with deep bluegreen skin



'Long Island Cheese' - flat, lightly-ribbed fruits look like wheels of cheese with buffcolored skin



'Musquee de Provence'
- big, flat pumpkins
shaped like a large wheel
of cheese; rich brown
skin when ripe



'Rouge Vif d'Etampes'
- beautiful flattened,
ribbed large fruits are a
deep red-orange



Galeaux D'Eysines'
A flesh-colored pumpkin
with random warts that
look like peanut shells
(caused by sugar in the skin
as it ripens). The flattened
pumpkins weigh 10 to
15 pounds.

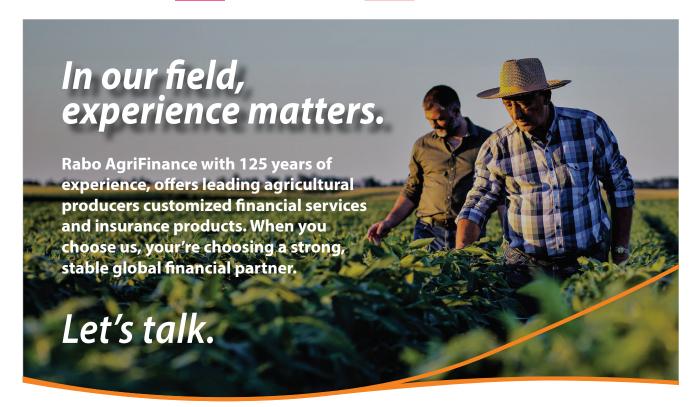
Start Indoors

Direct Seed in the Garden

Sacramento Flower Seed Planting Schedule

Courtesy of UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County

Plant	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Alyssum												
Aster												
Baby's Breath												
Calendula												
California Poppy												
Celosia												
Cleome												
Coleus												
Cornflower												
Cosmos												
Echinacea												
Forget-Me-Not												
Four O'Clocks												
Foxglove												
Gomphrena												
Hollyhock												
Larkspur												
Marigold												
Morning Glory												
Nasturtium												
Periwinkle												
Рорру												
Portulaca												
Rudbeckia												
Salvia												
Scabiosa												
Snapdragon												
Stock												
Sunflower												
Sweet Pea												
Verbena												
Viola												
Zinnia												





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American farmers and their families face tough challenges. Many of the factors that affect agricultural production are largely beyond the control of the producer. Good health, including mental health, is a key factor that contributes to one's ability to keep farming.

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National Suicide Prevention

1-800-273-8255 24/7

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National Alliance on Mental Illness

> 1-800-950-6264 Monday - Friday 6 AM - 3 PM PDT



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- PERSONAL OR FAMILY CONCERNS (IE: DEATH OF SOMEONE CLOSE, ILLNESS, MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS, FAMILY DEMANDS)
- **O** WORK RELATED INJURIES
- CHANGE IN FARM POLICIES
- CHEMICAL EXPOSURE
- **WEATHER**

ASSISTANCE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

For a medical or life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1

Mental Health America - www.mentalhealthamerica.net

If you or someone you know if contemplating suicide, call 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

COUNTRY BUTCHER

Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

ocated at 5860 Feather River Boulevard, lies a staple in our community, Country Butcher. This family-owned business is dedicated to providing their community with the highest quality meat and meat processing services. Founded in 1979, this beloved institution has been serving the Yuba and Sutter communities with the finest cuts of meat. What sets Country Butcher

apart is not just their products, but their commitment to delivering unparalleled quality at a fair price.

The story of Country Butcher is one of passion and dedication. After working for Chico State University Meats Lab and being recruited by a slaughterhouse in Siskiyou County, Adam and Katie Knapp bought Country Butcher from its original owners in 2016. Even though Adam and Katie did not grow up here, the acceptance and support from everyone in the community has really made it feel like home. Adam and Katie have three small children who have all grown up in the shop and will soon be working right alongside their mom and dad.

Over the last eight years, Adam and Katie have worked to build upon the legacy that was set before them. Country Butcher is more than just a



Photo by Country Butcher Variety of Meats

cornerstone for our community. Families rely on them for their daily meals and special occasions, and companies rely on them for their meetings and events. Through various initiatives and charitable

place to buy

meat; it is a

endeavors, they sow the seeds of

change in our community, supporting farmers, ranchers, and agricultural vouth who form the backbone of our local economy. From donating proceeds to agricultural scholarships, employing students, and sponsoring community events. Country Butcher remains committed to ensuring that the

benefits of its success are shared by all.

Whether it's a tender steak, juicy roast, or flavorful marinated chicken, every product reflects the shop's unwavering award-winning standards. Country Butcher is a multi-year recipient of the Wayne Hall Excellence in Curing Award for the overall best combined bacon. bone-in ham, boneless ham, and smoked turkey. This accomplishment is extremely special as it is given in honor of Wayne Hall, the late founder of Country Butcher.

One of the shop's signature products is their marinated meats. The unique vacuum tumbling method that Country Butcher uses gently marinates products leaving you with a juicy and flavorful cut of meat. Delectable marinades such



Photo by Country Butcher - Serving Smoked Tri Tip at the Browns Valley Elementary Harvest Festival

as Burgundy Pepper, Asada, Butter and Garlic, and Yukon Gold are just a few of the options that are offered for beef, pork, and poultry products.

Beyond its esteemed status as a supplier of quality meats, Country Butcher distinguishes itself through its approach

> to meat processing services. Embracing the artistry of ranch butchering alongside the stringent guidelines of USDA processing, the meat processing division of Country **Butcher stands** as a testament to their dedication to their community. Notably, Country **Butcher holds**



the exclusive distinction of being the only USDA and CDFA inspect meat processing establishment within Yuba and Sutter counties.

Yet, Country Butcher's impact extends far beyond the realm of meats and marination. As Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau members, you may recognize Country Butcher through their sponsorship and support of our events such as Spray Safe and Spring Fling. We are grateful for the continuous support from Country Butcher. The Knapp's said "Becoming a Farm Bureau member is a great way to support the farmers and ranchers that support us".



Photo by Country Butcher - Adam and Katie Knapp at the Yuba-Sutter Jr. Livestock Auction













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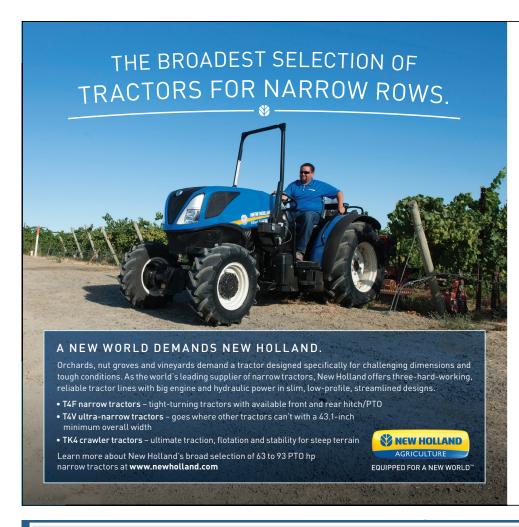
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Tamita Farms

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Triple H Ranches

Robbins, CA (530) 666-1500

FUEL

Lakeview Petroleum

1528 Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA (530) 742-7614

Valley Pacific Petroleum

Stockton, CA (209) 948-9412 rob.goodman@vpps.net

HULLING & DRYING

Fedora Farms

2551 Farmlan Rd., Meridian, CA (530) 696-2230

INSURANCE

Denney Insurance Services

856 Richland Rd., Suite B, Yuba City, CA (530) 671-5813

Farm West Insurance Services

475 N Palora Ave., Suite B, Yuba City, CA (530) 741-0441

Galligan & Associates

440 Palora Ave., Yuba City, CA (530) 671-4841

Huntley Bravos Zall Insurance Brokers

520 Olive St., Marysville, CA 95901 (530) 743-9264

Oakview Insurance Services, Inc.

1560 Sierra Ave., #202, Yuba City, CA (530) 674-5054 megan@yourfavoriteagent.net

Roberson & Sons Insurance Services Inc.

Eric Roberson (530) 365-1009

Rose Insurance Agency, Inc.

855 Harter Pkwy., Yuba City, CA

Sutter Buttes Insurance

1527 Starr Dr, #M, Yuba City, CA (530) 216-1067

Zenith Agribusiness Solutions

Craig Thomson (916) 781-2110 cthomson@thezenith.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Hyatt-McIntyre & Associates

950 Tharp Rd., Suite 701, Yuba City, CA (530) 674-9761

The Law Offices of Robin C. Bevier PC

2479 Sunrise Blvd., Gold River, CA (916) 858-0904

NURSERY

Guillaume Grapevine Nursery

21208 State Highway 113, Knights Landing, CA (530) 735-6821

Sierra Gold Nurseries

5320 Garden Hwy., Yuba City, CA (530) 674-1145

PROCESSING & DRYING

Catlett Warehouse

2138 Catlett Rd., Pleasant Grove, CA (530) 674-2380

District 10 Dryers, LLC

9000 Mathews Ln., Marysville, CA (530) 742-3116

Miki Orchard, Inc.

803 Boyer Rd., Marysville, CA (530) 743-4402

Sacramento Packing, Inc.

833 Tudor Rd., Yuba City, CA (530) 671-4488

Shoei Foods

1900 Feather River Blvd., Olivehurst, CA (530) 742-7866

Sunsweet Growers

901 Walton Ave., Yuba City, CA (530) 751-5379

SunWest Foods, Inc.

Yuba City, CA (530) 671-8888

Taylor Brothers Farms

182 Wilkie Ave., Yuba City, CA (530) 671-1505

Van Dykes Rice Dryer

4036 Pleasant Grove Rd., Pleasant Grove, CA (916) 655-3171

PUMP & WELL

Nor Cal Pump & Well Service

1325 Barry Rd., Yuba City, CA (530) 674-5861

REAL ESTATE

Coldwell Banker Commercial

Valley Brokers 1307 Franklin Rd., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-6614

Edwards. Lien & Toso

Randy Edwards (209) 634-9484 randaledwards19@hotmail.com

Farm & Ranch Realty

P.O. Box 564, Woodland, CA (530) 908-4689

SERVICES - OTHER

Bridge Coffee Co., LLC

101 Clark Ave., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-6001

Country Butcher

5860 Feather River Blvd., Olivehurst, CA (530) 742-0284

Joel Giusti

Yuba City, CA (530) 237-6951

Pride Employment & Staffing

Paul Basi (530) 661-3405

SUPPLY

Bearing Belt Chain Company

829 5th St., Marysville, CA (530) 743-9256

California Industrial Rubber Co., Inc

1690 Sierra Ave., Yuba City, CA (530) 485-1487

Derco Supply

2920 A Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-0481

Grange CoOp & Nursery Supply

1264 Stabler Ln., Yuba City, CA (530) 777-3551

Hust Brothers, Inc.

710 3rd St., Marysville, CA (530) 743-1561

Sutter Orchard Supply

573 Bridge St., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-8068

TRUCKING

Gee Agri Transport Inc.

Yuba City, CA (530) 674-7443

UTILITIES

Calpine

5029 S. Township Rd., Yuba City, CA (530) 821-2072

Chico Electric

36 W Eaton Rd., Chico, CA (530) 891-1933

Meridian Farms Water Co.

1138 4th St., Meridian, CA (530) 696-2456

Renewable Solar

601 W. Grangeville Blvd., Hanford, CA (559) 410-8640



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