

YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU

# croptalk

VOLUME 20 NO 5



FARMER MENTOR PROGRAM  
EXPANDS AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

PLANNING YOUR FIRST SPRING  
IRRIGATION IN WALNUT



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## YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU CROP TALK

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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.

# New Nitrogen and Potassium Tool to Improve Nutrient Efficiency

Provided by the Almond Board of California

As input costs continue to rise and regulatory pressure around nutrient management intensifies, almond growers are looking for tools that help them apply fertilizers more precisely — without sacrificing yield or tree health. A new Nitrogen and Potassium Calculator, developed through a partnership between the Almond Board of California and UC Davis' Fruit and Nut Center, is designed to do exactly that.

Hosted by the Fruit and Nut Center and available through Almonds.org, the calculator helps growers estimate how much nitrogen and potassium to apply, and when to apply it, based on orchard-specific information and expected yield. The goal is straightforward: **improve nutrient use efficiency, reduce unnecessary applications, and limit money spent on product the crop doesn't need.**

But applying more fertilizer than necessary doesn't improve outcomes. Instead, it can reduce efficiency, increase costs, and create additional challenges. "If you have too much nitrogen, it could leach into groundwater aquifers" Saa said, "but you are also making your trees more susceptible to diseases like hull rot."

The new calculator is designed to help growers avoid both sides of the problem, deficiency and excess, by matching nutrient applications more closely to actual crop demand.

## From Research to a Practical Tool

The calculator reflects more than a decade of almond production research and builds on guidance already familiar to many growers, including the Almond Board's Nitrogen Management Guide. "We have been working on this topic for about 20 years," Saa explained. "This calculator reflects the latest of

Yield plays a central role in the calculation, but the tool also accounts for nutrient contributions from other sources, such as irrigation water or organic amendments, helping growers avoid double-counting nutrients they already have. "How much to apply doesn't only depend on yield," Saa noted. "If you use soil amendments, some of those amendments contain nitrogen and thus reduce the need for fertilizer. All this is included in the calculator."

## Adjust as the Season Unfolds

As previously mentioned, one of the key advantages of the new calculator is its ability to adapt as the season progresses. Growers can save a unique link to their initial plan, return mid-season (end of April/beginning of May), and update inputs as yield estimates improve or new information, such as leaf tissue analysis, becomes available. "This allows the user to fine tune their former fertilization budget even further," Saa noted.

The calculator is hosted by UC Davis' Fruit and Nut Center, which already supports a range of decision-support tools used by California growers. Growers can access the calculator directly through the Fruit and Nut Center website or by visiting the Grower Tools page on Almonds.org, where tools can be filtered by focus area, resource type, or host organization.

## Getting Nutrient Management Right

Ultimately, the calculator is about helping growers make confident, informed decisions — balancing productivity, environmental stewardship, and cost control.

"Getting it right is fundamental," Saa said. "From an economic point of view, from an environmental point of view, and from an efficiency and productivity point of view."

With the new Nitrogen and Potassium Calculator, growers now have a practical, research-based tool to help do just that. "The sooner you make your fertilization plan, like at the beginning of the season, the higher the ROI is going to be," Saa said. 🌱

The screenshot displays the 'Nitrogen & Potassium Budgeting Calculator for Almonds' interface. It features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'News', 'Fruits & Nuts', 'Weather Models', 'About Us', and 'Other RICs'. The main content area is titled 'Almond Nitrogen & Potassium Budgeting Calculator' and includes a stepwise process with '1. Pre-season' and '2. Mid-Spring Adjustment' tabs. Input fields for 'Orchard Age', 'Predicted Yield' (0 lbs. of kernel), and 'Efficiency (%)' (70%) are visible. A note provides context: 'For pressurized irrigation systems, the current recommendation is 70%; however, your specific orchard may have higher or lower efficiency depending on management and site conditions.' A checkbox asks 'Do you have a nitrogen analysis from your irrigation water?'. On the right, a box shows 'Total Nitrogen and Potassium Demand' with values: Nitrogen (N): 0.0 lbs/ac and Potassium (K): 0.0 lbs/ac. Logos for UC Davis and Almond Board of California are present.

## Built on Efficiency and Economics

Nitrogen and potassium are among the largest input costs in almond production, accounting for a significant share of annual expenses. They are also essential to kernel development and protein formation, making precise management critical.

"Kernels are full of protein," said Sebastian Saa, Associate Director of Agricultural Research at the Almond Board of California. "That also means that they demand a significant amount of nitrogen."

our thinking and includes potassium calculations, which we had not done before."

Rather than requiring users to answer every possible question up front, the calculator uses a stepwise process. Growers can enter basic information, such as orchard age and expected yield, to generate a pre-season nutrient plan. As the season progresses and more data becomes available, the same plan can be revisited and refined.

# Farmer Mentor Program Expands Agriculture's Roots

Story by Linda DuBois, California Farm Bureau/California Bountiful

**A**ndrew Forchini, a winegrape grower in Sonoma County, says he appreciates fellow farmers who have shared their knowledge and advice over the years as he's navigated the challenges of running his business.

When he learned of an opportunity to mentor new winegrape farmers, he was eager to pay it forward.

Expanding Our Roots is a farmer and rancher mentorship program run by the California Farm Bureau's California Bountiful Foundation.

Launched in spring 2024, the program pairs newcomers with at least one year of experience with seasoned pros who have a decade or more of experience within the same specialty.

Some mentees are entirely new to farming. Others have farmed for years but are new to a specific crop or livestock animal. Still others already have mentors and support networks but seek fresh perspectives.

"Expanding Our Roots bridges the gap between new and seasoned farmers, fostering a community where practical wisdom is passed down from those who've weathered the challenges of agriculture," says Corrin Armstrong, California Farm Bureau director of member engagement.

The program is funded through the California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program.

Participation is free for mentees. The foundation pays mentors \$50 an hour for up to six hours, but many say they volunteer far more time, and while the stipend is a nice bonus, it's not what motivates them.



*Mentor Andrew Forchini and mentee Be Charles both stress the value in farmers and ranchers sharing knowledge and advice with one another.  
Photo: ©2025 Paige Green*

## Valuable Service

"I don't mind making the time. Whether it's six hours or 30 hours or more, I'm available," Forchini says. "This is important."

He says not only does he want to help keep the agriculture industry thriving, but he just enjoys helping people.

In addition to mentorship services, the foundation provides mentees with additional resources, including access to workshops, California Farm Bureau Extension classes and annual subscriptions to Ag Alert, the Farm Bureau's newspaper.

Expanding Our Roots workshops, open to mentees and others, are an opportunity to network with peers and learn from experts in business planning, finance, agricultural production practices, postharvest handling and distribution, marketing and sales, laws and regulations, farm and ranch safety, and grant funding opportunities, including for conservation practices and more.

"This program empowers newcomers to navigate the intricacies of farming and ranching, ensuring a sustainable future for agriculture through shared knowledge and mentorship," Armstrong says.

Forchini says the program can help encourage the next generation of farmers to replace those nearing retirement. The average age of farmers is 58 years nationwide and 60 in California, and those younger than 35 account for 9% of U.S. farmers, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

Some agricultural sectors are also up against increased challenges. For example, Forchini and his two mentees, Carol Thong and Bea Charles, face a shrinking market as global

wine consumption declines.

Forchini says he was impressed during his first visit to Lavio Ranch Vineyard, run by Charles and her husband, Mike, who have a background in livestock.

"They're expert farmers. Their property is just amazing. I thought, 'What can I do for them?'" Forchini says.

## Individualized Help

What they lacked were connections in the wine industry and the know-how to market their grapes in a tough market.

"The vineyard is supposed to be our retirement," Bea Charles says, adding that her husband works full time in the vineyard while she maintains a full-time job as a bookkeeper. "In my current job, I don't have much of an opportunity to talk with other growers on a day-to-day basis."

She found information about the mentorship program on a Farm Bureau website and signed up at the end of 2024.

"I felt it would be wise to consult with a mentor who has more years of experience in navigating changing market conditions," Charles says. "I wanted to hear Andrew's different approaches to marketing because we've always marketed to just one person, and this year we might have to sell to several people."

One recommendation Forchini gave them was to highlight something that distinguishes their vineyard from others.

Besides managing a vineyard in Healdsburg, Forchini's company, AF VINES LLC, does property repair and maintenance and raises sheep for custom grazing. When Charles learned about his work in regenerative livestock agriculture, she picked his brain.

"We've always put cows in the vineyard, and we just compared notes on that and the different options of improving our sustainability and just any ideas he had on reducing costs overall," Charles says. "He also shared ideas on dealing with some of the wildlife challenges that we face each year, especially birds, and pointed out some safety concerns for the tractor on our steep hillside."

Charles says the mentorship has been everything she'd hoped for.

"I've gained an industry friend, but I also gained his valuable insight on the potential challenges that are coming towards us and a little more confidence to meet them," she says.

"I've learned that getting caught up in the farming day-to-day stuff is not enough," Charles adds. "You have to



*Winegrape grower Bea Charles, right, says she sought advice from her mentor, Andrew Forchini, about custom grazing, improving sustainability and reducing costs. Photo: ©2025 Paige Green*

focus on your marketing and building business connections because that's what's needed in today's farming."

#### **Gaining more perspectives**

David Cox, a fifth-generation farmer and nurseryman who runs L.E. Cooke Co. in Tulare County, became a mentor to help others avoid learning everything "the hard way" as he did.

"Some skills you don't get taught in school. Some you learn through headache and heartache as life goes on," says Cox, who mentors Chris Wichman,

the assistant production manager at Belmont Nursery in Fresno.

Wichman notes that he already has an excellent mentor in his boss, nursery owner Jon Reelhorn.

"I understand how (Reelhorn) grows things and how he runs his business, but because this is the first nursery I've worked for, I just wanted to also learn from a different perspective," he says.

Sutter County's Sy Honig, who owns Honig Farms with his father, felt the same way when he learned of the program and was matched with Adam Kennedy, a Glenn County rice grower.

"I just think it is good to have multiple people you can call on if you have a question," he says. "I have my dad, who's been doing this his whole life, but he's also been doing it his own way his whole life."

Kennedy has answered a few of Honig's questions about bookkeeping "because that's all new to me," Honig says, but most of the benefit of the mentorship has been simply having one more person to bounce his ideas off of.

During its first year, the Expanding Our Roots program matched about 85 pairs, but with funding for 400, it has room for more. It's scheduled to last three years.

"Agriculture is so difficult that you should never turn down an opportunity to learn from other people with more experience," Charles says. ☺



*Bea Charles says she participated in the free mentorship program to gain insight from fellow winegrape grower Andrew Forchini, who is more experienced in navigating changing market conditions and could offer different approaches to marketing, especially now as the wine sector is struggling. Photo: ©2025 Paige Green*

# Annual Meeting of the Members: Where Members Meet, and Momentum Builds

By: Stephanie Younger, Executive Director

As Executive Director of the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, I always look forward to our February Meeting of the Members. This annual gathering provides an important opportunity to connect, reflect on the past year, and look ahead to the work still to be done on behalf of our farming and ranching community.

This year, we heard from Kate Fuso, Director of Membership and Partnerships at the California Farm Bureau. Kate shared a comprehensive update on the work being done at the state level to support county Farm Bureaus and local growers. Her insights reinforced the value of collaboration between state and county organizations and highlighted the many ways our members benefit from that partnership.

A highlight of the evening was the opportunity to recognize two individuals who served the organization for many years. We honored Sarb Atwal and Mike Denny as they retire from the board of directors. Their years of service, leadership, and commitment to agriculture in our region have made a lasting impact, and

we are incredibly grateful for their dedication.

We also conducted the election of the 2026–2027 Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau Board of Directors. It is always encouraging to see members step forward to serve, and we were pleased to welcome Mike Burns and Dennis Michel to the board. Their willingness to contribute their time and expertise strengthens our organization and ensures we continue to represent our members effectively.

Following the membership meeting, the Board of Directors convened to begin its official meeting, where the Executive Committee was selected. I am proud to work alongside this year's leadership team:

- Brian Greathouse, President
- Joe Lemenager, 1st Vice President
- Shelby Stricklin, 2nd Vice President
- Sy Honig, 3rd Vice President



As we move forward, we look ahead to another year of serving our agricultural community. We are committed to engaging with our members and hearing their perspectives on where the Farm Bureau needs to be and where we need to take action. Your input continues to guide our priorities and strengthen our voice.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to all the members who attended the meeting, as well as those who continue to support the mission of the Farm Bureau. Your involvement makes a difference. While times may be tough, farmers are tougher—and together, we can ensure the future of our organization. 🌾



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# BEGINNING FARMERS & RANCHERS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



## EXPANDING OUR ROOTS

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### Enroll in a New Program Aimed at Preserving California's Agricultural Heritage.

Beginning farmers and ranchers in California face many challenges in sustaining their agricultural operations. This program provides no-cost mentoring services from experienced farmers and ranchers to facilitate knowledge transfer.

#### Who can become a mentor?

Farmers (including specialty crop growers) and ranchers with more than 10 years of experience operating a production agriculture business in California can become mentors.

#### Benefits of becoming a mentor:

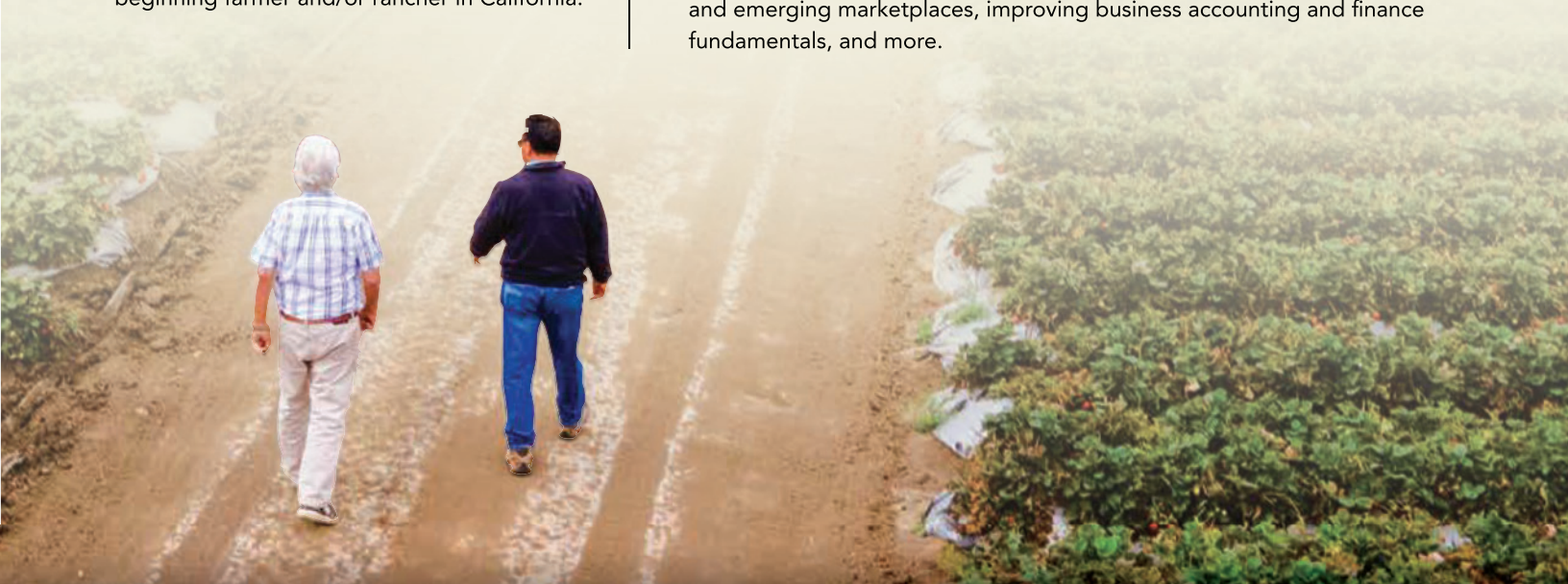
- Receive incentive pay (\$50/hr) for up to six hours of time invested in mentoring a beginning farmer and/or rancher.
- Share knowledge, skills, and experience to help guide the long-term success of a beginning farmer and/or rancher in California.

#### Who can become a mentee?

Farmers (including specialty crop growers) and ranchers with one to 10 years of experience operating a production agriculture business in California can become mentees.

#### Benefits of becoming a mentee:

- Learn from experienced farmers and ranchers through six hours of mentoring.
- Attend biannual workshops alongside subject matter experts and peers.
- Enjoy annual subscriptions to the Ag Alert® weekly newspaper and Farm Bureau Extension classes.
- Work towards self-declared goals such as adopting new management practices, scaling production and distribution, learning established and emerging marketplaces, improving business accounting and finance fundamentals, and more.



To enroll as a mentor or mentee, complete an online application at [cbbf.com/EOR](https://cbbf.com/EOR). Information from the online application will be used to match mentors and mentees.

Funding for this Project was made possible by a grant/cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

 Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

 National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

 **California**  
Farm Bureau.

# Planning Your First Spring Irrigation in Walnut

By Clarissa Reyes, UCCE Orchards Advisor, Sutter-Yuba counties

Spring is upon us, and walnut leaf-out is rapidly approaching. As growers plan when to begin irrigating their orchards, they should consider the rainfall we've received over the winter as a factor in this decision. At the time of writing this, Verona CIMIS station in Sutter county has reported 4.85" precipitation from Jan 1 - Mar 3, 2026 (last year was 4.82" for the same dates). This amount of rainfall should be considered a reserve of water that growers can use to delay the start of irrigation for some time after leaf-out in walnut.

Among the major tree crops grown in the Sacramento Valley, walnut is especially sensitive to overwatering. During the spring, trees have a period of new fine root growth, which are responsible for most nutrient and substantial water uptake. Too much soil water early in the spring can suppress this root growth, which will then impact water and nutrient uptake potential during the hottest and driest weeks of summer, and potentially cause tip burn, leaf damage, and dark kernels.

Research by the University of California has shown that vegetative tree growth and production in walnut is favored when irrigation is managed to sustain low levels of tree stress.

The most effective method to ensure that trees experience a low



level of tree stress is to determine plant-water status with a pressure chamber by measuring stem water potential (SWP). This approach uniquely integrates and quantifies how an orchard is responding to its unique soil, water, and environmental conditions. Irrigating based on plant-water status can ensure that trees have adequate oxygen for root growth and nutrient transfer, prevent detrimental leaf symptoms (yellowing, collapsing canopy) of

overwatering, and reduce risk of tree loss. Over the past few years, a grower in Sutter county using stem water potential for irrigation management has been able to push their first irrigation of the season out past April - from early May in a drought year, up to early June after a wet winter. This timing not only helps tree health and longevity, but also results in cost-savings as pump and energy use is delayed.

If you do not own a pressure chamber, your PCA can add this service, or you can contact **Clarissa Reyes** (UC Cooperative Extension Orchards Advisor for Sutter-Yuba) at **530-433-4301** or [clareyes@ucanr.edu](mailto:clareyes@ucanr.edu) to assist with a spot-check of SWP in your walnut orchard prior to irrigating. More information about irrigation management using a pressure chamber and other methods can be found on [sacvalleyorchards.com](http://sacvalleyorchards.com). ☎

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# Blue Jacket Bonanza Recipients Receive Their Jackets

Blue Jacket Bonanza Program Invests in the Future of Agriculture

Written by Taylor Morrison, YSFB Program Coordinator



The Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau's Fund for Ag Education continues to make a lasting impact on local youth through its Blue Jacket Bonanza program—a program dedicated to supporting students involved in FFA and encouraging the next generation of agricultural leaders. Funded by the generous contributions of community members and supporters at the annual Spring Fling fundraiser, the Blue Jacket Bonanza program provides students with the opportunity to receive their own FFA blue jacket by sharing their goals in FFA. For many students, the jacket is a symbol of pride, leadership, and commitment to agriculture. Since 2014, the program has awarded more than 250 jackets to deserving students across Yuba and Sutter counties. Each recipient is selected through an application process that includes a written essay and an in-person interview. This process allows students to share their passion for agriculture, their involvement in FFA, and their dedication to community service.

The Blue Jacket Bonanza program is about more than providing a jacket. It's about investing in young people

who are working hard to develop skills, give back to their communities, and build a future in agriculture.

This year, 21 jackets were awarded to students from East Nicolaus, Lindhurst, Marysville, Sutter Union, Wheatland Union, and Yuba City High Schools. These students exemplify the values of leadership, responsibility, and service that FFA promotes.

For many recipients, receiving a blue jacket removes a financial barrier and allows them to fully participate in FFA activities, competitions, and leadership opportunities. It also serves as a reminder that their community believes in their potential.

The Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau is proud to support these students and remains committed to strengthening agricultural education in the region. Through programs like Blue Jacket Bonanza, the Farm Bureau is helping cultivate the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and agricultural advocates. As the program continues to grow, so does its impact—ensuring that local students have the tools, encouragement, and opportunities they need to succeed in FFA and beyond.



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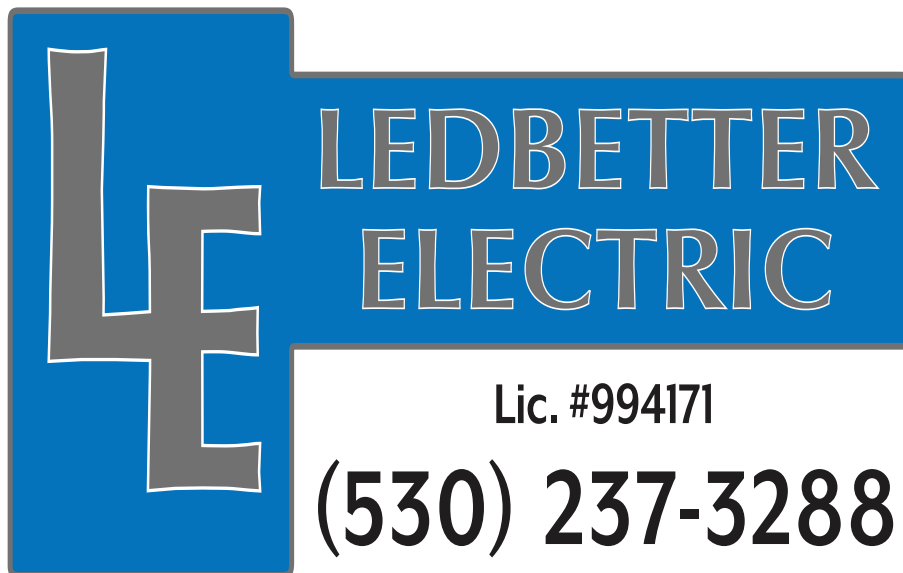
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# Sen. Schiff, Reps. Thompson, Valadao Lead Calls for USDA Assistance for Peach Farmers

## California Farmers Need Relief Following Peach Processing Plant Closure

*From the office of U.S. Senator Adam Schiff*

**Yuba-Sutter Region, California** – Today, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.-04), and Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.-22) led a bipartisan group of 39 colleagues to request Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins issue assistance to peach farmers in Yuba and Sutter Counties. Following the closure of the Del Monte processing facility in Modesto, countless peach growers in the region are facing widespread contract cancellations and lack a viable path to mitigate their losses. “The Del Monte facility processed a substantial share of the state’s canned fruit production, including more than 30 percent of California peaches. With no comparable alternative processing capacity available, producers are facing severe uncertainty and financial hardship,” wrote the lawmakers. “Our domestic producers already face a multitude of challenges, and it is critical that we use available federal resources to preserve these farmers’ ability to produce healthy, fresh food for Americans. We respectfully request that USDA utilize its authorities to stabilize affected producers and communities.” The lawmakers requested the following actions:

- USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service provide \$9 million to help interested growers transition to another permanent crop.
- USDA’s existing disaster and market disruption programs (e.g., Farm Service Agency’s Tree Assistance Program) be made maximally accessible to impacted growers.
- Technical assistance and economic development support be provided to affected communities.

In addition to Schiff, Thompson, and Valadao, the letter was also signed by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.-11), and Representatives Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.-33), Nanette Barragán (D-Calif.-44), Julia Brownley (D-Calif.-26), Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.-24), Judy Chu (D-Calif.-28), Gil Cisneros (D-Calif.-31), Lou Correa (D-Calif.-46), Jim Costa (D-Calif.-21), Mark DeSaulnier (D-Calif.-10), Vince Fong (R-Calif.-20), Laura Friedman (D-Calif.-30), John Garamendi (D-Calif.-08), Robert Garcia (D-Calif.-42), Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.-34), Adam Gray (D-Calif.-13), Josh Harder (D-Calif.-09), Jared Huffman (D-Calif.-02), Sara Jacobs (D-Calif.-51), Ro Khanna (D-Calif.-17), Young Kim (R-Calif.-40), Mike Levin (D-Calif.-49), Sam Liccardo (D-Calif.-16), Ted Lieu (D-Calif.-36), Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.-18), Doris Matsui (D-Calif.-07), Dave Min (D-Calif.-47), Kevin Mullin (D-Calif.-15), Jay Obernolte (R-Calif.-23), Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.-19), Scott Peters (D-Calif.-50), Luz Rivas (D-Calif.-29), Lateefah Simon (D-Calif.-12), Brad Sherman (D-Calif.-32), Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.-14), Mark Takano (D-Calif.-39), Derek Tran (D-Calif.-45), and George Whitesides (D-Calif.-27).

### Full text of the letter can be found below:

*Dear Secretary Rollins,*

*We write to request the immediate assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in relation to the Del Monte processing facility closure in Modesto, California. As a result of this closure, countless peach growers are facing widespread contract cancellations and lack a viable avenue to mitigate their losses.*

*The Del Monte facility processed a substantial*

*share of the state’s canned fruit production, including more than 30 percent of California peaches. With no comparable alternative processing capacity available, producers are facing severe uncertainty and financial hardship. These growers have long supplied the nation with nutritious and delicious fruit, and without USDA action, these growers will have nowhere to turn to maintain their livelihoods. Our domestic producers already face a multitude of challenges, and it is critical that we use available federal resources to preserve these farmers’ ability to produce healthy, fresh food for Americans.*

*We respectfully request that USDA utilize its authorities to stabilize affected producers and communities. More specifically, we request that USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service provide \$9 million to help growers transition to another permanent crop, that the Department’s existing disaster and market disruption programs (e.g., Farm Service Agency’s Tree Assistance Program) be made maximally accessible to impacted growers, and that technical assistance and economic development support be provided to affected communities.*

*Many impacted growers are multi-generational family farmers who have invested decades in orchards built around stable processor relationships. These operations anchor local employment and regional economies. Without a proper response, there is a risk of long-term structured damage to our nation’s agricultural base.*

*We look forward to working closely with USDA to swiftly identify and implement practical solutions. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.* 🍑



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# Fair Plan Clearinghouse Oversight Hearing

By Peter Ansel, California Farm Bureau Federation



California Farm Bureau

**O**n March 18, the Assembly Committee on Insurance held an oversight hearing to examine the “clearinghouse” program within the FAIR Plan. Established five years ago by Assembly Bill 3012 (Jim Wood, D-Healdsburg), the law created a process for insurance policies to exit the FAIR Plan through a platform that allows brokers of record to review policies and move them back into the admitted market. The legislation established a clearinghouse for only residential policies. When agricultural policies entered the FAIR Plan, they were classified as commercial, meaning they were not eligible to use the clearinghouse to exit. In response, Farm Bureau sponsored Senate Bill 505 (Susan Rubio, D-Baldwin Park), which established a clearinghouse for commercial policies and was ultimately signed into law. This oversight hearing focused on the residential clearinghouse. The FAIR Plan reported that it does not have a complete understanding of whether the program is effective for several reasons. Most notably, insurers self-report why a policy leaves the FAIR Plan and offers made through the clearinghouse are not

tracked, making the data inaccurate and unreliable. The FAIR Plan indicated that approximately 750 residential policies have exited to the admitted market through the clearinghouse. Comparable outcomes would likely be expected for the commercial clearinghouse. Committee members expressed concern about the lack of reliable data and were surprised by the low number of policies returning to the admitted market. The FAIR Plan noted that improving data collection would require additional legislation and regulatory action. The FAIR Plan also identified business practices involving brokers, agents and consumers that may be limiting policyholders’ ability to return to the admitted market. Industry representatives, including independent agents, property and casualty insurers, and surplus lines associations—testified that the clearinghouse is ineffective because the admitted market remains unstable, leaving few viable options for policyholders to return. Testimony also highlighted that FAIR Plan rates are not actuarially sound and are often the lowest available, incentivizing

consumers to remain in the FAIR Plan. While only 10 to 15 admitted insurers currently participate in the clearinghouse, industry representatives noted that participation may increase as the market stabilizes. They also emphasized that the clearinghouse is not the sole pathway for exiting the FAIR Plan, as policies may return to the admitted market through other mechanisms not captured in clearinghouse data. Farm Bureau was the only consumer group to provide public comment, noting that while the hearing focused on AB 3012 and the residential clearinghouse, the commercial clearinghouse established by SB 505 faces similar challenges. Farm Bureau emphasized that consumers should not be limited by prior broker or agent relationships when seeking to return to the admitted market. Additionally, Farm Bureau encouraged legislators to use the clearinghouse to promote competition among admitted carriers, particularly for landowners who have invested in risk mitigation and where wildfire risk is lower, such as on agricultural lands. ☁

# Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau Business Members Directory

Support these businesses and let them know you are a Farm Bureau member!  
Call the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau at 673-6550 for information on becoming a Business Member.

## AERIAL APPLICATION

**Anderson's Flying Service**  
Robbins, CA  
(530) 738-4205

**Moe's Crop Dusting Service, Inc.**  
Pleasant Grove, CA  
(530) 682-5117

**Sutter Butte Dusters, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 213, Live Oak, CA  
(530) 695-2294  
sutterbuttedusters@gmail.com

**Twin Cities Aviation**  
94 2nd St., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 673-4578

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISING

**Agricultural Advisors**  
3995 E. Butte Rd., Live Oak, CA  
(530) 674-1255

## APIARIES

**Strachan Apiaries, Inc.**  
2522 Tierra Buena Rd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 674-3881

## ASSOCIATIONS

**California Canning Peach Association**  
335 Teegarden Ave., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 673-8526

**City of Yuba City**  
1201 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 822-4762

**Garden Highway Mutual  
Water Corporation**  
Yuba City, CA  
(530) 674-2837

**Prune Bargaining Association**  
335 Teegarden Ave., Ste. B, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 674-5636

## AUCTION SERVICE

**Bid Cal Inc.**  
Chico, CA  
(530) 345-0840

## BANKING/FINANCIAL

**AgWest Farm Credit**  
1800 Lassen Blvd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 671-1420

## ATLAS CPAs & Advisors

319 6th Street, PO Box 590, Marysville, CA  
(530) 742-8201

**Coldwell Banker Commercial - Valley Brokers**  
1307 Franklin Rd, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 308-5343

**Core Financial Group**  
1215 Plumas St., Ste. 1500, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 751-9525

**First Northern Bank of Dixon**  
195 N 1st St, Dixon, CA  
(707) 678-4422

**Five Star Bank**  
855 Harter Pkwy., Suite 350B, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 431-0950

**Rabo AgriFinance**  
855 Harter Pkwy., Yuba City, CA  
(855) 887-9276

**River Valley Community Bank**  
1629 Colusa Ave., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 821-2460

**Tenney & Company, CPA**  
1528 Starr Dr., Suite A, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 674-4211

## CHEMICAL & FERTILIZER COMPANIES

**Helena Agri-Enterprises**  
6788 Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 674-3718

## CONSTRUCTION

**Gary Smith**  
Yuba City, CA  
(530) 701-6731

**Hilbers, Inc.**  
770 N. Walton Ave., #100, Yuba City, CA  
(530) 673-2947

**Rosser Enterprises, Inc.**  
Wheatland, CA  
(530) 713-8531

## CUSTOM FARMING

**Fiveway, Inc.**  
3339 N. Township Rd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 671-9519

**Joel Giusti**  
Yuba City, CA  
(530) 237-6951

**JT Ag Services**  
jtcustomharvest@gmail.com  
(530) 701-3069

**KB1 Ag Solutions**  
Live Oak, CA  
(530) 682-3281

## EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES

**Beeler Tractor Co.**  
887 E. Onstott Rd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 673-3555

**Holt Ag Solutions**  
2950 Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 755-3363

**Orchard Machinery Corporation**  
2700 Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 673-2822

## FARM MANAGEMENT

**JS Johal & Sons, Inc.**  
5020 Garden Hwy., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 682-3600

**PR Ag Services**  
Paul Takhar  
(530) 682-6900  
treeshakes@gmail.com

## FARMS, RANCHES & INDIVIDUALS

**A + A, Inc.**  
Yuba City, CA

**Balbir Bains**  
2909 Reed Rd., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 682-9315

**BGH LP**  
6394 Larkin Rd., Live Oak, CA

**Just Farms LP**  
Gridley, CA  
(530) 846-3958

**Nicolaus Farms, LLC**  
1768 Hardial Ct., Yuba City, CA  
(530) 923-1555

**Shaeffer Ranch, LLC**  
Clovis, CA

**T&M Meyer Farms**  
8681 S Butte Rd., Sutter, CA  
(530) 570-9957

**Tamita Farms**  
8444 S Butte Rd., Sutter, CA  
(530) 674-9378

**Tony's Fruit Stand**  
10464 CA-70, Marysville, CA  
(530) 741-1512

## 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) 682-2940

**INSURANCE****Denney Insurance Services**

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

**Farm West Insurance Services, Inc.**

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  
 (530) 743-9264

**Oakview Insurance Services, Inc.**

1670 Sierra Ave., Ste 303, Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 674-5054  
 megan@yourfavoriteagent.net

**Roberson & Sons Insurance Services Inc.**

Eric Roberson  
 (530) 365-1009

**Sutter Buttes Insurance**

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

**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****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

**Grower Direct Nut Company – Jeff Boone**

Live Oak, CA  
 (530) 701-3000

**Grower Direct Nut Company**

2288 Geer Rd, Hughson, CA  
 (209) 448-6133

**Miki Orchard, Inc.**

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

**Mitchell Dryers**

365 Wilson Rd, Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 671-3397

**Sacramento Packing, Inc.**

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

**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 SERVICES****Nor-Cal Pump & Well Drilling**

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

**North Valley Pump**

8737 S. Butte Rd., Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 300-8059

**Rain for Rent 1032 (3)**

390 W Kentucky Ave., Woodland, CA  
 (831) 320-3261

**REAL ESTATE****Edwards, Lien & Toso**

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

**Farm & Ranch Realty**

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

**Stromer Realty**

591 Colusa Ave, Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 588-1430

**SERVICES - OTHER****Center for Land Based Learning**

40140 Best Ranch Rd., Woodland, CA  
 (707) 410-8276

**Country Butcher**

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

**Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust**

P.O. Box 3359, Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 755-3568

**Turner Ag Research Inc**

2760 Duncan Rd, Yuba City  
 (530) 601-0879

**Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds**

442 Franklin Ave., Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 674-1280

**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

**Grange CoOp & Nursery Supply**

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

**Hust Brothers, Inc.**

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

**Pacific Southwest Irrigation Corp**

342 W Kentucky Ave, Woodland, CA  
 (707) 953-4447

**Sutter Orchard Supply**

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

**TRUCKING****Gee Agri Transport Inc.**

Yuba City, CA  
 (530) 682-1182  
 (530) 415-0504

**UTILITIES****Chico Electric**

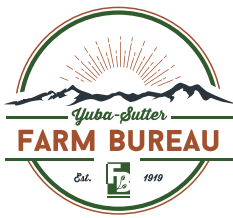
36 W Eaton Rd., Chico, CA  
 (530) 891-1933

**Ledbetter Electric**

1004 Yuba St, Marysville, CA  
 (530) 237-3288

**Meridian Farms Water Co.**

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



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Yuba City, CA 95991

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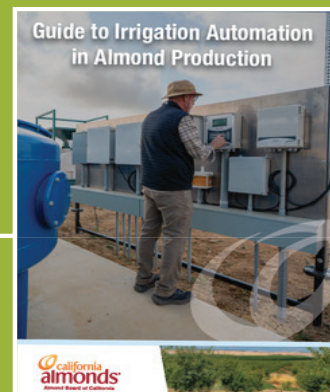
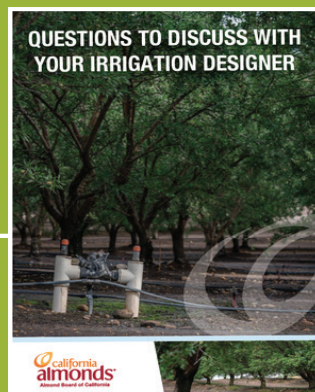
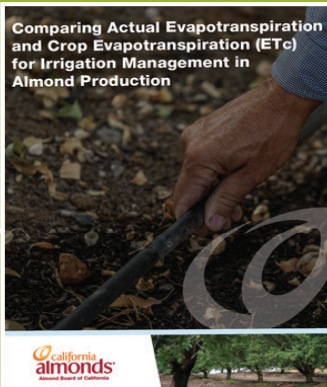
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