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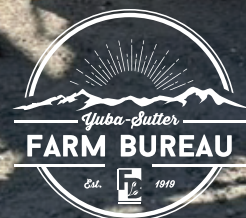
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YUBA-SUTTER FARM BUREAU CROP TALK

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.

Articles published in Crop Talk may be reprinted without permission provided credit is given to the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and a copy of the issue in which the reprint appears is forwarded to our office listed below.

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.

Get a Head Start on Watergrass Control in Rice

Written by Whitney Brim-DeForest, UCCE Rice and Wild Rice Advisor

California rice farmers are facing increasingly difficult challenges each year in controlling watergrass species, which have become more aggressive and widespread. This is due not only to the emergence and spread of a newer species—coast cockspur—but also to the growing prevalence of resistant biotypes among all watergrass species, including barnyardgrass, late watergrass, and early watergrass. These resistant biotypes make it more complicated to manage watergrass populations effectively, especially when relying solely on traditional chemical controls.

While new herbicide products are currently in development and will eventually become available, they are not yet registered for use in California. Until these tools reach the market, the best approach to tackling watergrass is proactive planning. Managing watergrass early in the season is far more effective than trying to manage it when it is larger and harder to control. Early season weed control not only improves rice yields but can also reduce the need for multiple herbicide applications later, cutting costs and minimizing the selection for herbicide-resistant biotypes.

In fields with high watergrass infestations, a stale seedbed can be a good option. The purpose of a stale seedbed is to bring up weeds before rice is planted, which can then enable the use of a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate or capric/caprylic acid. A stale seedbed can also work in a year when it rains late or after tillage. A flush of water, whether from rain or irrigation, and a week of warm weather can bring up a large number of watergrass plants. Past research has shown that as many as 90% of a population can emerge in about 10 days (this varies somewhat according to temperature). Many growers do not like using a stale seedbed as it can delay planting, but it can be a good option for rotation on one field at a time to try to clean up a field. Work with your local Farm Advisor for the best timing and guidance on application rates.



If a stale seedbed is not feasible due to time constraints, weather, or field logistics, another strategy is to utilize multiple modes of action early in the season. Many watergrass populations have developed resistance to commonly used granular herbicides, especially those containing active ingredients such as thiobencarb, benzobicyclon, and penoxsulam. Resistance to clomazone also exists but is less widespread.

Using multiple modes of action is key to slowing the selection for herbicide resistance and improving control. Resistance in watergrass species in California is metabolic, meaning that the plant can break down, or “metabolize” or “eat” the products, detoxifying them within the plant system, rendering the herbicides ineffective. The positive part of having metabolic resistance is that unlike target-site resistance, it can be overcome, usually through increased rates and/or combinations of products either applied in close succession or at the same time.

Some combinations or applications made in close succession that are popular and work fairly well for watergrass control are: pyraclonil and benzobicyclon, clomazone and benzobicyclon, and clomazone and thiobencarb (not an exhaustive list). These tend to work best when applied at the highest labeled rates, and either at the same time (if the label allows), or

in close succession. Always check the label before making applications.

One important caveat is the potential for phytotoxicity, especially in sensitive areas such as red soils on the east side of the Sacramento Valley. Applying high herbicide rates can damage rice plants under certain conditions. It is essential to monitor fields closely and make adjustments as needed based on soil type, moisture levels, and variety sensitivity.

Not all combinations will be effective in every field. The variability in watergrass species and biotypes means that what works well in one field may not work in another. For this reason, testing combinations on small plots or rotating combinations between fields can be a smart strategy. This field-level experimentation helps identify what works best on specific acreage and can provide valuable insight over time.

For the long-term, to assist in managing resistant weeds, you can submit samples for herbicide resistance testing through the UC Weed Science Program. While this will not provide immediate answers for control in 2025, it can guide decision-making for the following season and help build a more sustainable weed management plan. Consult your local Farm Advisor for help with sample collection and submission procedures. ☁


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Overtime Law Costing Farmworkers \$100 Per Week

Courtesy of CAFB AgAlert, Written by Caleb Hampton

One hundred dollars a week. That's how much California's agricultural overtime law has cost farmworkers, according to University of California, Berkeley, assistant professor Alexandra Hill. In 2023, Hill published research showing the state's 2016 agricultural overtime law had not achieved its goal of increasing earnings for farmworkers. On the contrary, she found, Assembly Bill 1066 caused workers to lose hours and pay as farmers shortened the workweek to balance their wage bills.

Beginning in 2019, AB 1066 phased in a requirement that farmworkers—like employees in most sectors—be paid time and a half when they work more than five days a week or eight hours a day. Previously, farmworkers worked up to 60 hours a week before they were entitled to overtime pay.

During the first two years of the phase-in, the proportion of farmworkers employed for more than 50 hours a week—the overtime threshold at that point—dropped by half, according to Hill's research, which analyzed data from 2019 and 2020.

The changes brought about by AB 1066 “may not be benefiting the workers they aim to protect,” the study concluded.

Since publishing her 2023 study, Hill has continued to analyze California farmworker employment data, using figures from the National Agricultural Workers Survey.

After analyzing the most recent data available, which goes through 2022, Hill told Ag Alert® last month that her new findings were “quite consistent with the earlier study, and even a bit stronger and larger.”

By 2022, AB 1066 had caused California farmworkers to lose an average of five hours of employment per week, she said.

“There is really convincing evidence that work hours for individual farmworkers fell after the law went into effect,” Hill said. “My current estimates are saying workers earned about a hundred dollars less per week on average than they would have without the law in place.”

The employment figures are consistent with observations Hill made in the field. Before AB 1066 went into effect, many



A harvest crew picks pears in Sacramento County in 2022. In recent years, the phase-in of a California law requiring farmworkers be paid overtime when they work more than 40 hours a week has on average caused farmworkers to earn less overall, according to research by Alexandra Hill, assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley

Photo/Fred Greaves

farmworkers worked 60-hour weeks during the crop season, often in anticipation of going weeks without work during the off-season. Now, she said, “what I hear from employers is that they are essentially treating 40 hours a week as their cap on how much they want people to be working.” Leticia Hermosillo, a farm crew supervisor in the Sacramento Valley, said the overtime law has created challenges for crew members struggling to keep up with rising living expenses. The crew historically worked 60-hour weeks during the seven-month crop season, but during the past few years—as the overtime law was phased in—they saw their hours slashed to 40 hours a week.

“The people on my crew are really affected,” Hermosillo told Ag Alert® earlier this year. “If they go to the store, they spend most of their paycheck on groceries.”

Hill said individual workers may have different perspectives on whether the overtime law has helped or harmed them.

“Not surprisingly, there are mixed attitudes on how much you want to work and how much compensation you need to live a good life,” Hill said. “Some workers report liking the overtime law because it gives them more free time with their families, but the majority of workers say that they don't like it or that they have mixed feelings about it.”

For the most part, she said, the overtime law has not led farmers to hire more workers to spread out the hours but to

try to accomplish more work in fewer hours. Hill said she plans to publish an updated study on the effects of AB 1066 after analyzing employment data through 2024.

Meanwhile, the state Legislature is set to consider a bill created to address the unintended consequences of AB 1066. Senate Bill 628, authored by state Sen. Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, would create a tax credit to offset the cost to farmers of paying overtime, reimbursing the “half” in “time and a half.”

The bill, whose author has cited Hill's 2023 study, has bipartisan backing, with state Sen. Melissa Hurtado, D-Sanger, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, having voiced her support. It is

designed to preserve farmworkers' right to time and a half overtime pay while enabling farmers to offer more work hours.

Facing rising production costs and low crop prices, farmers say they have lacked the profit margins in recent years they would need to pay overtime wages.

“If legislators genuinely want to increase take-home pay for farmworkers, growers are going to need support from Sacramento,” Natalie Collins, president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers, which co-sponsored SB 628, said in a statement.

According to the May 7th AgAlert, the tax credit aiming to offset overtime did not make it out of committee. The Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee rejected Senate Bill 628 in a 4-1 vote along party lines, with the Democratic majority opposing the measure. Farm advocates plan to continue pushing lawmakers to address the challenges created by California's agricultural overtime law, whether in the form of a tax credit or another solution.

“This is not over,” said Bryan Little, chief operating officer of Farm Employers Labor Service and senior director of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau. “We need to find a solution that's acceptable across a pretty broad spectrum of ideologies in the state, and so that's what we're going to continue working on.” 🌱

County Ag Commissioners Host Punjabi-Language Pesticide Training

Written by Matt Bozzo, Yuba County Ag/Weights & Measures Specialist



On February 19th, the Sutter and Yuba County Agricultural Commissioner offices hosted a Punjabi-Employee Pesticide Safety Training Seminar in Yuba City at the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner/UC Extension Conference Room.

The seminar was facilitated by Simar Bains, an Agriculture and Standard Biologist II, with the Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Simar presented the following pesticide safety points for the first hour to 40+ attendees:

1. The label is the law. Getting familiar with the label is key before handling pesticides.
2. The signal word of a pesticide is a preview of what you can expect of the label requirements and the toxicity of the product.
3. Locate the precautionary statement on the label, which lists the human hazard information, steps for first aid and appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn.
4. Storage and disposal of pesticide containers is an important step in assuring the safety of the pesticide handler and the public. Pesticides must be held in original containers when in storage with complete labels. No food or drink containers to be used for holding pesticides. Before disposing of pesticide containers assure that containers are triple rinsed with the lid and pesticide labels removed.
5. In the state of California, the minimal requirement for personal protective equipment (PPE) for all pesticide handlers includes a long sleeve shirt, long pants, protective eyewear and chemical resistant gloves.
6. The label may require more PPE outside of the CA minimum requirement. Before wearing PPE, It is important to provide for its daily inspection, cleaning, repairing or replacing any worn, damaged, or heavily contaminated items. Chemical resistant gloves, face shields, goggles, chemical resistant coveralls, eye protection with brow and side eye coverage and chemical resistant aprons are some of the items that a label may require handlers to wear.
7. Respiratory protection shall be worn when required by the label, Restricted Materials permit condition, or regulations. Employees who will be wearing respirators will first need a medical evaluation which determines the workers' ability to use a respirator before the fit testing can be done with the respirator.
8. Pesticide handler decontamination must be in order before any handling of pesticides. Water, soap, and single use towels are need at the decontamination site. There must be 3 gallons of water per employee or running water separate from the well that is being used to mix and load the pesticides.
9. Emergency Medical Care is required to be posted in a prominent place at the work site or work vehicle if there is no designated work site (Field). Name of the facility, address and phone number are the three items needed on the medical

posting. It is important to take the safety data sheet, product name, EPA number, and active ingredients of the pesticides being used when an injury occurs.

10. All laws and regulations pertaining to pesticides can be found on the Department of Pesticide Regulation website. County Agriculture Commissioners are also a great resource for pesticide handlers.

The next speaker, Amarjit Nijjar, an Agriculture Biologist with the San Joaquin Agriculture Commissioner's office spoke to attendees on **Airblast Sprayer Safety**. Below is a highlight of the points that Amarjit spoke on:

1. When applying with an Airblast sprayer, watch for sensitive sites. This includes schools, day cares, drain ditches, creeks, waterways, roads, and jogging paths.
2. When using an Airblast sprayer in an orchard, use a coarser spray tip, the droplets are heavier, which helps with less drift potential in the application. Finer droplets tend to have higher risk of drift and moving off-site.
3. **"Substantial drift"** means the quantity of pesticide outside of the area treated is greater than that which would have resulted had the applicator used due care.
4. Airblast sprayer drift could be minimized by paying attention to climate conditions, equipment maintenance, proper training and following the guidelines for Permit, DPR and Label. It's accurately said, Label is the law.
5. Significant drift can pose health risks to humans and animals, damage or contaminate sensitive crops, poison bees, contaminate soil and water in adjacent areas.
6. Pesticide/nutrient applications involving Airblast sprayer leads to >30% of incidents as noted during the DPR's Pesticide Illness Surveillance program data collected



between 2011-2020, which could be avoided if Permit, DPR and Label guidelines are followed.

7. A single incident has the potential to affect a large number of people and can result in thousands of dollars in fines or even closure of business, termination of the Permit.
8. Operator and/or applicator could be responsible parties for any incidents/violations during Airblast sprayer applications.
9. Use Technology to applicator's advantage to assist in more efficient and safe application. E.g. wind meter, side-view mirrors, deflector, speedometer, backstop, smart apply nozzle attachment.
10. Communication is Key. Improve communication between applicator, supervisor (certified applicator) and anyone nearby who could be

impacted. Communicate in advance. Adjust times of application considering the school start and end times, and field workers shift times.

To wrap up this safety meeting, Sarb Johl, who is a walnut, peach, and prune farmer in Yuba County, spoke to the attendees on local farm safety and on how important it is for the attendees when they are handling pesticides and on the farm in general around farm equipment. Mr. Johl emphasized the importance of their safety during farm work.

After the presentations, attendees enjoyed a full buffet lunch provided by Star of India, sponsored by the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and Pacific Coast Producers.

Thank you to all of the farmers in our Sutter and Yuba County area that sent employees to this seminar.

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our amazing presenters this day, Simar Bains, Amarjit Nijjar, and Sarb Johl, for the taking the time to present at this Punjabi Employee Pesticide Safety training seminar!! 🙏



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BEELER TRACTOR CO.

*In Collaboration with Casey Dihel, Beeler Tractor
Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator*

Beeler Tractor Co. has been a trusted name in farm equipment and service for over 60 years. What started in October 1961 as a small Ford and Dearborne dealership in Marysville – founded by a group of local investors, farmers, and Buck and Edith Beeler – has grown into a family run business with deep roots in the Yuba-Sutter area.

In 1966, the business expanded to its current Yuba City location on E. Onstott Road, where it has remained a staple in the agricultural community. In the 1990s, ownership transitioned to Dick Dihel and Doug Long, who expanded the company with additional stores in Colusa, Gridley, and Newcastle. In 2011, the Dihel family became the sole owners, continuing to grow Beeler Tractor's presence. Today, Beeler operates three locations across Northern California—in Yuba City, Colusa, and Anderson—each still managed by family and supported by a dedicated team of employees.

Beeler Tractor's customer-oriented approach is what sets them apart from other companies. While the business sells equipment, parts and service has always been their focus. They are committed to keeping their customers' equipment running for as long as possible so they don't have to replace it prematurely.

This commitment has built generations of loyalty. Over the years, multiple generations of local families have turned to Beeler for their equipment needs,



Beeler Tractor Co. Yuba City Location

Photo/Casey Dihel

proving that trust and good service never go out of style. In a time when many dealerships have become corporatized, Beeler remains a locally owned, family-run operation that understands the needs of the agricultural community it serves.

As agriculture has evolved, so has Beeler Tractor. Originally known for hay and forage equipment, the company pivoted as those operations phased out of the area. When the orchard industry bloomed, Beeler became the go-to dealer for orchard equipment. In the 1980s, Beeler partnered with Flory Industries, a partnership that still thrives today, making them the region's oldest Flory dealer. An exciting chapter is coming as Flory develops its first-ever tree shaker, which Beeler will soon offer, allowing them to provide a complete line

of orchard equipment for the first time.

Like many in agriculture, Beeler Tractor has experienced its share of challenges. When the nut industry faced economic downturns, the dealership felt it too. With fewer growers investing in new equipment and a shortage of skilled technicians, maintaining business was tough. But their commitment to community, adaptability, and long-standing relationships kept them moving forward.

For Beeler Tractor, supporting local events like Spring Fling and Farm Day is more than just good business, it's personal. "We all live here and giving back matters. My family's roots in this community go back to the 1940s," shares Casey Dihel. "What you guys do is important, so it's important for us to support it. And of course, it's good advertising, too."

Whether you need a hard-to-find part, advice on equipment, or a connection to another dealer, Beeler is ready to assist. Their willingness to collaborate with other brands and businesses ensures that customers are taken care of, no matter the circumstance.

Beeler Tractor Co. is a true example of how dedication to customers, family values, and community can build a lasting legacy in the agricultural world. 🌾



Grand Opening Ad 1967 Photo/Casey Dihel



We do our best work outside the office.

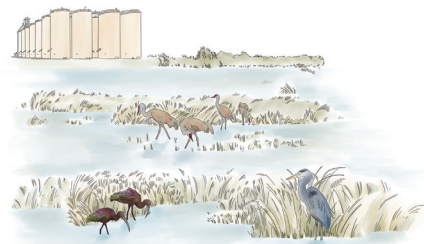
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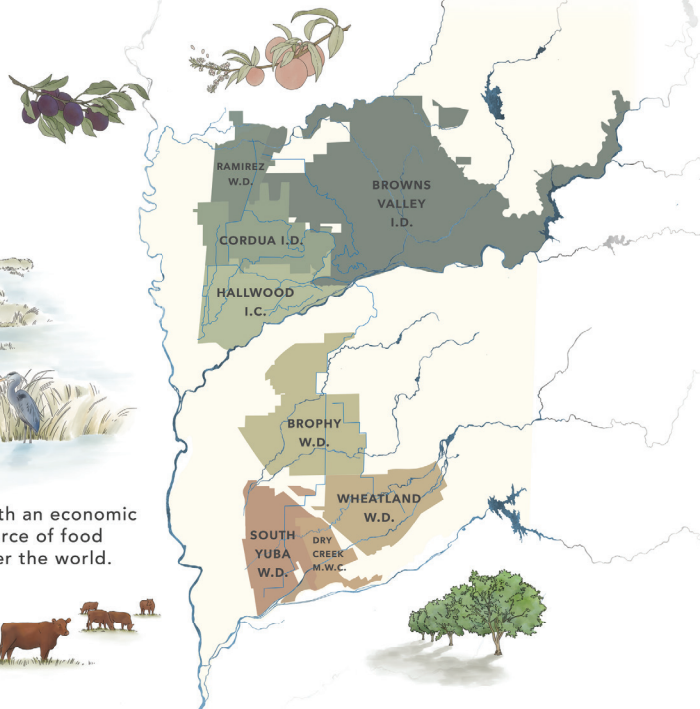
This water is then distributed to Yuba County farmers and ranchers who raise livestock and grow rice, peaches, plums, kiwi, walnuts, almonds and more.



Our Yuba County crops are both an economic driver for our region and a source of food served at kitchen tables all over the world.



Illustrations by Rowan Weir



Learn more at
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Young Farmers & Ranchers Sutter Butte Dusters Tour



Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

The Yuba-Sutter Young Farmers & Ranchers had the opportunity to tour Sutter Butte Dusters, now under the new ownership of Logan Taylor as of March. Logan guided the group through the entire operation, offering a hands-on look at the planes and how the business functions on a day-to-day basis. Members were able to climb into the aircraft, see where and how seed and other applicants are loaded, and learn about the different types of dispersal methods for both dry and liquid applications. The group also got to see the hoppers and elevator systems used to efficiently fill the planes before takeoff. The tour wrapped up with a BBQ, giving everyone a chance to relax, ask questions, and enjoy some great food and company. A big thank you to Logan and the Sutter Butte Dusters team for hosting an incredible and informative tour! If you're 18-35 and passionate about agriculture, join YF&R to connect, learn, and grow in the ag community. 🌱





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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

Gurpal Basi
(530) 682-4434

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

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

Red Maple Ranch
Yuba City, CA
(530) 218-7980
redmapleranchflowers@gmail.com

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

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) 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

Interwest Insurance Services, LLC

222 Court St., Woodland, CA
(530) 518-0410

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

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

Grower Direct Nut Company

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

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 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 Branch 1032(3)

390 W Kentucky Ave., Woodland, CA
(531) 320-3261

REAL ESTATE

Coldwell Banker Commercial

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

Edwards, Lien & Toso

Randy Edwards
(209) 634-9484
randaedwards19@hotmail.com

Farm & Ranch Realty

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

SERVICES - OTHER

Country Butcher

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

Joel Giusti

Yuba City, CA
(530) 237-6951

MPV Safety Professionals LLC

201 East St., Woodland, CA
(530)848-0998

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

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

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

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) 682-1182 (Direct
(530) 415-0504 (Text/Data)

UTILITIES

Calpine

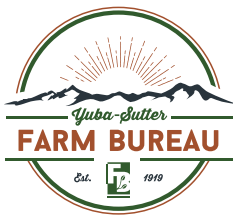
5029 S. Township Rd., Yuba City, CA
(530) 821-2072

Chico Electric

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

Meridian Farms Water Co.

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



**YUBA-SUTTER
FARM BUREAU**

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Yuba City, CA 95991

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Almond Board of California Board of Director Elections



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and have not received a ballot?

Ask your handler to contact the
elections team at
ABCBODElections@almondboard.com
to have a ballot mailed to you before
May 16.

You can also pick up a ballot from
the ABC offices.

For additional information, go to
Almonds.com/Elections, or email your questions
to ABCBODElections@almondboard.com.

BALLOTS DUE: MAY 22, 2025

