

FARM FOCUS

Keeping Farmers Growing

Why Membership Matters



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In this day and age of constant media tweets and posts, we may be over informed and misunderstood. The issue of fake news has taken the spotlight making the avalanche of daily information that much harder to understand and comprehend.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we stick together for the greater good. We often get bogged down in the rut of daily routine and miss the opportunities of the pathway to solutions through managed opportunities.

While it seems like every business sector has an organization to shepherd its cause through regulatory and political woes, Monterey County Farm Bureau can lay claim to being one of the most experienced of these organizations. Now in 2017, Monterey County Farm Bureau has achieved 100 years of serving Monterey County farmers and ranchers as the voice of local Agriculture.

We earned our reputation for always being there for farmers and ranchers through the many decades of legislative layers of rules and regulations. Indeed, California is by far the most heavily regulated state for agricultural

practices and each year brings hundreds of new rules and compliance requirements.

That's why Farm Bureau matters now more than ever. We're there for you so that you can work your fields and graze your ranchlands.

We're there for you... on Water Quality

Adopted in March 2012, the Irrigated Lands Discharge Order (Ag Waiver) requires compliance on numerous water quality objectives for both small and large farms. Farm Bureau participates in the development of the next Ag Waiver, while supporting both the cooperative surface and groundwater monitoring programs and research into technology that will quantify the benefits of on-farm practices. Farm Bureau continues to work on a statewide solution for nitrates

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Why Membership Matters (cont. from pg 1)

in groundwater that does not include specific, numerical nitrogen application limitations by crop or acreage. Farm Bureau is actively involved in providing input into how water quality objectives can be met through real world solutions.

We're there for you... on Water Rights

Working in cooperation with a broad group of stakeholders, Farm Bureau is protecting Salinas Valley Water Rights against the possible appropriation by the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. Farm Bureau is a party to the California Public Utilities Commission hearings for approval of this project; the return water flow settlement negotiated with California American Water in 2016 protects the Salinas groundwater basin from harm and provides multiple benefits for the coastal zone. Farm Bureau has gained many new stakeholder friends through this process, providing scope to the water rights issues.

We're there for you... on Water Use

The Groundwater Sustainability Management Act (SGMA) will impact our local groundwater sub-basins and how overdrafts are managed. Monterey County Farm Bureau is active in the formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for our County, working with other stakeholders to secure four Ag seats on this new agency's Board of Directors. Farm Bureau ensures you have a voice by being at the table for these important resource challenges.

We're there for you... on New County Ordinances

Through participation in meetings with County Environmental Health and Resource Management Departments, development of a well ordinance has been reconsidered so that it will apply the General Plan policies fairly and evenly. Farm Bureau participated at the Ag



Advisory Committee in developing policies for future Ag well drillings. Support for on-site energy generation has been included for Ag operations; revisions to the Right to Farm ordinance and the local Williamson Act have been approved; and, support for the continued development of the winery corridor is evidenced through language in the General Plan update. Farm Bureau monitors all these issues to ensure farming is protected.

We're there for you... on Air Quality Regulations

Farm Bureau has provided tours and access to local farmers for CA Air Resources Board staff, aiming to provide better understanding of what takes place on the farms and ranches of Monterey County. As new regulations were developed for farm tractors and other field implements, Farm Bureau was successful in negotiating a workable position that provides for extended deadlines for replacement off-road equipment for all farms in the Salinas Valley.

We're there for you... on Labor and Immigration

As the movement to reform our immigration laws meanders in Washington, D.C., Monterey County Farm Bureau continues to participate in a coalition of national organizations aimed at passing meaningful, comprehensive reforms that include a temporary Ag worker program for CA specialty crops (without a housing requirement). We continue to press for an administrative pathway for those workers already within our borders to obtain documentation to work here legally and cross borders safely so they can travel to their native homes.

We're there for you... on Crop Protection Tools

As part of the coalition that worked on fumigants locally, we remain committed to the continued safe use of crop protection tools that sustain our yields, control exotic pests as they are detected, and maintain a healthy environment for crops to be planted in. On-going dialogue with community health and education

organizations highlight the safe use of crop protection tools when in proximity to our schools. Farm Bureau continues to work to protect the tools necessary for production.

We're there for you... on Inheritance Taxes

Farm Bureau was instrumental in securing extensions of the inheritance tax exemption levels, as well as a modified tax rate; work continues to ensure that the family farm can stay in the family for future generations by the elimination of all estate taxes.

There are many reasons to be a Farm Bureau member, but the most important is that farmers and ranchers should stick together in one unified voice for the future of crop production in Monterey County. We know you need to focus on your farms and ranches each day, so we're there for you!

Thank you for your continued support as we meet the many challenges of being a farmer and rancher in today's highly-charged political environment.



California's climate fight could be painful — especially on job and income growth

Written by Ralph Vartabedian for the Los Angeles Times

Californians are likely to pay more for gasoline, electricity, food and new homes — and to feel their lives jolted in myriad other ways — because their state broadly expanded its war on climate change this [past] summer.

The ambitious new goals will require complex regulations on an unprecedented scale, but were approved in Sacramento without a study of possible economic repercussions.

Some of the nation's top energy, housing and business experts say the effort may not only raise the cost of staples, but also slow the pace of job and income growth for millions of California families.

And now that Donald Trump, who has dismissed climate change, is [residing in] the White House, Californians may find themselves making sacrifices while the residents of other states are missing in action.

Two key laws this [past] summer kicked California's climate change fight into high gear.

Senate Bill 32 requires the state to cut greenhouse gases 40% below their level of 1990 — based on evidence that a global reduction at that level would limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius above the temperature levels of a few decades ago.

Senate Bill 1383 requires similar reductions in methane, refrigeration gases and black carbon.

Before signing SB 32, Gov. Jerry Brown said he didn't expect problems.

"California is doing something no other state has done," he said. "We

are bringing into law real measures backed up by the real power of the state of California. It will take some balance that we don't overdo it, but I am not afraid we are going to get to that point."

But nobody really knows what's in store for the state.

The Legislature relied on years of sophisticated computer modeling to understand how staying the course on the use of fossil fuels will disrupt Earth's climate. No one, however, can point to detailed economic study of how the new goals will affect the world's sixth-largest economy.

A preliminary analysis just released by the California Air Resources Board, which has sole authority to impose the new rules, projects a potential reduction of 25,000 to 102,000 jobs and the loss of \$7

billion to \$14 billion in gross state economic output. The board said those impacts are small relative to the state's economy.

Other experts, however, note that too little is known to make solid predictions, while industry groups project severe consequences.

Although California set a goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 40% below 1990 levels, for example, the state did not collect greenhouse gas data before 1990. So no one can say how far back in its history as a state with cars and industry California will have to go to hit that emission level.

That benchmark could, however, require the state to emit no more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases than it did as far back as the 1960s, based on national data that do not take into account



California's faster growth and more energy-efficient economy.

"It is dubious as to whether the California goal will be achieved without large economic costs," said James Sweeney, director of Stanford University's Precourt Energy Efficiency Center.

He added that the enhanced climate change fight will likely lead to a less diversified and more fragile state economy. "Meeting the requirement will require severe restrictions, far beyond those seen to date."

Exactly what restrictions are not clear, because the rules have yet to be adopted.

But Sweeney's analysis shows that the reduction in greenhouse gases will need to be eight times faster than the state has accomplished under the first climate change effort that started in 2006 — and the rate of reduction is twice as fast as what U.S. agreed to under the Paris climate agreement.

California is already digging deep into state resources for the climate battle. It spends about \$2 billion on energy efficiency and renewable-energy programs, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. And its regulatory trading systems redistribute several billion dollars a year. In total, the state allocates more on the climate battle than on state support for the University of California system.

Mary Nichols, the longtime chairwoman of the air board, acknowledges that the scale and breadth of the ramped-up regulatory effort to curtail greenhouse gases surpasses past programs.

"It is the biggest thing we have done yet in sheer volume," she said.

"It requires a level of coordination between different agencies that we haven't seen before."

Nichols added that every past era of environmental regulation prompted similar concerns of economic Armageddon, which proved to be unfounded.

"Individual industry sectors always overestimate the costs and underestimate the benefits and assume that you will implement it in the dumbest possible way," she said.

It actually doesn't much matter to the climate whether California hits its goal of cutting emissions by 40%, because the state accounts for only 1% of worldwide emissions, said Severin Borenstein, a UC Berkeley business professor and expert on renewable energy. "More important is the technology and practices that can be exported to the rest of the world."

Environmentalists are quick to point out that if Earth's weather patterns continue to go haywire, it won't just be California's economy that comes unglued.

"Risky is what's happening to the climate," said environmentalist and author Bill McKibben. "Everything else is just a challenge, which once upon a time Americans were good at stepping up to."

Critics, however, say that consigning Californians' economic well-being to untested regulatory systems is reckless, and the hit on wallets has already begun.

Gasoline prices, for example, are headed up under several very complex regulatory systems, including the state's low-carbon fuel standard and the cap-and-trade auction market.

"And electricity prices will likely go up. At least half of California's electricity must come from renewable sources by 2030, and though solar panel costs have dropped sharply and are subsidized by a 30% federal tax credit, existing long-term contracts already signed by utilities will likely continue to drive up the price of electricity," Borenstein said.

The state's shift to natural gas for 60% of its in-state electricity generation could also lead to higher electricity prices. Gas prices have spiked 115% since March [2016], though the impact has not yet filtered down to consumers.

When gasoline or electricity prices go up, people tend to use less. Manufacturers, however, may leave the state.

"Over the long term, manufacturers will be choosing to put their money elsewhere," said Dorothy Rothrock, president of the California Manufacturing and Technology Assn. In 2000, California accounted for 5.6% of U.S. manufacturing investment. Today, it accounts for 1.8%, she said. A study by NERA, an economics research firm working for the manufacturers association, asserted that the climate goal could cost California households an average of \$3,000 annually.

The California Energy Commission and the Public Utilities Commission have their own extensive regulatory programs to reduce energy consumption, and the climate change legislation will give them more legal backbone.

The Energy Commission, for example, has a goal that by 2020 all new homes will have to meet a net zero energy mandate, meaning solar roofs will have to supply all the home's power while large amounts

of insulation lower energy demand. Other rules apply later to government and commercial buildings.

"It means buildings will be part of the solution," said energy commissioner David Hochschild.

But Dave Cogdill, president of the California Building Industry Assn., said the goal will add \$45,000 to the average cost of a 2,500-square-foot home in California. The higher cost is likely to lead to fewer new homes, exacerbating the state's housing and employment problems.

And a slowdown in construction could potentially reducing gross state product by \$7.5 billion and employment by 75,000 jobs, said Brad Williams, an economist at Capitol Matrix Consulting who studied the legislation for the building association.

An analysis by Jeff Greenblatt, a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory expert on energy efficiency, projects that significant improvements of existing buildings will be necessary, but on a scale 30 times faster than the current rate of improvement.

"It would be a huge lift. You could incentivize it, but I don't know how you would pay for it," he said.

The effects of the new rules on California agribusiness could be even more significant.

"We are not saying we shouldn't do anything for the climate," said Roger Isom, president of the California Cotton Growers and Ginners Assn. "But it would be great if somebody was on the playing field with us. Not once did anybody ask how we could do this."

Isom said the cotton industry is already in free fall.

Dairies are also bracing for a difficult future, said Anja Raudabaugh, executive director of the Western Dairywomen's Assn. Just this year, 53 dairies have gone bankrupt, left the state or simply closed their doors, a trend likely to accelerate, she said.

"There is no way we can manage the reductions they want," she said.

Dairy herds produce roughly 10 million metric tons of the greenhouse gas methane each year, a consequence of cow flatulence, burping and manure.

Under SB 1383, that has to change.

At a heated meeting in June, dairy officials pleaded with the Air Resources Board that they already

"We are at the point where we have to ask does agriculture fit into California's future."

Ryan Jacobsen, executive director of the Fresno Farm Bureau

reduced methane emissions. Air board scientist Ryan McCarthy suggested that new technology could help, and the discussion turned to an experimental system from Argentina that would capture gas in a backpack on each cow through a hose inserted into their digestive system.

"All of our jaws hit the floor," recalled Raudabaugh. "It is an outlandish scheme."

Many other agriculture sectors will be facing new challenges that will drive up costs, according to Daniel A. Sumner, a UC Davis professor and director of the University of California Agricultural Issues Center. "Agriculture will be smaller along with the rest of the economy," he said.

"We are at the point where we have to ask does agriculture fit into California's future," said Ryan Jacobsen, executive director of the Fresno Farm Bureau. "We can't take anything that happened this year and say this Legislature and this governor want the agriculture industry here."

And as the economy changes, so will people's lives.

State law, for example, requires development of denser urban communities, where residents will drive less.

"People need to stop driving around and stop buying throw-away merchandise," said Greenblatt, the Lawrence Berkeley scientist.

That goal may prove tough, given that Californians drove more than ever this summer, up 6% from last year.

A 20% reduction in travel miles, currently about 190 billion annually, could be needed by 2030 to meet the state's climate goals, according to estimates by the Air Resources Board. The agency says the public can walk, bike, ride share and use transit.

"It is not draconian," McCarthy said.

Many, in fact, say that the changes California's climate goals will spur are long overdue and will make Californians' lives better.

Californians, said Nichols of the Air Resources Board, could have had cleaner air, more walkable, bikeable cities, and a head start on a vibrant green economy years ago.

What impeded that, she said, is that "the entrenched power of the status quo wouldn't let go."

The Air Resources Board is in the early stages of formulating new regulations and reinforcing existing

ones to achieve massively reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The agency released a draft of its ideas in early December, representing the largest and most comprehensive regulatory effort in state history. Here are some of the possible approaches:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions at refineries by 20%.
- Electrify boilers.
- Increase renewable electricity by more than the existing 50% statewide requirement.
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions at oil and gas fields by at least 25%.
- Work with ports to develop “super-low emission efficient ships.”
- Increase use of low-emission diesel fuels.
- Reduce the amount of driving across the state.
- Use fertilizers with lower nitrogen content.
- Cut organic waste going into landfills by 75%; Increase landfill fees.
- Improve freight transportation efficiency by 25% by 2030.
- Deploy more than 100,000 zero-emission freight vehicles by 2030.
- Have 4.3 million zero-emission vehicles operating by 2030.
- Develop zero-emission rail vehicles.
- Alter environmental rules to increase density in residential neighborhoods.
- Accelerate replacement of residential gas furnaces.
- Increase the large-scale storage of electricity.
- Develop new pipeline systems to transport renewable natural gas from farms and landfills to urban users.

- Modify the cap-and-trade auction system so that it covers the entire energy sector.
- Implement rules to require state pension funds to sell holdings in coal producing companies.

- Modify streets for more bicycle and foot travel.

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MCFB President's Message

Written by Colby Pereira

"Farming is Big Business". A popular tag line used all too often these days by people who don't understand farming, or even business for that matter. Buzz word or not, those four simple words grab people's attention and carry readers through a tale of falsehoods and misrepresentations of what farming business truly is.

All too often, several times a day, articles come across my social media accounts characterizing farmers as water hogging, resource wasting, fertilizer contaminating, pesticide spraying, work force cruelists. Now, I don't know about you...but I take offense to the fact that none of those assessments even come close to the truth or adequately represent our agricultural industry one bit. But how is it that our industry, an industry that prides itself on producing high quality, nutritious food to feed the world, utilizing resources in the most sustainable way we know has gotten that bad rep?

I'd like to tell you a story of this so-called big business. Anthony Costa was born in Wakefield, MA...the oldest child of eight moved to Los Banos, CA alone at the age of ten to lessen the burden on his family.

Eventually ending up in Soledad with a lease for 156 acres, Tony tried his hand at farming in 1956. The years had challenges; poor markets, low yields, labor shortage, drought... many of the same issues that we work through currently. But just like today, when faced with a problem, farmers find a solution. Crop diversity, nutrient management, pest control programs, vertical integration, water use monitoring and relationship building amongst employees naturally become by-products. Positive progression when faced with adversity is how a farmer continues to do business here, that's how one finds a way to be successful. Sixty-one years later, Anthony Costa's legacy still lives on. That original 156 acre leased has grown into several thousand acres farmed in the Salinas Valley.

Big Business you ask, NO, just a family now three generations deep priding itself on producing high quality, nutritious food to feed the world utilizing resources in the most sustainable way we know. Like so many other family farms in this valley that have experienced growth, we do it as a family - Anthony's children, grand-children and wonderful



employees that have become family over the years. Farming is NOT Big Business! However, Farming is Business – business that requires BIG and thoughtful minds, BIG appreciation for the gifts of land, water and sunshine we've been given to produce our crops with and a BIG love for what we do. At the end of the day, it's hard to read stories of agriculture painted in a poor light...but we grow food and that is something to always be proud of.

So who do we want writing our story? I think it best it come from us! I look at our Farm Bureau membership and know that we all have similar stories to share. Stories of how our companies got their start and survived the ups and downs of farming, stories of the practices we implement on the farm to be the best stewards of the land, stories of the bonds we've formed with neighbors and fellow agriculturalists, stories of our relationships with fellow employees and how we grow to become "work families." Those are the stories we need to make an effort to express. Let's create some tag lines for ourselves, buzz words to engage our local community with, buzz words to start dialogue with legislators and buzz words to educate everyone about our farming business. I do think readers want this message, it's ours to share!



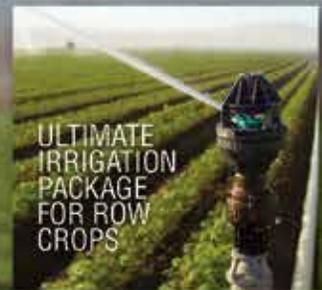
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Congressman Panetta's Agriculture Priorities: Opportunity and Access

I grew up on a small walnut ranch in a home built by my Italian immigrant grandparents in Carmel Valley, California. It is a modest piece of land with a very small harvest. It is, however, where I obtained an appreciation of the work necessary to nurture crops and a connection with the land and our country's values.

Growing up, I did not fully comprehend what that ranch meant to my grandparents. However, I learned that that slice of land on the central coast of California gave them the chance to give their children and grandchildren a better life. That is why I firmly believe that in America, no matter where you are from or how you got here, people can achieve the American Dream, given the opportunity to work hard.

My family instilled in me the importance of hard work as well as the obligation to always give back to the community and country that gave me so much. That is why I served as a prosecutor, an officer in the U.S. Navy, and, now, as a member of the U.S. Congress I am honored to represent my home the Central Coast.

My district is one of the most bountiful in the nation and aptly called "the Salad Bowl of the World". The growers, shippers, and farm workers of the Central Coast give back to our community in their own way by providing our nation with some of the most nutritious food in the world. That is a great responsibility, but it also provides an even greater opportunity for our community. There are economic

opportunities for farm workers and their families, research topics for scientists, educational experiences for children, nutritious options for consumers, and a chance for growers on the Central Coast to become leaders in agricultural innovation and sustainability. The federal government should encourage those opportunities by continuing to demonstrate its commitment to the agriculture industry.

Agriculture research must be a priority in the federal budget. In the Salinas Valley, we are fortunate to have a USDA funded research station. Scientists and students at the facility focus on improving specialty crop varieties, advancing environmentally-conscious pest management tools, furthering organic agriculture production, and ensuring food safety. As the Representative of the Salinas Valley, and as a member of the Agriculture Committee's Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research subcommittee, I will push to provide the funding necessary for scientific advances so that our growers, shippers, and farm workers have the most efficient, economically, and environmentally sound tools available.

We also must encourage and support technology and agriculture industries working together to create sustainable agriculture practices. Just north of the Salinas Valley is Silicon Valley, our nation's hub of innovative technology. We must continue to build bridges between the two valleys with collaborative efforts aimed at developing technology



to solve some of agriculture's greatest challenges, including the implementation of sustainable water-use practices and contending with a shrinking and aging labor force. In my district, there are several organizations that already are working to cultivate productive relationships between our agriculture industry and technology firms. Those types of partnerships between Salinas Valley and Silicon Valley and their potential for research and development will be critical to the future of our economy and community.

At the same time that we develop our ag-tech, we need to work on and pass bipartisan immigration reform, including the expansion and simplification of the H-2A visa process. Most of the fresh fruit and vegetable growers rely on a skilled workforce to pick their crops in a timely manner and to ensure that the produce is fresh and aesthetically pleasing to the consumer. Unfortunately, our government has failed to pass any type of immigration reform since 1986 and our labor force is suffering. Farmworkers are thinking twice about coming to our country in order to have opportunities due to the anti-immigrant actions and rhetoric of the current administration. Growers are not

able to source the labor they need to harvest crops, leaving highly perishable produce rotting in the field. The federal government's inaction on immigration reform threatens the economic viability of the agriculture operations and production in all of our communities.

Finally, we need to make sure that the nutritious food produced by our agriculture industry is accessible, particularly for our society's most vulnerable, such as children, seniors, and those living on fixed incomes. I support programs and partnerships aimed at integrating healthy products into federal nutrition programs, as well as those that seek to connect consumers with local and regional produce. On the Central Coast, many farmer

organizations donated over one hundred salad bars to our local schools. That type of access and exposure to our produce has allowed and influenced our children and even their parents, many who work in the agriculture industry, to eat healthier. Moreover, there is the California Thursdays Initiative, which is a partnership between the Center for Ecoliteracy and a network of California public schools so that they have nutritious meals from locally-sourced ingredients every Thursday. Working to incorporate nutritious products into our local schools provides producers with more options for direct marketing and benefits the health of our children and, ultimately, our community.

I am honored to advocate for California's central coast in

Congress, especially for the growers, farmworkers, and consumers that support our agriculture. When we provide our agricultural industry with the appropriate political and financial investment in research, technology, and a workforce, it not only helps farmers, it helps the health of our communities and country and provides that opportunity for the American Dream.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta represents California's 20th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture's Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research and Nutrition Subcommittees. If you would like to contact Congressman Panetta's office, please call 831-424-2229 or visit <https://panetta.house.gov/>



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Avoiding Workplace Slips, Trips and Falls

The majority of workplace accidents – and 15% of accidental deaths – are caused by slips, trips and falls, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Yet, they are some of the most preventable workplace accidents.

Conduct a walk-through of your entire operation looking for hazards, such as wet or greasy floors, loose mats, torn carpeting, uneven floors, cables or wires, clutter and bad lighting. Identify these areas with warning signs and promptly eliminate hazards. Document safety assessments, maintenance work and incident reports.

How to help prevent slips, trips and falls:

- Keep walkways and stairways well-lit and free of debris and clutter. Secure stairway handrails and apply nonskid surfaces or abrasive strips to steps. Clearly identify steps, ramps and other elevation changes.
- Fix uneven surfaces by recoating or leveling the floor, if possible. Detour traffic until repaired. Illuminate or otherwise identify areas that can't easily be leveled.
- Install slip-resistant flooring, such as mats with textured surfaces or rubber backing, around entryways and other areas prone to wet conditions. Encourage use of slip-resistant footwear in these areas.
- Instruct employees to clean up spills immediately. Clean floors

with products approved for the floor type. If floors are greasy, use a grease-cutting solution. Use “wet floor” signs until the floor is dry. Portable fans can help speed up the drying process.

- Maintain outdoor areas, including sidewalks and parking lots. Adjust downspouts to direct water away from walkways as rain and mud can create hazards. Fill any potholes. Paint tire stops and curbs “traffic yellow” for visibility.
- Routinely inspect interior and exterior lighting for proper illumination. Test emergency lighting monthly.
- Train employees in slip, trip and fall safety. Encourage them to assess safety every day. Establish guidelines for reporting issues and responding to customer injuries or hazardous situations. Acknowledge improvements and success.
- Instruct truck drivers to always use the three-point stance while entering and exiting their cabs, keeping both hands on the vehicle for support as they raise or lower one leg at a time.

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To learn more about Nationwide farm insurance and other commercial coverages: Nationwide.com/agribusiness. To find a local Nationwide agent: FarmAgentFinder.com. Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, OH, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S.

SAVE THE DATES!

Bill Barker Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 24th

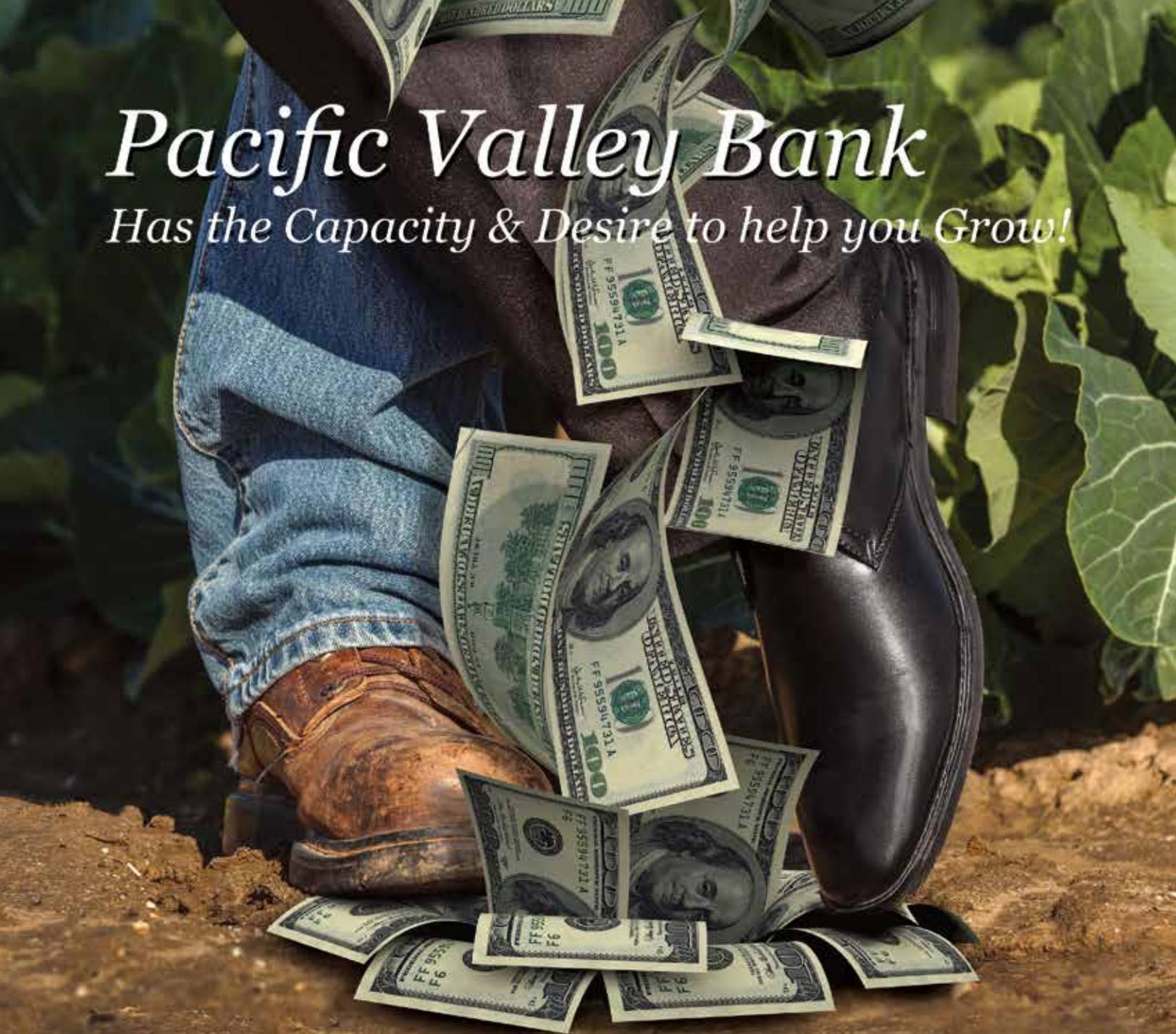
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Monterey County Farm Bureau Celebrates Its Centennial in 2017!

The earliest organization of the County Farm Bureau was started in 1915 by the University of California, College of Agriculture, in Berkeley, destined to be an organization of farmers and ranchers who joined to promote agriculture and the cooperative study of farm conditions. The Farm Bureau movement was designed to provide an educational forum through Farm Centers, which were the satellite community units of the County Farm Bureau, maintained for the County Farm Advisors. The process of organization clearly started in University of California Circular 133, dated July 1915, stating that no Farm Advisor would be placed in the County until a County Farm Bureau was organized, with Farm Centers geographically located within the County. Also, one-fifth of all the farmers and ranchers in the County must be members, paying dues of one dollar per year.

During the fall of 1917 and into early 1918, the official organization of

the Monterey County Farm Bureau was completed with the election of O.P. Bardin as the first President. Records reflect that a membership drive increased the Farm Bureau

In 1959, Monterey County Farm Bureau purchased its own building on Abbott Street in Salinas; this building was later demolished through eminent domain for an urban renewal development



membership to above 600, over half of the farmers and ranchers in the County at the time. The first Farm Bureau office was provided by the Salinas City Council in City Hall.

Over the earlier decades Monterey County Farm Bureau occupied numerous temporary offices, finally centralizing operations at an office on Lincoln Avenue in Salinas in the 1940s, adjacent to the Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank offices, and then moving to the Valley Center Park Row area for larger space.

sponsored by the City. An office building on Airport Boulevard was then purchased 1964, complete with a large meeting room and a more central location within the developing agricultural processing district in South Salinas. In early 1978, Monterey County Farm Bureau contracted to have an office building constructed in the new Harkins Business Park being developed along Blanco Road; the business park created an agricultural service area creating a one-stop area for local farmers and ranchers. In mid-2015, the present office building location was purchased on Abbott Street, in the heart of the agricultural processing district of south Salinas.

Monterey County Farm Bureau incorporated as a non-profit organization in January, 1945.

Throughout its history, Monterey County Farm Bureau has maintained a lasting relationship with Ag Extension, with many years of cooperative efforts to improve the largest economic driver of the County. Successful relationships with other local agricultural organizations, as well as other non-profits, local elected officials and community activists have kept Farm Bureau as one of the most important organizations of our County.

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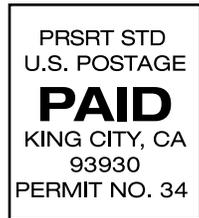


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