May 3rd the Tulare County Farm Bureau will host the annual meeting of members, with a banquet and awards program to celebrate the achievements of our leaders, members, and friends throughout the agriculture community.

The 99th annual meeting will be held at the Heritage Complex at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. Amongst the honorees this year will be, brothers Larry, Terry, and Craig Peltzer receiving the prestigious Agriculturals of the Year honor; Ron Paregien receiving the Service to Farm Bureau organization award; Friend of Farm Bureau will be bestowed upon retiring general manager of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, Dale Brogan; Agribusiness of the Year will be awarded to Nielsen and Associates Insurance; special recognition to retired Southern California Edison employees, Bill DeLain and Cynthia Bravo; and finally we will honor and thank Dr. Robert Flores at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo as an outstanding educator for his service to the Youth Leadership program.

In addition we will graduate the 31st class of Youth Leaders, and select an outstanding participant from the program to receive a $1,000 scholarship after graduation. TCFB Scholarship fund awards will be presented to deserving local students. Officer and Board of Director elections will be announced, and a new president will be elected to serve for 2016-2017.

Business support members may also inquire about decorating a table at this year’s event. Please make sure to contact Farm Bureau to request more information about decorating. Letters will be sent to local business members in April.

Tickets are $45 this year for the New York Steak and chicken dinner, and can be bought from the TCFB office, please call 732-8301 to make your reservations before April 29.

May 3, 2016
6:00 PM Social – 7:00 PM Dinner
INTERNATIONAL AGRI-CENTER
4500 S. LAPSPINA ST., TULARE
RSVPs DUE BY APRIL 29
$45

FREE HEAT ILLNESS SAFETY TRAINING

Heat Illness can be deadly. Tulare County Farm Bureau and State Compensation Insurance Fund have partnered to offer seminars that will help employers prevent injuries, lost business, and costly fines by understanding and maintaining an effective heat safety awareness program. This event is free to attend and is offered in both English and Spanish.

Lunch will be provided 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Must provide advance RSVP to be included in lunch.

Join us Wednesday, April 6, 2016
10:30 a.m. (Spanish) 1:30 p.m. (English)

Tulare County Farm Bureau
737 N. Ben Maddox Way Visalia, CA 93292

To register, contact Tulare County Farm Bureau at (559) 732-8301

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES HONORING THIS YEAR’S:

AGRICULTURALISTS OF THE YEAR
LARRY, TERRY, AND CRAIG PELTZER

SERVICE TO FARM BUREAU
RON PAREGIEN

FRIEND OF FARM BUREAU
DALE BROGAN

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
CYNTHIA BRAVO
BILL DELAIN

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
NIELSEN AND ASSOCIATES INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
DR. ROBERT FLORES
CAL POLY, SLO

BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

Paid advertisements placed in the TCFB NEWS reflect the views of the advertiser, and not of the Tulare County Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau does not endorse candidates, and the advertisements in this newspaper are not a position of support for any candidate.
They say time flies when you’re having fun... well my two year term as president of TCFB will come to an end on May 3rd at the Annual Meeting. I can truly say it’s been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. It’s been a great experience that has given me a lot of insight into the enormous role that Farm Bureau plays in our county. I’m sure like all of my predecessors, as you work your way through the executive ladder when you experience the presidency you really become appreciative of all the things that TCFB does for agriculture.

TCFB has been active at the forefront of many issues that are impacting our members and I truly believe it is only the true organization in Tulare County that gets its arms around all the commodities. Issues like land use and AG education are some of our strong points. Water will continue to be at the top of our list of things we will continue to work on for all of our members in the near future and probably forever or at least until we get better leadership in Sacramento who has a lot more appreciation and knowledge of the role Tulare County and the south valley in general play in food production.

An interesting fact surfaced at a recent meeting of the south valley Farm Bureau presidents, the six south valley counties produce over 60% of the agriculture revenue in the state. Something that I personally have known for a long time that Tulare County has been the number one agriculture county not only in California but the USA. So we can easily handle the forty plus million people in the state and I agree also that technology will play a part but when you use a fish as an excuse to let people run out of water I’m sorry there’s something wrong with that picture.

Recently I heard a statement that said the train was a 50 year vision but I agree and I need that we have vision but what happened to our water infrastructure vision? The forefathers who recognized that developing a water system in the state and Central Valley would make CA the number one agriculture state but more importantly spread water across one of the most fertile areas on the planet now – we’re going to put a train right down the middle of beautiful farm ground. It makes no sense. Farm Bureau spends a lot of time protecting agriculture property for food production and we will continue that fight for their own good.

In closing, people can make a difference and Farm Bureau has some of the best. I believe it takes passion in what you do to be great, our executive director has that. Tricia is a true leader in our county who has dedicated her life to agriculture advocacy and it has truly been a pleasure to serve her and her staff the last two years.

I also want to thank the board for their dedication and commitment and all who served as committee members, they play a key role in our ability to educate and have input on each and every issue that comes down the pike. And last the membership committee members and especially Matt Watkins, I’ve always said this is the committee that gives any organization the ability to perform. There are many businesses who provide our members with the support they need to run their businesses in the county - you play a vital role in Tulare County being number one. We are a team here and we thank you for your recognition and support of Farm Bureau. Working together to build a louder voice has been my theme and hopefully we can continue down that path.

In closing I would say again it’s been an honor and privilege to serve you as your president! God Bless, JA

President's Notes
by Joey Airosa, President

President's Notes
by Joey Airosa, President

President's Notes
by Joey Airosa, President

It's Been an Honor To Serve You

By Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

By Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

By Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

County Still Tackling ACEP and Groundwater Policy Considerations

Executive Comments
by Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

Executive Comments
by Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

Executive Comments
by Patricia Stever Blattler, Executive Director

As we begin April, the County of Tulare has a couple key topics being monitored that farmers may wish to pay attention to. Farm Bureau has been closely monitoring the advancement of an Ag Conservation Easement program draft that has been before the Board of Supervisors and referred back to the Ag Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) for review.

At a special meeting held with APAC on March 4th, the committee advanced an entirely new ground water policy that was revised with changes to the Conservation Program format and structure. The Sierra Club had reached a stipulated agreement with the County in 2015, which required the County to enact a conservation easement program for farmland protection. The first draft submitted by the County was fraught with concerns and APAC requested time to review and study it further. The next dialogue about the conservation easement program will be a joint workshop held between APAC and the County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 5 at 1:30 pm at the Board’s Chambers at 2800 W. Burrel in Tulare. The public is welcome to attend.

Also on the County’s radar has been revision of the County’s Well Construction Ordinance, which would specifically update language and provisions of the ordinance dealing with construction and permitting of wells. These revisions are being developed through the Environmental Health Department of the County, and are back before the APAC at their April 20 meeting for review and input.

A separate but similar discussion has been occurring within the County Board of Supervisors contemplating some form of interim ordinance on groundwater management, as a pre-cursor to the full enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act laws that will take effect in 2020. If the County were to adopt an interim groundwater ordinance it could restrict the amount of permits allowed for well construction, and/or could also limit groundwater pumping for individual farms and ranches in the County. This was controversial amongst Commissioners and more time was requested at the March 14 Water Commission meeting to study recommendations before advancing their own recommendations.

These topics are all significant to the local agriculture community and Farm Bureau will remain actively engaged in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the farms and ranches in Tulare County. For updates on any of these topics, please reach out to me by phone or email.
Friant Water Authority’s Chief Executive Officer Jason Phillips reported on March 18th that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is providing the Friant Division its first water allocation from the San Joaquin River since 2013. “We are very pleased to know that we will be receiving surface water from Millerton Lake this year, our first water allocation since 2013,” said Phillips. “Friant Water Authority staff have worked tirelessly with other Friant Division representatives and Reclamation to make this initial allocation a reality. Continuing this close collaboration and partnership with Reclamation now and in the future will result in better outcomes for the Friant Division. We look forward to seeing water flowing in the Friant-Kern Canal once again.”

This initial allocation is for 240,000 acre-feet of Class 1 water and an additional 100,000 acre-feet of water that must be evacuated from Millerton Lake in the near term to avert flood control concerns. A subsequent allocation is expected from Millerton Lake this year, our first water allocation since 2013, if no more severe drought conditions are encountered.

Severe drought has had a strangle-hold on California since 2012. While the impacts of the drought have been felt almost everywhere in California, it has been especially painful in the Friant Division. “Much of the Friant Division is planted in permanent crops,” Phillips observed. “Many orchards were leveled due to lack of sufficient water in 2014 and 2015 when there was no allocation of surface water. In addition, when irrigation water is applied to crops, underground aquifers are replenished. Without such water over the past two years, some aquifers were drawn down to the level where domestic wells failed. This is what happened in the East Porterville area, where a number of domestic wells went dry.”

“We will continue to work with Reclamation and the other Friant Division interests to supplement this initial allocation as the water year hydrology develops,” Phillips said. “The growers in the Friant Division need to know as soon as possible how much water will be available this year so they can make planting and other business decisions. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of Reclamation officials, who are doing everything they can to expedite the water allocations.”

The Friant Water Authority operates and maintains the Friant-Kern Canal, a conveyance feature of the Central Valley Project. The Authority consists of 13 water purveyors. The Friant Service area includes approximately one million acres and 15,000 mostly small family farms on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley (Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties). Friant Division water supplies are also relied upon by several cities and towns, including the City of Fresno, as a major portion of their municipal and industrial water supplies.

Friant Division Receives First Water Allocation Since 2013

Tulare County Heritage Members

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For more information or to sign up as a Heritage Member contact TCFB at 559-732-8301

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This year’s Grocery Cart Race was a victory for all! Young Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Bureau, and ultimately the Tulare County FoodLink was the biggest winner receiving over 1,100 pounds of non-perishable food for those in need here in Tulare County. Farm Credit West was a generous sponsor, and paid to enter up to four teams in this year’s event. This year’s winning team was the Farm Credit West LDD & Collateral Services team with team members: Amanda Sumpter, Ferlina Acosta, Sherri Maita, and Alyssa Perez.

“We look forward to the annual Grocery Cart Race every year. It’s a fun filled event that serves as a friendly competition and a great way to give back to the community and to celebrate National Ag Week,” said Rory Vietti, this year’s chair of Grocery Cart Race. “We’re excited to celebrate agriculture while filling our carts with food that is donated to a local food charity in support of those who experience food insecurity in our community.”

In addition the contest raised $500 in gift cards they donated to FoodLink plus the 1,100 pounds of food items. This annual contest has become part of National Agriculture Week celebrations to promote food security and the value of the American Farmer to our economy and our way of life. Young Farmers and Ranchers committee members work to promote agriculture awareness and appreciation thru their active involvement in Farm Bureau.

This year’s Grocery Cart Race ended in victory lane, where everyone was a winner! Farm Bureau, the Young Farmers and Ranchers, and certainly Tulare County FoodLink all benefit from this annual event and donation of food to those in need.
News Briefs

ASFMRAGriBusinesconference, April 4-8, Visalia

The American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers will host their annual Outlook AgriBusiness Conference April 4-8 at the Visalia Marriott and Visalia Convention Center. The conference provides an in-depth look at state and federal regulations, and provides continuing education hours on April 4, 5, 6, and 8. This year’s conference chairman is Tony Toso, the 2nd Vice President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more information or to register visit: www.calasfma.com or contact civil@calasfma.com.

Central Valley Water tour field trip, April 13-15

The Water Education Foundation will hold their annual Central Valley Water Tour on April 13-15. Planned stops include the San Luis Reservoir, Kern County Water Bank, San Joaquin River, Terminus Dam, Mendota Pool, Friant Dam, and the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. The tour focuses on giving participants an understanding of the region’s water use and issues as well as agricultural practices, including new technologies and water-saving measures. Other tour focuses include: water supply and drought, flood management, groundwater banking, surface water storage, subsidence, wetlands, salmon restoration, and agricultural supply and drainage. To register, call Dan Scott at 916-444-6240 or visit www.watereducation.org/tour/central-valley-tour-2016.

Antique Farm Equipment Show, April 15-17

The Annual California Antique Farm Equipment Show, showcasing the agriculture industry’s heritage, will be held April 15-17 at the International Agri-Center in Tulare. The show features over 900 exhibitors from throughout California and the United States, displaying their antique tractors, engines and other antique farm equipment. Each year the daily Antique Tractor and Truck Parade draws over 400 entries, and the parade has become one of the highlights of the show. The Antique Farm Equipment Show will be open Friday and Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, general admission is $5 for adults, and children under 12 are free. For a full schedule of events, visit www.antiquefarmshow.com or call 688-1030.

District 1 Candidates Forum set for April 20

The Tulare County Farm Bureau will host a public candidate’s forum for citizens and members to attend on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00 pm at the Exeter Veteran’s Memorial Building. The event is free to attend, and will feature a panel forum with question/answer of the invited District 1 supervisory candidates. The moderator for the evening will be local radio personality and host, PK Whitmore from KTIP 1450 radio station in Porterville.

Rain for Rent Scholarship program

Local students may apply for the Rain for Rent Scholarship program thru the Tulare County Farm Bureau until April 30. Applicants’ education emphasis must be in agriculture or engineering with a major in agronomical, chemical, civil, manufacturing engineering or construction management, or focus in irrigation technologies. The form is available to children of Farm Bureau members in Tulare County. The League of Women Voters will host their annual Outlook Scholarship program April 13-15.

AG COMMISSIONER’S CORNER

by Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Ag Commissioner

Farming in the State of California is a very challenging, thankless way of life. Aside from being overburdened by costly regulations, growers cannot always pick friendly neighbors. My office receives many complaints about smells, noise and pesticides used by nearby growers. During the nut harvest two years ago, a Visalia gentleman likened the shaking to a Viet Nam war zone. Aside from giving him a thorough explanation of our right to farm ordinance, I could hardly address lingering trauma over that ordeal.

A few times I have heard from owners of new properties AFTER they have parceled off an unneeded house and outbuildings. The new homeowner has a bit of heaven in the country and is excited about the snow-capped mountain view outside his window. But the complaints about smelly sulfur applications to grape vines start almost immediately and continue for a couple of years, along with threats of lawsuits and illness. The frustrated grower decides to mitigate the situation by planting a row of poplar trees as a buffer. The complaints stop when the panicly homeowner realizes that his view would disappear.

The north side of Visalia is our hotspot for very angry residents who do not quite realize what it means to move next to two-year old walnut trees on the other side of their fence. No, employees of that grower do not have to stop and speak to you on demand, nor is it advisable to trespass onto farm ground that does not belong to you. A letter from you is not a ten-day notice to respond, despite what your attorney advises you.

We have doubled our acreage associated with organic production over the last couple of years, which brings with it valid concerns about conventional spray drift from a neighboring property. Constant communication with your neighbors, employees and applicators is critical to avoid problems and insurance claims.

Putting in a call to our office is a good first step to take, whichever side of the fence you find yourself. Knowing your rights and expectations can help in some cases, but we are required to respond to all alleged drift or illness cases. We may or may not take residue samples, depending on the circumstances. We have found that some people just want to know what is being applied to the crops in their neighborhood or discuss the situation with a neutral third party.
We would like to thank our generous sponsors that supported the 29th Annual TCFB Education and Scholarship Fund black and white gala held on March 12, 2016.

Thank you Sponsors!

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Gala Highlights

Newest Gold Heritage member, Lindsay Mann and his wife Lesa, on behalf of the Kaweah Delta Health Care District visit with President Airoso at the gala.

Jewelry raffle prize tickets were a hot item, Bob Berry, Steve Godlin, and Larry Peltzer were perched at the entrance to the gala to sell tickets for this year’s prize.

The top hat guys were busy selling wine drawing tickets for nearly 200 bottles of premium wines at this year’s event. L-R (Larry Peltzer, Sal Soriano, Kelly Mitchell, Steve Godlin, and Gary Kunkel).

The Berri, enjoying this year’s wine social hour.

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VOTE JUNE 7
April 14
The Citrus Research Board (CRB) is proud to announce the Annual Citrus Postharvest Pest Control Seminar, co-produced by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The half-day seminar will give industry professionals the opportunity to hear technical talks on the latest and most advanced developments in postharvest disease control. The seminar is scheduled on April 14, at the Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, Exeter, CA.

The seminar starts at 8:00 a.m. and is expected to end at 12:00 p.m. Geared toward industry professionals and service company representatives, the seminar will feature lectures on fruit quality and decay management, research on postharvest preventative controls of guidance for FSMA compliance, fruit export, as well as HLB impact on juice quality and premature fruit drop.

Speakers include:
- Paul Cronje, Ph.D., Citrus Postharvest Physiology, Stellenbosch University Department of Horticulture; Stellenbosch, South Africa
- Elizabeth Baldwin, Ph.D., Quality in Citrus and Subtropical Products, USDA-ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory; Ft. Pierce, Florida
- Adrian Shodio, Research Associate, Department of Plant Sciences; University of California, Davis
- Spencer Walse, Ph.D., USDA-ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center; Parlier, California

“The CRB is happy to collaborate with the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources to make the seminar available in Tulare County. We hope members of the industry can participate in this half-day of useful information,” Gary Schulz, President, Citrus Research Board.

Please contact Amy Witt (559) 738-0246 or amy@citrusresearch.org to reserve a seat.

The Citrus Research Board hires Dr. Melinda Klein as Chief Research Scientist

The Citrus Research Board (CRB) is proud to announce the hiring of Dr. Melinda Klein as Chief Research Scientist. Dr. Klein will be joining the organization on May 1, 2016. As Chief Research Scientist, she will be responsible for various duties including performing scientific project reviews, tracking research progress, prioritizing projects and providing leadership to assist CRB to move into the future.

Dr. Klein will be joining the organization with a tremendous amount of knowledge, education, and experience. Previously, she served as the Director of Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition at Stoller Enterprise in Houston, Texas. There, she focused on alleviating saline stress and improving crop nutrient use efficiency. Prior to Stoller Enterprise, she worked with Dr. Elsbeth Walker at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, studying iron transport in maize using classical breeding and molecular biology techniques. She also worked with Dr. Mike Grusak, Baylor College of Medicine and the USDA-ARS Children’s Nutrition Research Center in Houston, studying iron transport in legumes. After earning her BS from UC Davis majoring in Plant Sciences, she obtained her PhD in Plant Physiology at Cornell University studying zinc transport processes under the advisement of Dr. Leon Kochian. As she possess substantial experience and a wealth of knowledge in lab/greenhouse/field-based projects on maize, soybean, grapes and citrus, Dr. Melinda Klein will be an asset to the CRB.

A native of Southern California, Dr. Klein states, “I am very much looking forward to returning to California and working with the citrus industry.” Dr. Klein will be serving as Chief Research Scientist at the CRB office in Visalia, CA.
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You are invited to attend the 100 Year Celebration at Buckman-Mitchell Insurance on Friday, April 29 at 4:00 pm at their office located at 500 N. Santa Fe St., Visalia. Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. is one of the largest independently owned insurance agencies in the West. The firm today has established itself as a leader within the insurance industry. Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. was founded by C.T. “Clem” Buckman and Hyman Mitchell in 1916. Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. is built upon the tradition of integrity, industry leadership and excellence. They are committed to delivering tailored insurance solutions with thoughtful strategic planning, valuable professional services and technology-based solutions that result in sustained customer satisfaction. Through initiative and follow-through, they help their customers find answers, implement solutions and anticipate consequences. Their mission statement is straightforward, “Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. is dedicated to providing quality insurance products while operating with a philosophy that relationships with clients and community matter most.” Commitment to community has also become synonymous with Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. Many staff members serve on local non-profit organizations and the firm actively supports a variety of local events and charities. Providing insurance is what they do, supporting their community is one way they give back.

When asked about their support of Farm Bureau, Todd Williams, Executive Vice President for BMI stated, “I would like to thank the Farm Bureau for being an advocate for our farmers. As with many businesses here in the valley, agriculture is and always has been a large part of the clients we serve. Without agriculture, our future is questionable at best. Farm Bureau has been a longtime partner in helping to protect our farmers from the things that are beyond the scope of insurance.” The firm has been a member and supporter of the Tulare County Farm Bureau since 1936.
Youth Leadership
Farm Bureau Seeks Applicants for Youth Leadership Program

Calling all high school sophomores, Tulare County Farm Bureau’s Youth Leadership program applications are now available. Visit the Tulare County Farm Bureau (TCFB) website at www.tulcofb.org to apply online or contact the Farm Bureau office at 559-732-8301 for an application. The goal of this exclusive program is to select high school students from around the county who have a strong potential for developing leadership skills. Students are not required to have a connection to agriculture or to Farm Bureau, but should demonstrate an interest in developing leadership qualities. Participants commit to an eight-month program centered around leadership development, agriculture awareness and government processes. Students take part in monthly educational seminars that focus on issues affecting agriculture, various careers in agriculture, community service, as well as county, state and federal governments. There is no cost to students who participate, all expenses including travel, lodging and meals are paid by Tulare County Farm Bureau’s Education and Scholarship Fund and generous contributions by Suncrest Bank.

High school sophomores are encouraged to apply for the program by May 1st. You may contact the TCFB office with any questions at 559-732-8301 or visit www.tulcofb.org for more information.
The local dairy industry is now accepting applications from young women wishing to compete for the District 9 (Inyo, Mono and Tulare counties) Dairy Princess crown.

The winner will represent the dairy industry in District 9 as a spokeswoman and will also represent the California dairy industry in appearances at schools, fairs, industry meetings, service clubs, parades, and with the media. The newly selected princess will also participate in a week of training that includes industry tours, presentation and etiquette training.

Contestants must meet the following requirements: 1) Be at least a junior in high school and not over 21 years of age by contest date; 2) Be unmarried; and 3) Family must own a dairy farm, work for the dairy industry or have a dairy-related background. More detailed qualifications can be found on the application, which is available at www.californiadairypressroom.com/ca-dairy-princesses. Applicants are urged to submit their applications as soon as possible. The application deadline is Thursday, April 21, 2016.

The District 9 contest is sponsored by the District 9 Dairy Princess Committee and the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB). The gala event will be held Friday June 10, 2016, at T.D.E.S Hall in Tulare. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and is followed by the contest and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Current Dairy Princess Madalyn Vieira of Tulare will relinquish her crown to the winner who will represent the dairy industry in Inyo, Mono and Tulare counties. Scholarships will be awarded. Application forms may be accessed online at www.californiadairypressroom.com/ca-dairy-princesses. Questions can be directed to Melissa Gomes (559) 967-3923 or Corinne Macedo at the CMAB office at cmacedo@cmab.net or (209) 484-0690.

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**Fiesta Time! CWA Fundraiser Set for May 6**

The Tulare-Kings Chapter of the CA Women for Agriculture will host their annual agriculture awareness and scholarship fundraiser on Friday, May 6, at Koetsier Ranch near Visalia. The social begins at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets are $50 each, or a table of 8 for $400. Proceeds from the event help fund scholarships, and support agricultural literacy projects in Tulare and Kings Counties.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, and silent auction items are also needed for the event. For more information about this year’s fundraiser contact event chair, Carrie Crane at 805-458-7793, or via email at tularekingcwa@gmail.com.

CWA’s mission is to promote and develop the interest of California women involved or interested in agriculture and to promote a strong agriculture industry in California.

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To learn more, please visit pge.com/ag
S.H.A.R.E.S.
A Fresh WAY TO — GIVE BACK
TULARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU Education and Scholarship Fund

The Farm Bureau has received great rewards from the Save Mart SHARES program, receiving on average approximately $900-1200 per quarter for the past several years thanks to our members and friends swiping their SHARES cards at area stores. Cards have been distributed to members with their Farm Bureau member ID cards for the past several years. These funds have directly benefited our charitable education and scholarship fund.

Unfortunately the program is being changed, and the SHARES cards will not be valid after March 31, 2016.

A new program known as eScrip will begin on April 1 and you may still sign up for free with your phone number at checkout when you shop at Save Mart, Lucky, FoodMaxx and/or Smart Foods stores. Save Mart/eScrip will donate 3% of your qualifying grocery purchase to the TCFB Education and Scholarship fund. Sign up at: http://www.escrip.com/shares/ and you will be able to designate the TCFB Education and Scholarship fund as your charity of choice.

Thank you to everyone that has been a supporter of the SHARES program in the past, we have received thousands of dollars in support as a result!
Tulare County Farm Bureau offers a special category of membership for those interested in supporting Farm Bureau as business owners. If you have a business, or merely want to show support for the organization, your membership in the Business Support Category is encouraged. To promote and enhance the viability of Tulare County agriculture.

DIRECTORY OF TULARE COUNTY BUSINESS MEMBERS

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Tulare County Farm Bureau News

April 2016

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BECOME A BUSINESS SUPPORT MEMBER

A free listing every month on this and the new online directory.
Discounts on display advertising in this newspaper.
All the benefits and services of Farm Bureau membership.
The 2016 Art Calendar Contest hosted by the Tulare County Farm Bureau with sponsorship from the Tulare County Office of Education received over 1100 entries from K-12 grade students county wide! Here are this year’s top prize winners, 14 students were honored at the Board of Supervisors during National Agriculture Week in celebration of their artwork. Calendars are available at the Farm Bureau office, drop by and pick one up.

January - Nathan Gridley - 8th Grade Cherry Avenue Middle School
February - Catricia Alvarez - 4th Grade Lincoln Elementary School
March - Angelica Maria Ruiz - 4th Grade Earlimart Elementary School
April - Maria Ortiz - 12th Grade Lindsay High School
May - Isabella Plascencia - 8th Grade Tipton Elementary School
June - Elias Ulises Morquecho - 11th Grade Orosi High School
July - Luis Meza - 12th Grade Orosi High School
August - Nana Chong - 6th Grade Washington Elementary School
September - Alyssa Benitez - 8th Grade Live Oak Middle School
October - Nicolas Garcia - 3rd Grade Summit Charter Academy Lombardi Campus
November - Mario Hernandez - 1st Grade J E Hester School
December - Jacklyn Munoz - 6th Grade Fairview Elementary School

Winner - Valeria Rojas - 9th Grade Redwood High School
Back Cover - Joshua Talingo - 9th Grade Orosi High School

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GOT TRASH?

Tulare County Farm Bureau will soon be recruiting for the position of Program Coordinator. This position will be responsible for managing membership acquisition and retention programs of the Tulare County Farm Bureau, coordinating agricultural education projects and special events, and assisting with news and communications work. A four-year college degree and/or relevant work experience in Agricultural Education or Agricultural Communications is required. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of Farm Bureau’s local and state program structures and be able to facilitate committee work with volunteer leaders in numerous program areas. This position requires expertise in event organization, public speaking, making presentations with children and adults, collaborating with partner agencies, and must have a strong desire to work on agricultural literacy projects, and promote Farm Bureau membership through marketing and acquisition programs. A strong background in writing, or formal training in journalism or agriculture communications is also desirable.

Resumes may be submitted to the executive director at: pstever@tulcofb.org or mailed to: Tulare County Farm Bureau, attn: Tricia Stever Blattler, at PO Box 748, Visalia, CA 93279. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Interviews will be scheduled in late May, with a start date anticipated in June.

This year in place of the traditional Commodity Advisory Meetings, with specific topics organized around individual commodity sectors, the California Farm Bureau created a new format to their grassroots policy meetings to align more with the AFBF model, and denoting the new meeting groups as Issue Advisory Committees.

Tulare County had appointees to the following committees: Crop Protection, Marketing, Food Safety; Transportation, Trade and Safety; State Budget and Taxation; Animal Health and Welfare; Forestry and Public Lands; and Labor Advisory. Members met in Sacramento March 7-9 to discuss issues of interest in these respective meeting groups.

Leaders of today and tomorrow, Ryan Hesse, Matt Watkins, and Jake Culler are featured with Assemblyman Devon Mathis (2nd from left) during the March 8th legislative visit.

Tuesday, March 8 was a Legislative day at the Capitol with over 400 Farm Bureau members descending on the legislators doorsteps to visit about key legislative topics.

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