



# OnTarget

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## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CFFA GOLF TOURNAMENT A GREAT SUCCESS!



On Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 95 golfers took part in the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual California Fresh Fruit Association golf tournament, held at Kings River Golf & Country Club in Kingsburg.

The day was a success, thanks to the participation of the golfers, volunteers, sponsors and, most notably, the tireless efforts of tournament Co-Chairmen, Mr. Nick Buratovich, Jr. and Mr. Brian Borboa along with the tournament committee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST PLACE TEAM OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CFFA GOLF TOURNAMENT, WHO FINISHED WITH A NET SCORE OF 48, GEORGE CHAVEZ (*FRUIT GROWERS SUPPLY COMPANY*); DAVE BRYAN (RETIRED, *ETCHEGARAY FARMS*); JOSH SORENSON (VERTICAL FOODS, LLC); AND JON UNDERDOWN (*ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES*).

The four closest-to-hole winners were: Jim Bohanon (*Pickett Solar*), Hole #7 sponsored by *M.D. Manouel Insurance Agency*; Craig Gonzales (*Rain & Hail Insurance Services, LLC*), Hole #9, sponsored by *Calpine Containers, Inc.*; David Stone (*Valhalla Sales & Marketing*) Hole #12 sponsored by *Ethylene Control Inc.*; Craig Gonzales (*Rain & Hail Insurance, LLC*), Hole #15 sponsored by *IBS Supplies*.

We would also like to acknowledge *JS Ag Packaging* for being this year's Driving Range Sponsor.

The tournament also helped to raise funds for the Association's Political Action Committee, FruitPAC.

## CFFA FEATURED IN RECENT NEWS



Over the last few weeks, CFFA has been featured in local newspaper publications. To view the respective articles, please see below.

**The Bakersfield Californian – “Ag Community Has Risen to the Occasion”**

([https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/other-voices-ag-community-has-risen-to-the-occasion/article\\_3f0e3d50-880f-11eb-8b43-8f0543544eca.html](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/other-voices-ag-community-has-risen-to-the-occasion/article_3f0e3d50-880f-11eb-8b43-8f0543544eca.html)).

**The Fresno Bee – “Valadao Vote on Farm Workforce Modernization Act Shows His Bipartisanship”**

(<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/readers-opinion/article250174495.html>).

For more information, please contact Association President, Ian LeMay ([ilemay@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:ilemay@cafreshfruit.com)).

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR CFFA MEMBERSHIP!



March 1<sup>st</sup> was the beginning of a new fiscal year for the California Fresh Fruit Association. With that, we are pleased to report that the Association's strength continues to be robust, as reflected by its retention and growth during the 2020/21

FY, in which we welcomed more than 10 new members.

In the coming days, each CFFA member will be receiving your renewal notice in the mail. The Association's goal is to retain all of our member companies, as you are all tremendously valued, and CFFA leadership invites you to renew your membership for the 2021/22 fiscal year (3/1/21 through 2/28/22).

It is our sincere desire that you and your company continue to experience the value of CFFA membership!

Please contact our Director of Member Services and Communications, Courtney Razor, ([crazor@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:crazor@cafreshfruit.com)) with any questions.

## COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL SICK LEAVE LAW NOW IN EFFECT

On March 29<sup>th</sup> the new supplemental COVID-19 sick pay law went into effect. The supplemental sick leave will provide employees working at a business with 25 or more employees with up to 80 hours of paid COVID-19 sick leave to be used through September 30, 2021. Small companies with 25 or fewer employees are exempt from the legislation. This law is retroactive to January 1, 2021, and employees will be entitled to that pay.

For the complete law and posting information provided by **Barsamian & Moody**, click here/see attached.

CalOSHA recently published a FAQ on the law, to access, visit (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/COVID19Resources/FAQ-for-SPSL-2021.html>).

*This information is to provide employers with current labor and employment law information. The contents should neither be interpreted as, nor construed as legal advice or opinion. The reader should consult with Barsamian & Moody at (559) 248-2360 for individual responses to questions or concerns regarding any given situation.*

## WATER ALLOCATIONS UPDATED

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) updated their allocations for contractors of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP).

The initial allocation of 5% for South-of-Delta CVP agricultural users is currently postponed until further notice. DWR has reduced its 10% of SWP contract allocations that was set in December 2020 down to 5%. Both reductions come in the wake of meager winter precipitation, with

the likelihood of a critically dry 2021 in California, and the USDA's drought designation for most of the state. For more information, contact Director of Government & Public Policy Adam Borchard ([aborchard@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:aborchard@cafreshfruit.com)).

## JOIN THE ALLIANCE FOR FOOD AND FARMING TODAY



The Alliance for Food and Farming (AFF) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1989 which a mission to deliver credible information to consumers about the safety of all fruits and vegetables.

AFF has developed the "Safe Fruits and Veggies" campaign focused on diminishing the impact campaigns such as the Environmental Working Groups "Dirty Dozen" list release. To view AFF's 2021 "A Dozen Reasons to Eat Fruit and Veggies" visit (<https://www.safefruitsandveggies.com/a-dozen-reasons-to-eat-fruits-and-veggies/>).

CFFA is a proud partner of AFF. President Ian LeMay currently serves at the Vice-Chair of the board and Director of Member Services & Communications Courtney Razor serves on the Communications Committee.

To join the Alliance for Food and Farming, please visit <https://foodandfarming.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AFF-Supports-Flyer-11-18-b.pdf>. For more information, contact Ian LeMay ([ilemay@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:ilemay@cafreshfruit.com)).

## USDA ANNOUNCES "PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PRODUCERS" TO DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES MORE EQUITABLY



Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on March 24<sup>th</sup> that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative—

USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers—will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs. The Department will also develop rules for new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others. Existing programs like the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will fall within the new initiative and, where statutory authority allows, will be refined to better address the needs of producers.

USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers was needed, said Vilsack, after a review of previous COVID-19 assistance programs targeting farmers identified a number of gaps and disparities in how assistance was distributed as well as inadequate outreach to underserved producers and smaller and medium operations.

"The pandemic affected all of agriculture, but many farmers did not benefit from previous rounds of pandemic-related assistance. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to helping as many producers as possible, as equitably as possible," said Vilsack. "Our new USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative will help get financial assistance to a broader set of producers, including to socially disadvantaged communities, small and medium sized producers, and farmers and producers of less traditional crops."

**USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5<sup>th</sup>.** The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will establish partnerships with organizations with strong connections to socially

disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

The payments announced today under Part 3 will go out under the existing CFAP rules; however, future opportunities for USDA Pandemic Assistance will be reviewed for verified need and during the rulemaking process, USDA will look to make eligibility more consistent with the Farm Bill. Moving forward, USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers will utilize existing programs, such as the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach, and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and others to enhance educational and market opportunities for agricultural producers.

For more information, click [here/visit https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/24/after-identifying-gaps-previous-aid-usda-announces-pandemic](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/24/after-identifying-gaps-previous-aid-usda-announces-pandemic).

## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FARM RECRUITMENT FOR EQUIPMENT STUDY

A UC Riverside-Fresno State research team is conducting a project to collect agricultural equipment data for table grape and tree fruit commodities in the San Joaquin Valley. The data relates to engine load, fuel economy, and durability in older (Tier 1-2) and newer (Tier 3-4) agricultural diesel engines among engines of different sizes (25-75, 75-300, and 300-600 horsepower).

The research team's goal is to analyze accurate data based on actual working conditions that will ensure that the agricultural industry is properly represented in the development of future off-road vehicle emission inventories, engine certification standards, and incentive programs.

If your business is interested in learning more or volunteering for this project, please contact Director of Government and Public Policy Adam Borchard ([aborchard@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:aborchard@cafreshfruit.com)).

## ANNUAL MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVEL HARMONIZATION WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

The California Specialty Crops Council will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> annual 2021 Maximum Residue Level (MRL) Harmonization Workshop May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This year the workshop will be held virtually.

The interactive workshop will address critically important issues for stakeholders with interests in exporting agricultural products. Registrants, growers, packers, shippers, PCAs, regulators, trade experts, and other stakeholders in international trade are strongly encouraged to attend. Presentation topics include international trade trends, global registrations, pesticide residue monitoring, MRL strategies for growers, updates for international residue standards, global MRL challenges, and research reports regarding the impacts of residues.

Elisa Fertig, Agricultural Attaché with USDA- FAS located in Brussels, will kick off the conference discussing, "European Union Pesticide MRL Policies." Dr. Julian Cudmore, MRL Technical Lead and Consumer Exposure Specialist in the United Kingdom will discuss the "The MRL Processes in the UK for GB and NI." There will be special reports discussing the MRL situation for specialty crops in Kenya, bananas and cranberries. The program also includes international speakers from South Korea, China, Costa Rica, United Kingdom and Kenya.

On-line pre-registration is required by May 18<sup>th</sup>. For meeting information and a program go to <http://specialtycrops.org/mrlworkshop.html>. The registration fee is \$250 with price discounts for multiple registrations and government employees. For more information, contact Director of Trade Caroline Stringer ([cstringer@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:cstringer@cafreshfruit.com)).