

# CALAVERAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU



November, 2014

## BOARD

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:**  
**STEVE KAFKA**

**First Vice President:**  
**Michael David Fischer, Jr.**

**Second Vice President:**  
**Mindy Rasmussen**

**Treasurer:**  
**Lyn Norfolk**

### Directors

**Eloise Fischer**

**Mark Fischer**

**Toni Ann Fischer**

**Tim Folendorf**

**Daryl Giannini**

**Norm Hertlein**

**Stuart Mast**

**Nic Valente**

**Rex Whittle**

**District 12 Director**  
**Joe Valente**

**Young Farmers & Ranchers**  
**State Representative**  
**Tyler Blagg**

**Staff:**  
**Manager, Crissy Huey**

Crisp dewy mornings, fog kissing the tops of the foothills, pumpkins, pomegranates and persimmons are all signs that the season is changing and fall is in the air.

Full roundups are happening- many a bull sale to be had. Hay trucks are busy delivering the need for feed. Farm land is blooming with the winter crops. Pumpkin patches and corn mazes are filled with excited children. Haunted houses are a plenty. Trees are shedding their leaves or changing their colors to ambers and golden browns. Apple farms are brimming with guests wanting to pick a bucket of apples to make their grandmother's apple pie or pick up one of their mouthwatering already made pies.



Herd em' up

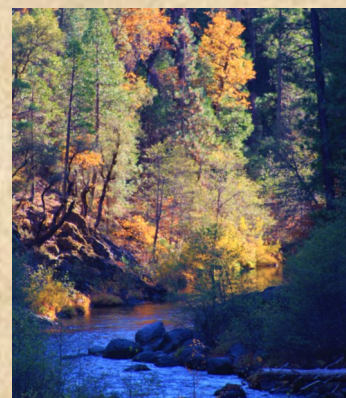
Wild turkeys are roaming the pastureland less and less as Thanksgiving approaches.

Farmers and ranchers are facing many challenges this year with the drought and other obstacles at hand. We are always trying to keep our members informed with the latest news breaking issues. Don't forget to vote on all the important issues that will affect our way of living.



Farm Bureaus are busy holding their annual meetings and nominating their officers. We at Calaveras County Farm Bureau had an annual dinner to go down in the history books and have elected our new officers.

Our board is busy wrapping up 2014 and planning a trip to attend the Annual California Farm Bureau conference in December.



Calaveras Big Trees

The conference is a great opportunity to connect with agricultural members across the state. We encourage you, our members, to attend.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Jan. 11-14, 2015, will take place in San Diego, this year. Our board will have representation attending this event.

We wanted to thank all our members for supporting us in 2014 and look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party in December.

*Have a  
Happy Thanksgiving,*

*Mindy Rasmussen*  
CCFB 2nd Vice President

Photos courtesy of Mindy

## Meet Gary Sack, CFBF District 12 Field Rep



Yvette Sack,  
Andrew Genasci (L),  
Gary Sack (R)

Gary Sack, is California Farm Bureau Federation's North Central Region Field Representative. Gary is not new to Farm Bureau, California Farm Bureau Federation has just re-aligned the regions and Andrew Genasci will no longer be our Region's rep. We would like to thank Andrew for his past service and dedication to our County. He has been a significant resource for us, his presence will be sorely missed at our meetings. However we are very fortunate to have Gary Sack joining us, as he is very knowledgeable and eager to help our County with any areas of concern or interest. Gary and his wife, Yvette, were able to join us at our Annual Dinner Meeting, so he was able to connect and get to know a few of our members that evening.

Like Andrew, Gary will attend our monthly board meetings, and keep us abreast of new legislative items, as well as other important issues that arise at CFBF. The Field Rep assists the board in many ways and is a valuable asset in keeping us connected to the CFBF office and staff. Gary submitted the following article, and I hope to continue to work with Gary to connect with our members in our future newsletters. **Welcome Gary!**



### Now that we know the results, What will be the result?

By Gary Sack

Farm Bureau, like everyone else is waiting to see what will result from the recent election. We know that the Republicans gained a majority in the Senate, and they gained seats in the House of Representatives to strengthen their majority there. Family farmers are hoping that we can reduce government's regulatory overreach, and get bills that were passed in the House now through the Senate. We will have to see if the new Congress and the president can work together.

The California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) was pleased that Proposition 1 passed, and are hopeful that we can begin building water storage in this time of drought. CFBF President **Paul Wenger** said, "at a time of extreme drought, California came together to support investment in our water system, which has suffered from neglect through 30 years of population growth and redirected priorities." Another statewide item of significance is the Democrats lost their supermajority in both the Senate and the Assembly; though they still hold large majority in both houses.



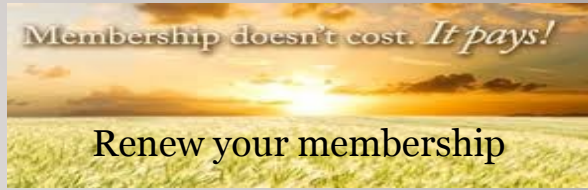
"Water is  
fundamental to  
life itself, to our  
economy, to  
our wellbeing,"  
Gov. Jerry  
Brown

## Kevin Wright...Calaveras County Ag Commissioner

Permit season is starting up and our office is issuing operator ids and permits most Thursdays and Fridays through January. If a person has 24D, gopher or squirrel bait on their permit (restricted materials) we have Continuing Education classes December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Library from 1-3 pm.

The hardwood Advisory Committee is meeting at the library Nov 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 pm. We must meet annually for the county to keep our voluntary status as far as oak tree management goes in rangeland. Scott Oneto and Peter Maurer will be there to follow up on last year's discussions on the state of the oak trees in the county, mitigation measures, rules and regulations regarding oak trees, and the conservation element in the general plan.





Being a valued member of Farm Bureau, you have allowed for our organization to actively promote agriculture and work to make sure our nation is provided with safe, wholesome, and domestically produced food, fiber, nursery and forestry products.

Whether you represent a community involved in the production of food products, are home to one of the ports that ships California-grown products all over the world, or are one of the 38 million California consumers of the food, fiber or foliage we produce, you have a stake in the future of California farms and ranches.

### How to renew?

You can renew your Farm Bureau membership in three ways:

- **Renew online** @ [www.cfbf.com/renew](http://www.cfbf.com/renew)
- Give us a call at (800) 698-FARM (3276) or (209) 736-0033
- Mail in your Farm Bureau dues notice to:

California Farm Bureau Federation

2300 River Plaza Drive Sacramento, CA 95833

**New memberships can join online too @ [joinfb.com](http://joinfb.com)**

### Need a Holiday Gift Idea?

**Give the gift of a Farm Bureau membership**

**\$85.00**

**Ag Member**

**\$72.00**

**Associate Member**

**\$25.00**

**Collegiate Member**

### WELCOME NEW AG MEMBERS

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ♦ Mattley Dell Orto | ♦ Jennifer Goerlitz |
| ♦ Steven Dollens    | ♦ Kenneth Mitchell  |
| ♦ Elaine Galli      | ♦ Maci Parmley      |



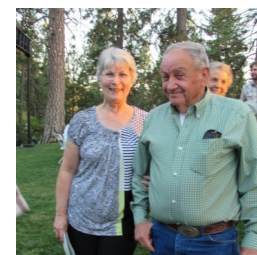
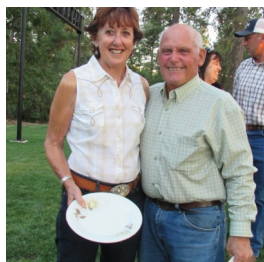
### SAVE THE DATE:

**Tuesday, December 16th**

**CCFB ANNUAL**

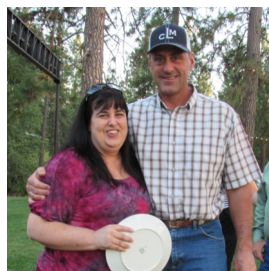
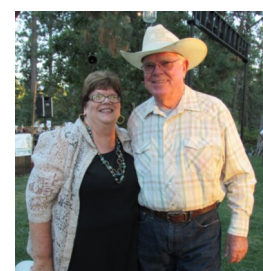
**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**





The Calaveras County Farm Bureau celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The venue host, Brice Station Vineyards, was a beautiful setting and we had close to 100 turn out to celebrate with us.

President Steve Kafka welcomed everyone and introduced our guest speaker, CCFB's Board of Director, Eloise Fischer. Eloise spoke of the "65 years of Calaveras County Farm Bureau". The annual live auction followed to raise funds for Ag education.



We would like to "Thank" our Sponsors; State Compensation Insurance Fund, Black Oak Casino, Spence Feed Ranch & Supply, Caldwell Insurance, Sierra Pacific Industries, Cattlemen's Livestock Market, San Joaquin Farm Bureau, Eloise Fischer & Family, AM Ranch, Courtney Aviation and Calaveras County Fairgrounds.

We would also like to Thank the following for all the wonderful donations;

Joyce Hatler, Nondine Walsh, Dale Huey, Tuolumne County Farm Bureau, A.L. Gilbert, Joe & Claudia Valente, Melissa 7 William Fragoza, Terri Arington, Premier Automotive of Tracy, Lodi District Grape Growers Association, Tucare, Gary & Yvette Sack, Petersen & Company-Ag Real Estate, and the California Farm Bureau Federation. Our board members also contributed auction items.

Our apologies if we missed anyone... you are all so appreciated!





The Calaveras County Farm Bureau would like to pay tribute to the “65 years” of Past Presidents and Managers

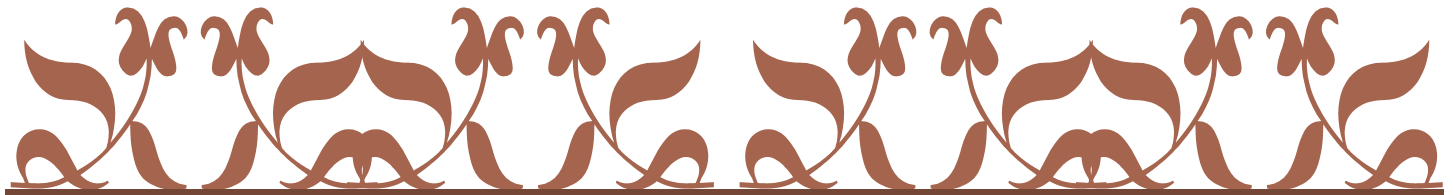
### PRESIDENTS

|             |                   |              |                        |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|
|             |                   | 1977         | Terry Cardwell         |
| 1949        | Harley Higdon     | 1977-1978    | Rieno Alto             |
| 1950-1951   | Vincent Tiscornia | 1979-1981    | Nadine More            |
| 1952-1953   | Foster Tower      | 1982-1983    | Earl Titus             |
| 1954-1955   | Arthur Barton     | 1984-1986    | Ed Ordway              |
| 1956        | C.J. Tiscornia    | 1987-1989    | Keith Stuhmer          |
| 1957        | T.M. Airola       | 1990-1993    | Jack Kuhl              |
| 1958-1959   | William Tower     | 1994-1995    | Steve Millier          |
| 1960        | Cyril Cook        | 1996-1997    | Eloise Fischer         |
| 1961        | Alvin Giuffra     | 1998         | Jack Kuhl              |
| 1962-1964   | Harold McKisson   | 1999-2000    | Stuart Mast            |
| 1965-1966   | John Tiscornia    | 2001-2002    | Jim Fraguero           |
| 1967-1968   | Robert Airola     | 2003-2005    | Michael D. Fischer Jr. |
| 1969-1970   | Guy Morrill       | 2006-2008    | Steve Kafka            |
| 1971-1972   | Harry Bosse       | 2009-2010    | Stuart Mast            |
| 1973-1974   | Bill Auld         | 2011-2013    | Toni Ann Fischer       |
| 1975 – 1976 | John Snyder       | 2014-present | Steve Kafka            |

### SECRETARY / MANAGERS

|           |                  |              |                    |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1949-1952 | Foster Tower     | 1978-1979    | Barbara Hammersley |
| 1953-1957 | Marcella Kelling | 1980         | Laurie Plank       |
| 1968      | Davy St. John    | 1981-1983    | Janet Snyder       |
| 1969      | Diana Cuneo      | 1984-1999    | Tina Torres        |
| 1970-1976 | Mary Maxwell     | 2000-2012    | Lorey Oliver       |
| 1976-1977 | Verna Scott      | 2012-present | Crissy Huey        |





## 65 Years of Calaveras County Farm Bureau by Eloise Fischer



**Norm Hertlein,  
the longest serving  
member of the  
Board, since 1983.**

Norm Hertlein is the longest serving member on the Calaveras County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, he was elected to the Board in 1983 or 1984. I was elected to the Board in 1990, so that makes me the second longest serving Director. I joined Farm Bureau in 1978. This was largely due to persistence of Nat Giannini. Nat worked hard at getting members for Farm Bureau. I was elected President of CCFB in November 1995 and served for two years until November 1997 and have remained on the Board ever since.

Bill Spence's Step-Mom, Louise Giannini Spence, passed away earlier this year and the family had to look through her files and clippings. They found a little booklet published when CCFB celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 1989. Much of the history of CCFB came from this little booklet.

Calaveras County Farm Bureau was officially started in January 1949 and could have a total of 26 Board Members. Among those listed as Charters Members were my father, Gus Hawver and Bill Spence's father, Bud Spence. In 1949 & 1950 there were 85 members and by 1988 there were 531 members. Today we have 454 members, 178 of which are Ag (voting) members. In 2013 we achieved Ag membership goal all four quarters, largely due to our hard-working Manager, Crissy Huey.

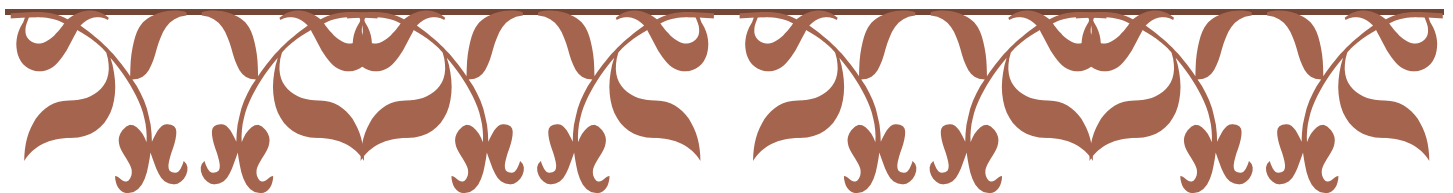
What is a Farm Bureau? The booklet states "Farm Bureau is a voluntary, non-governmental, bipartisan organization of farmers and ranchers, designed to accomplish cooperatively that which they cannot do alone. Farm Bureau helps farmers and ranchers help themselves." Farm Bureau today has the added purpose of educating the general public about agriculture~Where Food Comes From~and what it takes to produce the food and fiber that people eat and use every day.

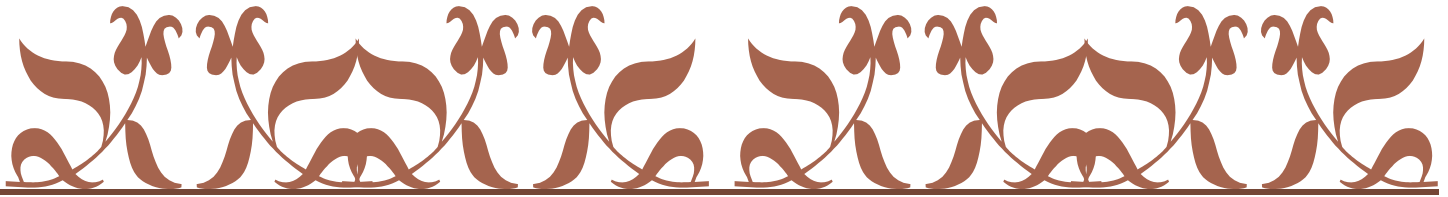
In our role of educating people about where their food and fiber comes from, CCFB initialed an Ag Awareness Day in 1997. You might ask "What happens on Ag Awareness Day?" On that day, usually the fourth Thursday of March, all 4th & 5th grade students in Calaveras County are invited to the Fairgrounds to hear eight short presentations about some phase of agriculture. The presentations are given by more than 20 volunteers who talk about their particular ag involvement. Many come year after year to talk to the students. An interesting and informative article about Ag Day appeared in our last newsletter. Teachers go home with a bag of educational materials and activities to continue ag education in their classrooms. SPI, Sierra Pacific Industries, donates a tree sapling for each student attending.

JoAnne Randall came up with the idea for Ag Day and was chairman of the event for 2 years; Kim Landreth was chairman for 1 year and I was in charge for 6 years. In 2006, Toni Ann Fischer took over as coordinator and has done it ever since. This year we had 750 students participate. Calaveras County Fair is co-sponsor of the event and provides the venue at no cost, while CCFB pays for busing for all students. FFA students from both high schools, Bret Harte and Calaveras High, are tour guides for each group of students. At the close of the last session at 1 p.m., CCFB serves a tri-tip sandwich lunch to all the volunteers and FFA guides. CCFB has also sponsored teachers to attend the annual Ag in the Classroom Conference. This conference helps teachers to teach their students about agriculture and can provide them with teaching aids and lesson plans that are sufficient for state standards.

For several years our local Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to students from our county high schools who have been involved in agriculture programs in high school, and plan to attend college. Although the amounts have varied over the years, we awarded 4 \$500.00 scholarships in 2013 and also in 2014.

We are very proud of the graduates who have participated in the Ag programs at Bret Harte and Calaveras. There was an article in the July newsletter issue that highlighted all of our recipients for the last two years and a few highlights from





other Calaveras County students that have gone on to pursue Agricultural careers. Two of our local members, Steve Kafka and Toni Ann Fischer, have participated in Leadership Farm Bureau, a leadership development program sponsored by CFBF, California Farm Bureau Federation. The program is a nearly year-long commitment providing more than 250 hours of instruction over seven sessions in the areas of personal development, public speaking, working with media, political advocacy and government structure. The program involves a trip to Washington, D.C.; a tour of another state's agriculture and tours of California agriculture. Toni Ann's class visited North Carolina. When the leadership group from North Carolina came to California, they visited President Paul Wenger's operation in Modesto and our local FB cooked them a tri-tip in the barrel dinner. They were intrigued by the cooking barrel and planned to make their own when they got home. It was a lot of fun to talk to them and hear about their ag operations and problems too.

Several board members have participated in trips to Washington, D.C. where they met with legislators and presented agriculture's perspective on many issues affecting our livelihood. I was privileged to go on one of these trips in 2012. It was truly an awesome experience. I met with 3 legislators, a staff person for the House Natural Resources Subcommittee for Public Lands, and several of us met with a D.C. staff person for the Environmental Defense Fund. She seemed to agree with our standpoint regarding endangered species when we were with her, but I don't know if we had a lasting effect on their policies. I don't know if we made any progress, but if we keep at it long enough maybe we can change some opinions!

The CFBF Board of Directors is made up of 21 District Directors, most Districts have 2 county Farm Bureaus-a few have 3 and one has 5. CCFB is in District 12 (Calaveras & San Joaquin). Two CCFB members have been State Directors-Jack Kuhl and Michael David Fischer, Jr. Michael David served in that capacity for 7 years; just ending his term last year.

Locally we have a Calaveras County Ag Coalition made up of 4 organizations-CC Farm Bureau, CC Cattlemen's Assn, Calaveras Grown and the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance. Stuart Mast and Steve Kafka are our representatives on this coalition. The Coalition did a lot of work preparing an Ag Element for the inclusion in the General Plan, but as it stands right now it has not been included as a stand-alone element. And of course the new General Plan has still not been adopted. Maybe early next year!

Our local by-laws allow us to have 20 directors with the power to vote. We have 13 directors at the present time. Several of the Directors serve on a CFBF Commodity Advisory Committee. These committees meet once a year to discuss issues affecting their commodity and to make recommendations to the CFBF Board of Directors on steps to take to try and resolve these issues. We try to attend the meeting held each year, this is generally in the spring.

Our board tries to keep up with what is going on at the Board of Supervisors, but we could use more help in this area. If any of you have income derived from agriculture, and you would like to see Calaveras County retain its rural character and support our agriculture operations, we would love to have you be nominated for election to our Board of Directors.

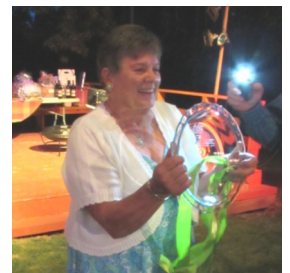
For more information about what Farm Bureau does, please contact our County manager, Crissy Huey. You can reach her by;

email: [crissyhuey.ccfb@yahoo.com](mailto:crissyhuey.ccfb@yahoo.com)

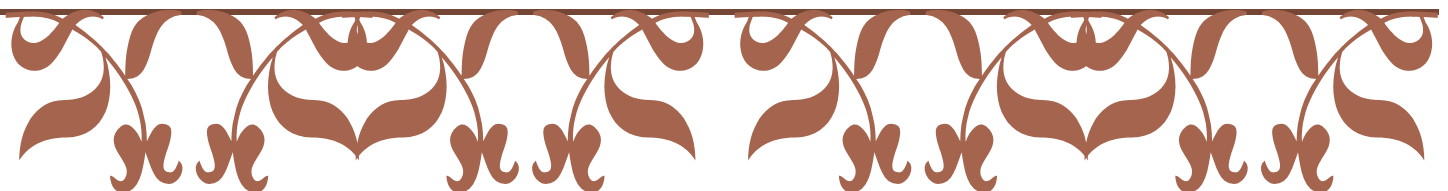
by phone: (209) 736-0033

or by USPS: P.O. Box 206, Altaville, CA 95221

The Calaveras County Farm Bureau Board of Directors gave Eloise a commemorative pie plate to recognize her years of service on the Board, as Public Lands Representative and her signature pies that are always the highlight of our Ag Education Auction. In 2011, Eloise was named "Rancher of the Year" for her efforts to promote excellence in range and herd management.



**Eloise Fischer,**  
**Board of Director**  
**since 1990.**



Elections were held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014  
Calaveras County Farm Bureau Officers & Directors 2014-2015

Officers

President – Steve Kafka  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Michael David Fischer, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Mindy Rasmussen  
Treasurer – Lyn Norfolk

Directors

|                  |                |                        |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Eloise Fischer   | Tim Folendorf  | Nic Valente            |
| Mark Fischer     | Daryl Giannini | Rex Whittle            |
| Toni Ann Fischer | Stuart Mast    | Norm Hertlein-Honorary |

CFBF Commodity Advisory Committee (CACs)

The following Calaveras County members have been appointed to the California Farm Bureau Federation's CACs.

|                       |              |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Nic Valente           | Beef         | Representative           |
| Michael David Fischer | Beef         | Alternate Representative |
| Steve Kafka           | Forestry     | Representative           |
| Richard Tanner        | Forestry     | Alternate Representative |
| Stuart Mast           | Grape        | Representative           |
| Stephen Collum        | Grape        | Alternate Representative |
| Eloise Fischer-Spence | Public Lands | Representative           |
| Rex Whittle           | Public Lands | Alternate Representative |
| Toni Ann Fischer      | Sheep/Goat   | Representative           |
| Darryl Giannini       | Sheep/Goat   | Alternate Representative |

When it comes to agriculture, California is not a "one size fits all" state and it is important that farmers and ranchers work together to achieve common goals and ward off common foes.

CFBF President  
Paul Wenger



# Who are Young Farmers & Ranchers?

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## Tyler Blagg, State Representative

The Young Farmers and Ranchers program is a committee of the Farm Bureau for people between the ages of 18-35 that are actively involved or interested in agriculture. These people could be your child or grandchild, they might work on your ranch, at the local feed store, or maybe sell insurance.

Every day we need these advocates for agriculture and for the Farm Bureau to help share our message.

Young Farmers and Ranchers has something for everyone at the local, state and national level. There are multiple opportunities to gain valuable personal development and leadership skills. The committee helps to introduce young people to the Farm bureau and how through their grassroots efforts we can see favorable change. Currently, I represent San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties on the State Committee of the Young Farmers and Ranchers. I also serve as the State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice chair.

Young Farmers and Ranchers is a great opportunity to meet people from across the state and county. The State Committee is responsible for putting on our annual leadership conference, as well as contests and other community service activities. Calaveras FB does not currently have a YF&R Committee, I would encourage anyone interested in starting a committee to contact myself, **Tyler Blagg 209-747-8118** or Crissy Huey CCFB manager.

## YF&R FARM PAC® Raffle and Silent Auction

The California Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee invites you to join the fun and excitement of its annual raffle to benefit the California Farm Bureau Fund to Protect the Family Farm (FARM PAC®). Funds raised by the drawing are used to support candidates for public office who share our goal of protecting the farming and ranching way of life. You just might be the one to walk away with one of five custom prize packages. Call Tyler Blagg if you would like raffle tickets.



## KeenanDirect Ready for Open Enrollment Launch

Covered California Open Enrollment begins Saturday, November 15 and KeenanDirect is geared-up to help enroll individuals, families and small businesses! KeenanDirect is your one-stop source for:

- Re-enrolling for 2015 and obtaining subsidies through Covered California carriers;
- Accessing all major health plans in California;
- Adding Individual Dental, Vision, Accident, Cancer and Term Life products
- Purchasing short-term Meical Insurance to prevent any gaps in coverage
- Enrolling in Individual Medicare Supplement products for those eligible

### We are easy to access:

- ⇒ on-line at [www.KeenanDirect.com](http://www.KeenanDirect.com),
- ⇒ by phone (toll-free) at 1-855-6Keenan (1-855-653-3626)
- ⇒ via email - [ifpsupport@keenandirect.com](mailto:ifpsupport@keenandirect.com)

## DAAC—Domestic Animal Advisory Committee

### WHAT IS THIS COMMITTEE?

It is a committee appointed by and reports to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.

Were you aware that the County of Calaveras has a committee that acts as a liaison between the public and the Board of Supervisors? The primary purpose for which this Committee was formed was to make recommendations to the

Board of Supervisors regarding setting public policy in matters involving the regulation of domestic animals within the county. The Committee shall have ten (10) voting members including one (1) licensed veterinarian, one (1) licensed kennel owner, one (1) commercial livestock producer, one (1) representative of the Calaveras Humane Society, the Supervisor of Animal Services and five (5) members of the public at

large (one from each Supervisory District, plus five alternate members of the public at large, one from each Supervisory District).

There are vacancies on the board. Open positions are District 4, District 5, and Kennel Owner. If someone is interested they should contact our Chair Person, Jo Ingraham @ [jaye@wildblue.net](mailto:jaye@wildblue.net)



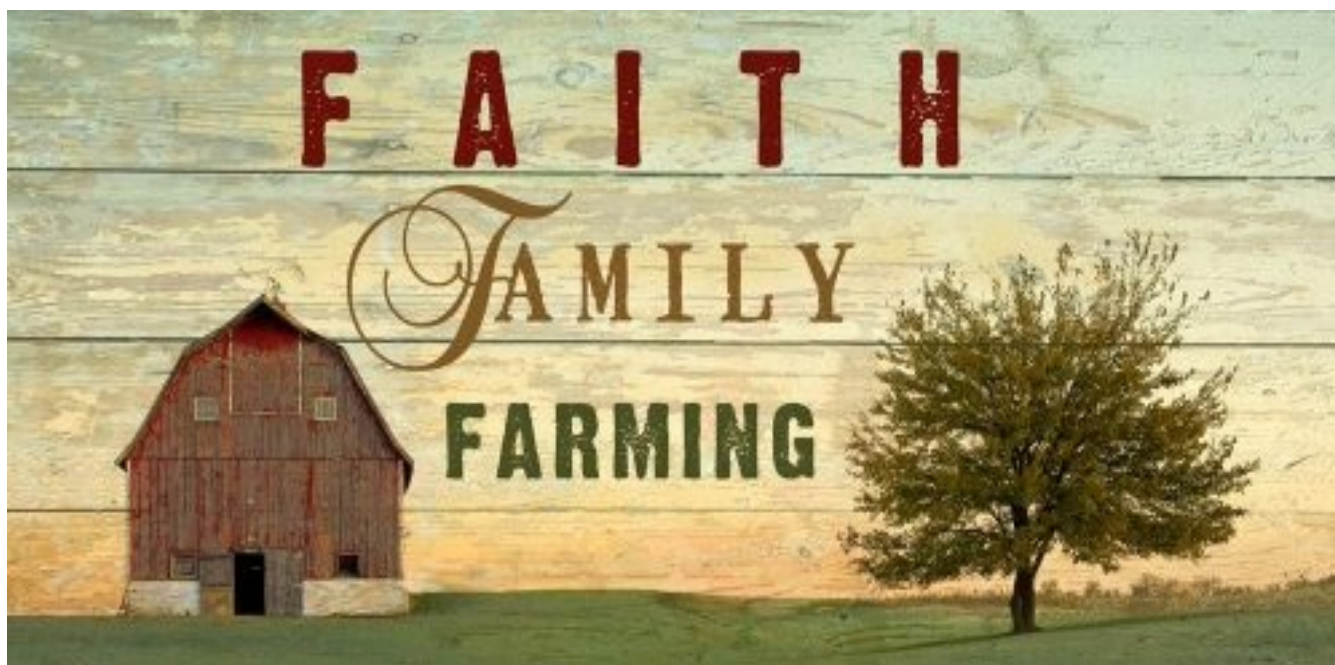
# CALAVERAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU



P.O. Box 206  
Altaville, CA 95221

Phone: 209-736-0033  
E-mail: [crissyhuey.ccfb@yahoo.com](mailto:crissyhuey.ccfb@yahoo.com)

## **“Protecting California Family Farms and Ranches”**



### **Newsletter Articles Wanted!**

We are looking for members to share their stories about their agriculture commodity, or Family's Agriculture History.

You may also submit photos that I can use, please include names of individuals in the picture and who I should credit the photo to.

Let's start seeing pictures of our rural area.

When you are at an event, send me an email about the event and a picture or two to share.

Don't forget shots around the ranch, real life ranching shots...  
...who can resist smiling when they see pictures of animals and kids!

### **Dates to Remember:**

December 6-10, 2014

California Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting

December 16, 2014

Calaveras County Farm Bureau Annual Holiday Potluck

January 10-12, 2015

American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting