

**MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

**Location:** Tulare County Cooperative Extension  
4437-B S. Laspina St. (Auditorium)  
Tulare, CA 93274

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director  
**Office:** (916) 654-0462

**MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron

David Mancera

Doria Robinson

Glenda Humiston

Bryce Lundberg

Chris Valadez

Mike Gallo

Jenet DeCosta

**Absent:**

Rachelle Arizmendi

Eric Holst

Michelle Passero

Joy Sterling

Julia Jackson

Frank Salazar

Patricia Stock

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Bryce Lundberg moved to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024 meeting. Board member Glenda Humiston seconded the motion and a vote of (8-0) carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board and welcomed of USDA Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt to the meeting. The updated focus on the newly released 2022 Census of Agriculture and local county statistics.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

**Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative**

The Board heard from a representative from USDA on the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative. The presentation focused on hearing about opportunities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops products in foreign markets, enhance domestic marketing, and improve production and processing practices.

Speaker:

- Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt, US Department of Agriculture

**(6) PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative – Panel 1**

The Board heard from agricultural stakeholders on the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative. The discussion focused on hearing about opportunities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops products in foreign markets, enhance domestic marketing, and improve production and processing practices.

**PANEL DISCUSSION- Continued**  
**Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative – Panel 1**

Speakers included:

- Melissa Frank, The Wonderful Company
- Daniel Hartwig, California Fresh Fruit Association
- Jack Mariani, Mariani Nut/California Walnut Commission

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

Following the presentation, the Board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Harold McClarty, HMC Farms

No further public comments were received on this agenda item. Public comments can be viewed at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

**(7) PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative – Panel 2**

The Board heard from agricultural stakeholders on the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative. The discussion focused on hearing about opportunities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops products in foreign markets, enhance domestic marketing, and improve production and processing practices.

Speakers included:

- Ian LeMay, California Table Grape Commission
- Kelly Damewood, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)
- Harold McClarty, HMC Farms/Western Growers
- Dennis Nuxoll, Western Growers

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative – Panel 3**

The Board heard from agricultural stakeholders on the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative. The discussion focused on hearing about opportunities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops products in foreign markets, enhance domestic marketing, and improve production and processing practices.

Speakers included:

- Natalie Caples, Central California Food Bank
- Marcus Hunt, Shanley Farms
- Héctor Reider, Community Alliance with Family Farms (CAFF)

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

Following the presentation, the Board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Kelly Damewood, CCOF

No further public comments were received on this agenda item. Public comments can be viewed at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

**(9) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Two individuals provided public comment for items not on the agenda.

Public Comment:

- Michael Harris, Black Agriculture
- Craig Gordon, Dairy Farmer

No further public comments were received on this agenda item. Public comments can be viewed at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

**(10) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The public meeting concluded at approximately 1:53 p.m.