

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

**Location:** Video Conference  
GoToWebinar

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director  
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**MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2020**  
**Video Conference Meeting**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 7 at approximately 10:00 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron  
Bryce Lundberg  
Ashley Boren  
Martha Montoya  
Jeff Huckaby

Nancy Casady  
Joy Sterling  
Helene Dillard  
Eric Holst

Rachelle Arizmendi  
Donald Bransford  
Christopher Valadez  
Crystal Hayling

**Absent:**

Mike Gallo

Andrew Thulin

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the June 2 and June 22 meeting. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board members Ashley Boren, Jeff Huckaby, Bryce Lundberg and Christopher Valadez were not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included information on CDFA's operations/outreach efforts during COVID-19, Animal and Plant Health reports on Virulent Newcastle Disease (last report on the outbreak finalized) and Japanese Beetle, as well as information on CA GROWN's new outreach campaign efforts. The Secretary also discussed a recent visit to Imperial County, a current pandemic hotspot, and the work being done to increase testing and outreach. The update concluded with a summary of the enacted state budget related to CDFA programs.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Farmer Equity Report**

The Board heard an update from CDFA's Farm Equity Advisor on the 2020 Report to the California Legislature on the Farmer Equity Act. The report outlines main challenges facing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California and recommendations for how CDFA can address these challenges.

Speaker:

- Thea Rittenhouse, CDFA's Farm Equity Advisor

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PANEL DISCUSSION– Protecting Farmworkers during COVID-19**

The Board held a panel discussion with representatives from agricultural organizations that assist and provide guidance to employers concerning workforce health and safety.

Speakers included:

- Kent Pinkerton, Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
- Theresa Kiehn, Ag Safe
- Bryan Little, Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS)/CFBF

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PANEL DISCUSSION – Farmworker Perspectives (COVID-19)**

The Board held a panel discussion with organizations and entities that represent farmworkers to gather perspective on issues of importance related to COVID-19.

Speakers included:

- Hernan Hernandez, California Farmworkers Foundation
- Estella Cisneros, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
- Giev Kashkooli, United Farm Workers

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Broadband Update**

The Board was scheduled to hear a presentation on rural broadband by a representative of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). Unfortunately, this presentation did not occur.

**(9) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

No formal action was taken by the Board on items contained within the agenda. The Board did express interest in hearing an update on farmworkers within the next 3-4 months.

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were provided.

**(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:55 p.m.