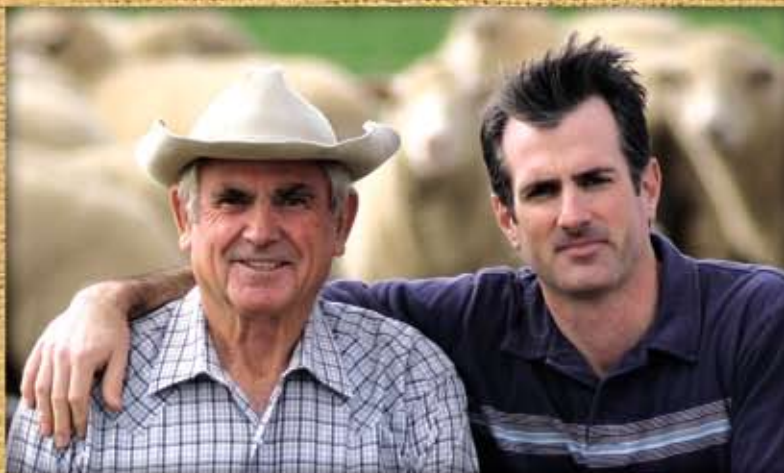


Protecting



California Family Farms

FARM BUREAU



FARM BUREAU

Protect

our farming way of life



Each of your actions contributes to the economic growth and prosperity of the communities you serve.

California family farmers and ranchers define the landscape of the state as they produce \$32 billion of farm value a year, while supporting over 1.1 million California jobs.

California family farmers and ranchers are also stewards of the lands they tend while providing the finest quality and most affordable food, fiber and flowers for consumers throughout the world.

We all have a place in working to protect the farming way of life.

Join us in our effort to **Protect California Family Farms.**

Protecting California Family Farms

California Farm Bureau

Strategic Plan

for Policy Implementation

The California Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization that represents and defends the farming way of life by influencing public policy at the federal and state levels. The organization provides news and information to its members, legislators, public opinion leaders and the media. We promote agricultural awareness and natural resource conservation. CFBF fosters partnerships with organizations that also work to ease the complexity of farming in California.

The California Farm Bureau Federation has set the following policy objectives for the benefit of California family farms and ranches:



p. 3

Assure consumer confidence in food safety

To make sure Americans continue to benefit from the world's safest food supply, Farm Bureau will work with family farmers to see that the appropriate research, regulations, training and technical resources are in place to enhance food safety and security.

p. 4

Promote environmental benefits

As our members work to conserve and enhance natural resources, Farm Bureau will better communicate the proven environmental benefits derived from crop production and voluntary conservation efforts. We will work to establish training and technical improvements that further promote commercially viable conservation practices.

p. 5

Improve the business climate

To enhance the job climate and ensure that agriculture remains in California, Farm Bureau will work to reduce high regulatory compliance costs, excessive employer mandates, fees and taxes.

p. 6

Enhance market opportunities

Farm Bureau supports innovative marketing and expansion of California agricultural sales into new markets at home and abroad, while ensuring our producers are not displaced by unfair trading practices.

p. 7

Protect availability of production practices

To retain farmers' access to cutting-edge, cost-effective technologies, Farm Bureau will protect the tools needed to produce safe, affordable food and fiber. We will promote the research necessary to ensure the use of innovative technologies that are safe for people and the environment.

p. 8

Improve public infrastructure

As California's population expands, Farm Bureau urges commitment to meet tomorrow's needs by developing new water supplies, improving water supply reliability, providing access to all forms of cost-effective energy, and ensuring the ability to efficiently move people and goods.

p. 9

Protect the work force

Farm Bureau supports meaningful immigration reform to assure a timely, adequate and legal farm work force while also promoting the safety and health of farm employees.

p. 10

Encourage responsible land use

To accommodate new residents with needed housing and a safe, affordable, reliable food supply, Farm Bureau supports more efficient use of existing developed land and protection from inappropriate use of eminent domain.

p. 11

Improve government accountability

Farm Bureau will assist in the effort to improve ethics in government, hold elected representatives to the highest standards of public service and protect the constitutional rights of landowners, farmers and ranchers.

p. 12

Enhance rural communities

As demands expand on growing rural areas, Farm Bureau will work to promote understanding of the farming way of life and support public investment programs to reduce crime and improve safety in rural communities.

Assure

FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY



FAST FACTS

U.S. agricultural imports grew by an estimated \$5.3 billion in 2005, requiring additional border inspections and resources.

Due to strong, science-based policies aimed at reducing pathogens, the USDA reports the incidence of E. coli in ground beef has declined more than 80 percent between 2000 and 2005.

Assuring and reinforcing consumer confidence in food safety remains a high priority for California farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau works to guarantee that America's food production continues to be the safest in the world.

We must ensure that California's points of entry are protected against pests, diseases and pathogens that could potentially threaten the food supply and consumer health. Farm Bureau recognizes that a coordinated plan of investment into research, adequate staffing, proper training and technological resources will enhance preparedness.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Research necessary to guide development of good agricultural practices and regulations that will have a meaningful impact on food safety while preserving the economic sustainability of production systems
- ▶ Programs to inspect and prevent the intended or accidental introduction of pests and diseases that might threaten plant or animal health, such as qualified inspectors and investment in technology
- ▶ Efforts to prevent terrorist attacks on food production, processing and distribution
- ▶ Research of effective technologies to reduce risk of pathogens throughout the production chain
- ▶ The ability to cost-effectively trace food products through processing and marketing channels in order to quickly resolve any food safety concerns
- ▶ Country-of-origin food labeling to educate consumers on where their food originates

Farmers and ranchers remain committed to providing safe and reliable food. They will continue to work with government agencies to use the best science available to ensure consumer confidence in California grown products.

Promote

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



FAST FACTS

An estimated 74 percent of private land in California supports wildlife habitat.

Each year private timber owners plant 20-30 million new trees, that's seven new trees for each one that is harvested.

The 500 million trees and vines in California produce enough oxygen to sustain the entire population of Los Angeles.

Methane digesters on California dairies are helping generate about \$1.6 million in electricity and diverting more than 400,000 tons of manure.

California's land, water, air and wildlife all benefit from positive management practices undertaken by farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau works to promote the environmental benefits of farming and ranching, as our members work to conserve and enhance the natural resources on their land.

Because of their love for the land, many farmers have voluntarily chosen to take actions to assure that habitat and wildlife flourish, resulting in proven environmental benefits.

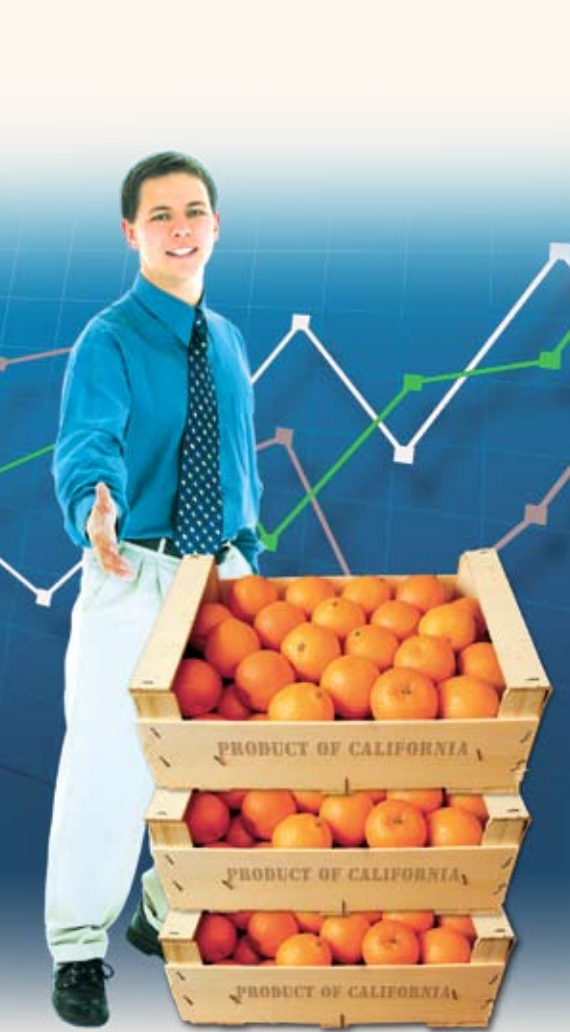
Farm Bureau is committed to establishing or participating in training and technical improvements to promote further conservation practices that keep working farms and ranches commercially viable.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Enhancing wildlife habitat on working farms and ranches where it can safely co-exist with the product grown
- ▶ Development and use of efficient and cost-effective forms of renewable energy and fuels
- ▶ Conducting research to develop an environmental trading program that recognizes the positive contributions made by growers to reduce climate change
- ▶ Improving water quality through economically viable management practices that protect the quality of both surface water and groundwater, particularly through locally driven, incentive-based programs
- ▶ Maintaining flood-protection systems in order to protect public safety, wildlife habitat, and the open space that flood control systems create
- ▶ Promoting healthy rangelands and forests through cooperative management of public lands between government agencies and individuals who harvest timber or graze livestock

Improve

BUSINESS CLIMATE



FAST FACTS

California farmers, ranchers and the supporting infrastructure provide 1.1 million jobs, nearly 8 percent of all jobs in the state.

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Farming and related enterprises directly account for 7 percent of the gross state product.

.....
Of the 2.13 million farms in the United States, 30% may pass to a second generation, but less than 10% will pass to a third.

.....
The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council ranked California 49th in its study on the policy environment for small business in the United States.

The vast majority of California farms are family-owned businesses. Farm Bureau is committed to improving California's overall business climate, focusing particular attention on the many challenges facing small business owners: high regulatory compliance costs, excessive employer mandates, and ever-increasing fees and taxes.

The state's family farms and ranches face unprecedented regulations and fees, making it increasingly difficult to remain in business to provide consumers with products grown here in California.

Efforts to improve the business climate will also trigger job development in rural areas.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Efforts to take into account the direct, indirect and cumulative economic impacts of regulatory compliance costs on the sustainability of the family farm
- ▶ A requirement that new regulations must go through a cost-benefit analysis and must be based upon peer reviewed science
- ▶ Protection of recently enacted workers' compensation insurance reforms to reduce rates and bring California's standards in line with other states, while protecting the needs of employees
- ▶ Preservation of the two-thirds vote to increase taxes and taxes disguised as fees
- ▶ Tax relief to help improve generational transfers for family farms and ranches
- ▶ Maintaining equitable insurance rates that allow California businesses to remain competitive

Enhancing California's business climate will improve the overall health of the economy, provide needed revenue to solve the ongoing state budget crisis, and improve the sustainability of the family farm.

Enhance

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES



FAST FACTS

California farmers must pay average foreign tariffs of 62 percent in order to export commodities.

By contrast, foreign producers face an average tariff of only 12 percent to sell their products in the United States.

.....
In 2004, California exported 26 percent of its agricultural production to other countries.

.....
Today, over 400 California communities host certified farmers' markets, compared to only a handful in 1977.

At a time when the cost of doing business puts California farmers at a disadvantage with competing states and nations, farmers must find innovative ways to grow, harvest, process and market their products.

Farm Bureau works to protect and enhance California farmers' and ranchers' ability to market their products locally, nationally and internationally. We seek new ways to promote the farmers and ranchers who produce the safest food supply in the world.

Farmers and ranchers pride themselves in providing new and better products to maximize consumer choice. As the nation's top farm state, with more than 350 crops produced, California excels as a domestic and international supplier.

California is also the nation's number one agricultural exporting state. Farm Bureau encourages expansion of markets for California agricultural products, while ensuring that our producers are not displaced by unfair foreign trading practices.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ International trade opportunities that open new sales and expand existing markets for California products
- ▶ Trade agreements that are equitable for California farmers and ranchers
- ▶ Country-of-origin food labeling that provides consumers with the information to make informed purchasing decisions
- ▶ Direct marketing of agricultural products at farmers' markets and other venues
- ▶ Effective research and development to continue improving the taste, quality and convenience of California-grown food and fiber products

Protect

PRODUCTION PRACTICES



To continue providing high-quality, safe, abundant supplies of food, fiber, foliage and timber, California farmers and ranchers need access to cutting-edge, cost-effective technologies. Farm Bureau will protect the availability of production tools and practices necessary to produce safe, affordable crops and commodities.

We will promote safe, innovative technologies and environmentally friendly production practices.

Farm Bureau supports

- ▶ The use of biotechnology to improve the quality and marketability of products while promoting health, protecting the environment, and conserving resources
- ▶ Access to necessary agricultural production tools such as crop protection materials and fertilizers
- ▶ Efforts by agricultural programs at the Community Colleges, California State University and University of California to continue development of improved production practices through research, education, and training

Because crop production, pest and disease conditions vary greatly from year to year, place to place, and crop to crop, California farmers need the widest possible assortment of options available to make sure they can provide consumers with the high-quality, affordable food they demand.

FAST FACTS

In 2005, biotech crops increased yields by 8.3 billion pounds, allowing family farmers to produce more food on less land.

.....
Implementation of integrated pest management practices developed through extension programs has reduced applications of crop protection materials by up to 77 percent in some crops.

Improve

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



As California's population continues to grow, our current water system, energy supply, roads, railways and ports are all being stretched beyond their anticipated capacities. In order to remain a vibrant economy, the state must invest in improving such infrastructure to meet current needs and prepare for the future.

Farm Bureau is committed to improving the state's infrastructure by seeking additional water supplies, access to cost-effective energy and the ability to move people and goods, all needed to meet the needs of an expanding population.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Developing new water supplies to meet growing consumer and environmental needs
- ▶ Assuring adequate flood protection for public safety
- ▶ Improving water conveyance systems to better meet the water needs of the State of California
- ▶ Maintaining reliable energy resources for California
- ▶ Enhancing roads and railways to transport goods and people efficiently
- ▶ Improving port operations to enhance commerce

FAST FACTS

The state's water delivery system, completed in the 1970s, was designed to serve a state-wide population of 12 million people and will have to serve a population of nearly 60 million in 2020.

Southern California port congestion has resulted in incoming cargo ships waiting as long as 10 days to be unloaded.

California agriculture relies on natural gas as a source of energy and fertilizer. In California, natural gas usage and prices have increased each year for the past several years.

We are confident that infrastructure improvements will enhance the quality of life for all Californians and support a healthy economy.

Protect

WORK FORCE



FAST FACTS

California employs 450,000 farm employees during peak harvest times and 250,000 year round.

Farmers and ranchers must rely upon a hired farm labor workforce in California that is almost entirely foreign-born (95 percent).

Farm labor shortages in 2006 resulted in at least \$85 million in crop losses, delayed harvests and diminished quality. Mechanical harvest is not possible for many crops.

Many hands are needed to harvest, pack and ship California fruit and vegetable crops. The state's other crops and commodities also depend on skilled workers to move them to market. Having a reliable, stable, legal work force has become a crucial concern. Farm Bureau believes it is important to protect our work force so farmers and ranchers can continue providing consumers with high-quality food, fiber, foliage and timber products.

We are committed to meaningful reform to address our nation's immigration concerns and assure that farmers can hire all the people needed to harvest crops, at the times when they're needed.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Passage of federal immigration reform to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce
- ▶ Providing practical and readily available housing for farm employees
- ▶ The development of meaningful health care reform that serves the people of California and is designed to recognize the nature of the seasonal workforce on which our family farms depend
- ▶ Preventing injury and illness through worker health and safety training
- ▶ Enhancing career technical education in order to help ensure California has the workforce necessary to carry out the increasingly technical jobs associated with agricultural production

Access to a reliable, stable and legal work force will allow farmers and ranchers to continue providing affordable food and fiber.

Encourage

RESPONSIBLE LAND USE



FAST FACTS

By 2040, the Central Valley will become home to nearly 12 million people – double the 2005 population, which was already greater than the populations of 38 states.

Urbanization in the Central Valley increased by 23 percent from 1990 to 2002.

Nearly 100,000 acres of California farmland are permanently committed to non-farming uses every year.

With California's population soon to exceed 40 million, Farm Bureau believes the state must have a strategic approach to growth in order to reduce urban sprawl. As people look for places to call home or shop, our most productive agricultural resources could be lost forever.

We recommend more efficient use of existing developed land to accommodate the growing population while continuing to supply that population with safe, affordable and reliable food.

Farm Bureau supports the conservation of California agricultural resources by

- ▶ Protecting the integrity of the Williamson Act, the state's most successful program that encourages landowners to maintain land in agricultural production
- ▶ Protecting family farms from inappropriate use of eminent domain
- ▶ Maintaining local control of land use planning and participating in the planning process
- ▶ Ensuring that local general plans factor water supply needs into planning for new urban development
- ▶ Enforcing the California Environmental Quality Act to conserve farming and ranching resources as part of the existing environment

Improve

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



FAST FACTS

The November 2004 California general election has been called "the most complete and effective bipartisan gerrymander in American history" - not one of the state's 153 congressional and legislative seats on the ballot switched parties.

Because of California's formula-driven system of budgeting, expenditures will exceed available revenues by \$4.5-5 billion even though state revenue is expected to grow by \$3.1 billion in 2006-07.

Real per capita total spending, which considers both population growth and inflation, has averaged 1.9 % annually since 1992-93.

Greater government accountability will ensure greater economic growth and investments in critical public services. Farm Bureau is committed to improving voters' faith in the government entrusted with ensuring the safety and quality of life for its citizens.

We support efforts to reform the business of government and to ensure that our elected representatives are held to the highest standards of public service.

Farm Bureau encourages

- ▶ Redistricting reform to restore fair and competitive elections, thereby restoring a truly representative form of government by which voters can hold their elected officials accountable
- ▶ State budget reform to end excessive government spending, illegal taxes and the raiding of county coffers in response to state budget deficits
- ▶ Improved government efficiency through legislation and regulation based upon sound, peer-reviewed science
- ▶ Protecting the constitutional rights of farm families in the areas of due process, privacy and protection of private property rights

Enhance

RURAL COMMUNITIES



As the state's population expands and new residents move to rural areas, the very lifestyle they seek is quickly disappearing. Farm Bureau believes the California heritage exhibited in rural communities must be maintained and valued.

With demands growing on these swelling rural areas, investment in infrastructure and services increases in importance. Farm Bureau will work to promote the understanding and appreciation of the cultural values of rural communities.

Farm Bureau supports

- ▶ Programs to encourage economic development in rural communities, which suffer some of the highest unemployment rates in the state
- ▶ Government budgets that ensure California rural communities receive their fair share of public investments in public safety, education, transportation, infrastructure and other critical services
- ▶ Right-to-farm ordinances that allow pre-existing farms, ranches and dairies to maintain their operations as urban areas encroach upon them
- ▶ Programs to reduce rural crime and illegal dumping
- ▶ Agricultural education efforts to improve Californians' understanding of how their food is grown and marketed

FAST FACTS

Agriculture in Southern California? That's right, with over half the state's population residing in six counties, they produce \$5.1 billion in crops and commodities.

.....
Crime-related losses on farms in nine Central California counties totaled \$10.9 million in 2005.

Farm Bureau

— Working to Protect Family Farms

The California Farm Bureau

Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing nearly 92,000 farm families and individual members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of resources.

Farm Bureau is organized on a county, state and national basis. The policies and programs of Farm Bureau are developed from grassroots recommendations originating at the county Farm Bureau level. From these recommendations, policy positions are prepared and submitted to the CFBF House of Delegates for action. Resolutions approved by the House of Delegates on state matters become CFBF policy while national matters are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration.

The CFBF Board of Directors determines a program of activities based on action of the House of Delegates. Elements of the CFBF and county Farm Bureau programs can include government affairs work, legal review and involvement, membership outreach, public education and leadership development.

To learn more about Farm Bureau, contact the California Farm Bureau Federation or a county Farm Bureau in your community. Simply visit www.cfbf.com for contact information.

County Farm Bureaus by District



FARM BUREAU



FARM BUREAU

