

## **Members of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides**

### **• What is your vision for California agriculture by 2030?**

We see California as a world leader in sustainable, organic farming practices.

Large agri-business farms which rotate export crops, none of which are genetically modified or patented. will intermingle in California valleys with small family or cooperative farms which provide local consumers with organic foods.

Farm workers will be 1) protected from labor abuse and chemical contamination and 2) provided clean, comfortable housing and 3) guaranteed safe passage from other states or countries during field work or processing seasons.

Transport of food crops will be by rail as much as possible, or by other newly invented non-polluting transport.

California food production will no longer cause farm community children to exhibit sexual/hormonal deformities (check Fresno Children's Hospital for current facts about those deformities) or brain damage or cancers.

### **• What will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision?**

Educating the public about the health benefits of organic foods and changing our attitude of using fast and processed food to feed our children. The "Slow Food" idea hopefully will grow and encourage cooking at home in kitchens where seasonal, local foods are prepared. Our busy lifestyles will have to change, with more time allowed for family-at-home.

Enforcing labor and health laws for farm workers.

We know the horror of pesticide/herbicide abuse in our farm practices. We can no longer put toxins in our soil and water. Laws must tighten to ensure water in California is less contaminated by agricultural run-off (and also from home gardening). No "organic" fresh foods should be shipped from China or countries other than Canada and Mexico. We must produce and use our own.

### **• In 2030, how has the public perception of agriculture changed?**

Children and adults will understand where the healthiest foods come from -- our beautiful soil in California valleys and the labor of many people to bring that tasty food to our tables.

People will respect California Agriculture as much as Silicon Valley.

### **• What is a "must have" in an Ag Vision for California?**

**We must have a safe, non-toxic farm policy to produce sustainable, organic food to keep Californians and the world healthy.**

**Thank you,**

Judy Stege

Secretary, FresCAMP

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