



Sheraton Grand Hotel
Sacramento, California
All times listed below are in Pacific.

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- 7:30 AM** **IN PERSON: REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**
- 8:00 AM** **WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- 8:30 AM** **THE ECONOMICS BEHIND CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE'S COMPETITIVE POSITION**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Roland Fumasi, Ph.D., EVP & North American Regional Head, RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness
- 9:00 AM** **HOW CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE'S REGULATORY COST STRUCTURE COMPARES WITH OTHER STATES**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Lynn Hamilton, Ph.D., Professor of Agribusiness, California Polytechnic State University
- 9:40 AM** **SPONSOR UPDATE – ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
- 9:45 AM** **BREAK**
- 10:00 AM** **SPONSOR UPDATE: FLM HARVEST**
- 10:05 AM** **WHY SOME CALIFORNIA GROWERS ARE CROSSING THE SOUTHERN BORDER**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Mike Way, Managing Partner, Prime Time Produce
- 10:45 AM** **PERSPECTIVE**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Chair of House Agriculture Committee
- 11:15 AM** **RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ALIGNMENT: KEYS TO OVERCOMING LABOR CHALLENGES**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Walt Duflock, Vice President of Innovation, Western Growers
- Pauline Canteneur, Business Strategist, FarmWise
- Jenny Maloney, Global-Americas Strategic Accounts Manager, Bayer CropScience Vegetable Seeds
- Gabe Youtsey, Chief Innovation Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
- 12:00 PM** **BREAK FOR LUNCH**



- 12:30 PM FOLLOW THE MONEY: WHERE ARE VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS INVESTING AND WHY?**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Clay Mitchell, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Fall Line Capital
- 1:10 PM SPONSOR UPDATE: CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE**
- 1:15 PM CALIFORNIA FARMLAND: HOW QUICKLY WILL 'PARADISE' BECOME A PARKING LOT?**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Kara Heckert, California Regional Director, American Farmland Trust
- 1:40 PM SPONSOR UPDATE: CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU**
- 1:45 PM HOW CALIFORNIA DAIRIES AND RANCHES CAN SURVIVE AND THRIVE**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Michael Boccadoro, Executive Director, Dairy Cares
 - Ryan Indart, CEO, Indart Group, Inc. and with California Wool Growers Association
 - Andrée Soares, President, Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc. and with California Wool Growers Association
- 2:30 PM BREAK**
- 2:45 PM NEXT GENERATION CALIFORNIA FARMERS: WHO ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY GAIN A Foothold IN A HIGH-COST INDUSTRY?**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Jennifer Beretta, Assistant Herdswomen, Beretta Dairy
 - Dino Giacomazzi, CEO, Giacomazzi Almond Company
 - Javier Zamora, Owner, JMS Organics
- 3:45 PM PERSPECTIVE**
Moderator: Brad Hooker
- Senator Andreas Borgeas, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture
- 4:00 PM SPONSOR UPDATE: WESTERN GROWERS**
- 4:05 PM CEO PANEL: WHAT DO WE NEED FOR CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE?**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Dave Puglia, President and CEO, Western Growers
 - Richard Waycott, President and CEO, Almond Board of California
 - Jamie Johansson, President, California Farm Bureau
 - Ruthann Anderson, President, CAPCA
- 5:00 PM IN-PERSON: CUSTOMER APPRECIATION RECEPTION**
- 6:00 PM MEETING ADJOURNS**



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Secretary Karen Ross

Karen Ross was reappointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on Jan. 9, 2019, by Governor Gavin Newsom. She was initially appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011. Before joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996 to 2009, and as Vice President of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989 to 1996.

Secretary Ross grew up as a 4-H kid on a farm in western Nebraska. She and her husband, Barry, own 800 acres of the family farm where her younger brother, a fourth-generation farmer, grows no-till wheat and feed grains, incorporating cover crops and rotational grazing for beef production. The Secretary has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.



Roland Fumasi

Roland Fumasi, Ph.D., is the head of RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness for North America, where he oversees a team of 17 analysts located in New York, St. Louis, Chicago, Fresno and Toronto. Fumasi has a background in agribusiness research with international market development and finance experience in the agriculture industry. He was raised on a dairy and farming operation in the Sacramento Valley and served as the California State FFA President before attending California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), where he received both his B.S. and M.S. in Agribusiness. Fumasi completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University in 2013.



Lynn Hamilton

Lynn Hamilton, Ph.D., has been a professor in Cal Poly's Agribusiness Department since 1996, teaching agribusiness principles, agricultural policy and research methods. Her research interests include land use policy, the regulatory environment faced by agribusiness firms, and renewable energy. Cal Poly, the Western Agricultural Economics Association, the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources all have recognized her for teaching excellence. She has also won awards for student advising and service to Cal Poly student clubs. Hamilton has a B.S. in agricultural education and journalism from The Ohio State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied economics from the

University of Minnesota.



Mike Way

Mike Way was born and raised in Salinas, Calif., graduated from Fresno State University in 1988, and went to work for Sun World International, a grower and marketer of fresh fruits and vegetables in Coachella, Calif. In November 1992, Way left Sun World to start Prime Time International. Twenty-five years later, Way is managing partner of the largest bell pepper shipper in North America. Prime Time's product line includes bell peppers, asparagus, sweet corn, tomatoes, seedless watermelon and other seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Way is active in Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley, where he was president from 2012-2015, and La Quinta Country Club as a board member.

Way is married to Ellen Way (Cal Poly/Gamma Phi Beta) and they have two daughters, Julia (20) (University of Kentucky/Tri Delt), and Elizabeth (17).



Assemblymember Robert Rivas

Assemblymember Robert Rivas has represented California's 30th Assembly District since 2018. While still in his first term, in the fall of 2020, he was appointed as Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee and elected Vice Chair of the influential Latino Legislative Caucus. Rivas was raised in Paicines, Calif., where his grandfather was a farmworker at Almaden Vineyards. Rivas and his brother Rick grew up in farmworker housing, cared for by their single mother and beloved grandparents, who emigrated from Mexico in the 1960s.

Rivas attended local public schools in San Juan Batista and Hollister. He graduated with a Bachelor's in Government from CSU-Sacramento and

later earned a Master's in Public Administration from San Jose State University. Assemblymember Rivas lives in Hollister with his wife Christen and their 4-year-old daughter, Melina.



Walt Duflock

Walt Duflock is a fifth-generation family farmer from Monterey County whose operation includes cattle, wine grapes and specialty crops. He has 30 years of startup experience in Silicon Valley, including working at eBay and three other companies. He also helped build the top AgriFoodTech Accelerator at SVG-THRIVE. Duflock is currently the Vice President of Innovation at Western Growers, focused on harvest automation and food safety detection and prevention solutions. Duflock received his business degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.



Pauline Canteneur

Pauline Canteneur is Head of Business Development and Partnerships at FarmWise. She is in charge of identifying strategic business opportunities for the company and overseeing R & D projects. Previously, she worked as a strategy consultant for BNP Paribas' Innovation Department in Paris, then in San Francisco. Canteneur was born to multi-generation farmers in northeastern France. She earned a master's degree in business management from EDHEC Business School in France before accepting a position at the French Embassy in Berlin for the Department of Food and Agriculture.



Jenny Maloney

Jenny Maloney is the Global-Americas Strategic Account Lead for Bayer CropScience Vegetable Seeds. Maloney is responsible for leading strategic accounts through North and South America and working with those accounts to introduce the full platform of Bayer fruit and vegetable seeds, as well as the entire CropScience portfolio. Previously, she was the Food Stakeholder Manager and U.S. Food Chain and Sustainability Manager for Bayer, managing relationships and projects with key food chain partners, including food manufacturers and grocery retailers, while focusing on consumer demands and trends in food.

Prior to joining Bayer, she held multiple roles at John Deere — as Senior Manager, Global Water Policy, International Affairs, as a Strategic Marketing Manager, and as a Manager for State Public Affairs. Before that, she worked at USDA on domestic and foreign agricultural policy, including the 2008 Farm Bill. Maloney earned her law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and is a member of the California Bar. She holds an undergrad degree from Colorado State University in Agri-Business and Animal Science.



Gabe Youtsey

Gabe Youtsey is the Chief Innovation Officer at University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, where he works on the commercialization of novel food and agriculture technologies to address pressing industry, community and global challenges. His work encompasses diverse areas of technology, from artificial intelligence and robotic automation in agriculture, to precision nutrition and smart processing in food production. His passion is connecting diverse industry, academic and community stakeholders across food, agriculture and technology sectors and driving meaningful win-win projects forward. Youtsey is part of the leadership of the UC Davis-led Artificial Intelligence Institute for Next Generation Food Systems, and a founding member of the

Linux AgStack foundation, a new open infrastructure for digital agriculture. Prior to his innovation role, Youtsey worked in Information Technology leadership roles at UC ANR and UC Davis, preceded by long experience working with software, technology, food, agriculture, retail and other companies on their technology strategies.



Clay Mitchell

Clay Mitchell is Co-Founder and Managing Director of Fall Line Capital. He is a fifth-generation Iowa farmer known for leadership in soil conservation and technology. At Fall Line, he applies that experience to transformative investments in farmland and to investing in the early-stage tech companies that will drive the most significant progress in farming. Mitchell has participated several times at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland and been featured in international publications, including Time and Wired, for his progressive farming techniques. Mitchell has a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Harvard College and an M.S. in Crop Science from Cornell University, where he was a Saltonstall Fellow in Agronomy.



Kara Heckert

Kara Heckert directs the American Farmland Trust's programs in California. During a long career working on agricultural sustainability and natural resource conservation in California, Heckert also has gained expertise in farmland protection and state policy. She has led the strategy and development of programs that provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, nutrient management and ecosystem services.

Before joining AFT, she was the executive director of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District, where she worked with a diverse cross-section of the community on landscape-scale conservation planning, agricultural sustainability and education. She has planned and implemented watershed-scale conservation planning and farm-scale restoration projects with the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, California State Parks and local nonprofits. Heckert is also a former soil conservationist for NRCS. Heckert is a native Californian and the granddaughter of a Nebraska dairy and corn farmer. She is an alumna of Sonoma State University, where she studied both biology and environmental studies and planning.



Michael Boccadoro

Michael Boccadoro is President of West Coast Advisors. As President, Boccadoro is responsible for overseeing the firm's public affairs, regulatory affairs and sustainability practices. Before launching West Coast Advisors, he served as Managing Director of a trailblazing public affairs and crisis management firm. He also spent seven years as a senior consultant to the California Legislature. Boccadoro has worked with the state's dairy industry for more than 27 years and continues to serve as the Executive Director of Dairy Cares, the sector's highly effective sustainability coalition. He established and continues to lead California dairy methane reduction efforts and the development of programs and policies designed to incentivize these projects. Boccadoro remains actively engaged in state and national dairy sector sustainability discussions and the development of achievable climate goals, including climate neutrality. Boccadoro received his B.A. in economics and political science from the University of California, Davis.



Ryan Indart

Ryan Indart is a fourth-generation sheep rancher in Fresno County. He operates his sheep ranching and dry-land grain farming business in Clovis and Five Points. In 2009, Indart and his wife, Beatriz, purchased the sheep ranching enterprise from the family business and now run a herd of 4,000 commercial three-eighths Finn/Targhee ewes. Indart also operates a small Terminal Sire Composite ewe herd and produces his own composite rams for internal use. In addition, he also farms cherries, oranges, almonds and dryland wheat hay for the family business. Indart is currently an active and involved leader in the sheep industry, sitting on boards of directors of various associations including the California Wool Growers, National Lamb Feeders, Western Range and California Sheep Commission, as well

as local associations like The Clovis Chamber of Commerce and The Fresno Farm Bureau. Indart is happily married to his wife, Beatriz, and has four daughters — Lucia, 12; Cecilia, 11; Maggie, 8, and Anna Marie, who's 4.



Andree Soares

Andrée (Talbot) Soares is a fourth-generation California sheep rancher. Raised in the central San Joaquin Valley in her family's commercial sheep ranching business, Soares initially followed her mother's footsteps as a Registered Nurse. She graduated cum laude from Fresno State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and practiced at Valley Children's Hospital in the Central Valley for 29 years. In 2014, Soares purchased a targeted grazing company as a side business, which quickly required her full-time management. Along with her livestock and team, Star Creek Land Stewards provides targeted custom grazing services, primarily for fire mitigation, with sheep and goats throughout California. Soares has a daughter, Bianca, 25, who is a graduate of UC Davis and is currently

working with Soares as Project Manager. Her son, Tristan, 22, is a recent graduate of Montana State University, at Bozeman.

Soares currently serves as a Director on the Board of Western Range Association, Vice President of the California Wool Growers Association, and a member of the Steering Committee of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. She also represents the California Wool Growers Association on the Rangeland Management Advisory Committee to the California Board of Forestry. For the past two years, Soares has co-chaired the California Woolgrowers Association Labor Committee, primarily focused at this time on modifying the Ag Overtime Law impact on the Shepherd classification.



Jennifer Beretta

Jennifer Beretta is assistant herdswomen at Beretta Dairy. She is a fourth-generation dairy farmer in Northern California. She works alongside her father, Doug, and brother, Ryan. Their operation has been organic since 2006. Beretta oversees the organic paperwork, AI the cows, dairy herd records, feed calves and pasture management. She graduated from Chico State in 2010 with a degree in animal science and started working full time at the dairy after graduation. Beretta is the Sonoma County Farm Bureau president, a 4-H dairy leader, and is president of Western Organic Dairy Producers.



Dino Giacomazzi

Dino Giacomazzi is CEO of Giacomazzi Almond Company Inc. He is the fourth generation to manage his family's farm, which was founded in 1893 by his Swiss-Italian great-grandfather. The operation consists of 700 acres of almonds, 300 acres of corn, wheat and alfalfa, and two miniature donkeys. The Giacomazzi family were dairy farmers for 126 years and the oldest continuously operating dairy farm in California when they sold their milking herd in 2019.

Giacomazzi is a promoter of sustainable farming practices and was the 2012 Leopold Conservation Award recipient for California and named a Sustainable Ag Champion by the EPA in 2010. He is currently using highly efficient automated irrigation systems and implementing regenerative agricultural practices in his almond operation. Giacomazzi has managed his family farm since 2002. Prior to that, he had a 13-year career in the music and internet industries where he managed rock bands and developed online applications for internet startups and Fortune 1000 companies.



Javier Zamora

Immigrating to the United States in 1986, Javier Zamora worked in the service industry in southern California for 20 years before going back to school at the age of 43. He earned his GED and a degree in landscape design before enrolling in the horticulture program at Cabrillo College. Sharpening his farming skills through the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), Zamora started farming organically in 2012 on 1.5 acres. Today, as the owner of JSM Organics, he farms over 100 acres on California's Central Coast. He also is a mentor to other farmers and a leading voice in the local organic community. He is a strong advocate for beginning farmers and federal conservation programs. Zamora sits on the Boards of ALBA, the Ecological Farming Association, and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, and is a member of USDA's Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.



Senator Andreas Borgeas

Senator Andreas Borgeas is a State Senator who proudly represents the Eighth District of California. Borgeas is Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, with other committee assignments including Governmental Organization; Energy, Utilities and Communications; Insurance; Joint Legislative Audit; Growing Impact of Artificial Intelligence in California; California, Armenia & Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art & Cultural Exchange; Preparing California's Future Workforce; California's Wine Industry; and Governor's 2019 Report: "Wildfires and Climate Change – California's Energy Future." Borgeas conducted his Ph.D. field research in, and published extensively on, China and the neighboring Central Asian Republics, receiving his graduate

education at Georgetown Law School, Harvard University and Panteion University of Political Sciences. After clerking for a federal district judge he practiced international law at Luce Forward. For over a decade he has been a professor in the fields of international law and security affairs at the San Joaquin College of Law in Clovis, and is an adjunct professor at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey.



Dave Puglia

Dave Puglia was selected President and CEO of Western Growers in 2019. Since joining the organization in 2005, he has focused on leading public policy initiatives affecting the agriculture industry in California and other western states. Before joining Western Growers, Puglia served for seven years in the California Attorney General's Office, first as Press Secretary and then as Director of Public Affairs and Communications. He has also worked as a public affairs consultant to numerous corporations and industry groups in addition to serving in senior roles on several statewide political campaigns. Puglia is currently Vice Chair of the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center Advisory Council and has served on several industry-related boards and advisory councils. A

Sacramento native, Puglia earned a bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from Sacramento State University and resides with his wife Lezlie in Orange County, California.



Richard Waycott

Richard Waycott is the Almond Board of California's (ABC) President and CEO. He joined the organization in 2002. Prior to heading up the ABC, Waycott worked for over 20 years, mostly in Latin America, in the food manufacturing and agribusiness industries, with extensive experience in the consumer products and B-to-B grains and oilseeds market segments. Waycott's experience complements the other professionals at the Almond Board by bringing strategic leadership to the global development of the California almond industry. Almond production and worldwide almond shipments, as well as the activities of the ABC, have grown tremendously over the past two decades, with Almond Board programs now touching every aspect of the industry's interests.



James "Jamie" Johansson

Jamie Johansson was elected president of the California Farm Bureau in December 2017 and was re-elected in 2019. Johansson previously served as first vice president for two years. In 2021, he was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. Johansson grows olives and citrus fruit in Oroville and operates an olive oil company, Lodestar Farms. He is a co-founder of the Sierra Oro Farm Trail Association and a former board member of the California Olive Oil Council. Johansson attended the University of Alabama and Colorado State University, where he studied political science.



Ruthann Anderson

Ruthann Anderson has served as the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) President and CEO for nearly six years. CAPCA represents the 4,000 Licensed PCAs working across Agriculture and in Turf and Ornamental settings. CAPCA is working to take a more proactive stance to emerging regulatory and popular issues. BeeWhere is an example of one project spearheaded by CAPCA to develop a coalition of regulators and industry stakeholders to address a long-standing gap in Pollinator Protection through increased communication and modern technology. Anderson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of California, Davis.