

Lawmakers sideline funding for valley canals, push for \$1B on coastal infrastructure

As California’s drought expands further into rural communities, lawmakers handicapped a bill aimed at fixing critical conveyance canals that deliver drinking and irrigation water in the San Joaquin Valley. Instead, lawmakers are investing in water infrastructure for a crisis that has yet to significantly impact the state’s most populous cities. The Legislature has approved measures to prepare urban coastal regions for sea level rise, in coordination with an ongoing effort to invest more than \$1 billion in infrastructure needs for mitigation projects.



King tides flood a street in Marin. (photo: DWR)

Senate Bill 559 had proposed nearly \$800 million for fixing the Friant-Kern Canal, the Delta-Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct, which have suffered damage from subsidence due to the last drought. SB 559 was Senator Melissa Hurtado’s third attempt at funding the repairs. She was disheartened by new amendments from the Assembly Appropriations Committee that removed all funding provisions from the bill. This came as one of California’s worst droughts on record is expected to stretch into another year, and as the state doles out a massive surplus spending package.

Other amendments to the bill would require valley water users to reduce their reliance on exports from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and charge the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife with ensuring ecosystem benefits result from any state investments. Rather than an infrastructure proposal, the bill simply establishes a fund for “water conveyance restoration.”

“It’s almost hard to believe that even during such a significant impact to Californians—and with water shortages—that we are still debating it,” Hurtado told *Agri-Pulse*. “Part of me feels very happy and thankful and appreciative for the governor providing a down payment for fixing of these canals.”

Gov. Gavin Newsom had proposed \$200 million for the repair projects, which would be matched by federal and local dollars. After negotiations with the Legislature, the final budget package included \$100 million for conveyance infrastructure. The administration then opposed SB 559, arguing the cost pressures would be too significant for the state's spending plans.

Audubon California and other environmental groups and lawmakers opposing the measure have long argued the local beneficiaries and the federal government— not California taxpayers— should cover the costs for repairs.

“Who ends up eating that cost [now]?” said Hurtado. “If anything, it hurts Californians.”

She said the 31 million Californians who depend on canal deliveries will be the ones paying for the extremely high cost of water when supply is limited.

“It's not a political decision. It's just a practical thing to do and advocate,” she said. “That's the whole reason why I ran [for office] in the first place, to improve our region and improve the lives of the people.”

Not advocating for water would “make the lives of our communities much more worse,” she added.



Sen. Melissa Hurtado, D-Sanger

Similar arguments for tackling escalating infrastructure costs were made in favor of SB 1, a measure by Senate pro tempore Toni Atkins of San Diego to help coastal cities plan for sea level rise.

“We certainly have all experienced the devastating effects of climate change—from disasters like massive wildfires ... to long periods of severe drought, which has certainly affected the state's ability to grow food,” said Atkins in introducing her measure for a final floor vote last week. “State government and local governments are only in the very early stages of planning for and anticipating sea level rise. The longer we wait, the more costly the damage will be.”

If signed by Newsom, SB 1 would invest \$100 million per year to help local and state agencies steer through legal and bureaucratic hurdles for mitigation planning, with a focus on vulnerable disadvantaged communities. The state budget includes another \$31 million in grants and planning efforts. According to Sen. Bob Wieckowski of Fremont, another \$3.7 billion approved in the budget has yet to be earmarked, and he expects about a third of that to go to sea level rise needs.

“The Senate proposal set aside \$1.1 billion as the initial down payment to do the work that's outlined here in SB 1,” he said during the floor session. “[SB 1] sets the framework in the legislation.”

Wieckowski explained that the money could “transform the whole San Francisco Bay” to construct a causeway that can withstand storm surges like the one Louisiana recently suffered during Hurricane Ida.

Sea level rise poses a risk to inland California as well, especially the parts of the Central Valley that surround the Delta.

“If the sea level keeps rising at the level it is rising right now, I am not coastside but we will be at some point,” said Sen. Susan Eggman of Stockton. “I represent central California. I want to maintain representing Central California and do not want to represent the coast.”

Sen. Richard Pan of Sacramento said that both the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys will be underwater someday without investments now.

Hurtado has not given up on investments for San Joaquin Valley conveyance repairs and expects to revive the legislation next year.

“It's just another hurdle along the way,” she told *Agri-Pulse*.

The defeat has motivated the senator to work harder the next time by expanding an already broad coalition backing the effort and improving her messaging to the public and lawmakers. Hurtado has also been instrumental in gaining Senate approval for a new select committee on human security.

“I'm looking to explore all issues related to drought and the future of water in the valley and in California,” she said of the committee.

Drought is a ‘wakeup call’ for the nation’s largest urban and ag water managers

With two dry years in California and another likely to come, urban and agricultural water districts are taking a close look at the practices and infrastructure investments that have paid off so far and what still needs more investment.

Decades of planning have delivered successes this year for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest water supplier in the nation—and agricultural districts have taken notice. The water managers have relied on both the Colorado River and State Water Project deliveries to supply drinking water to nearly 20 million residents in Los Angeles and neighboring counties. As both sources have grown less reliable due to droughts and endangered species protections, Metropolitan has invested in water storage, recycling and trading agreements with farmers in the Imperial Valley who hold senior rights to Colorado River water.



Saddle Dam at Diamond Valley Lake (photo: [Lvi56](#) at Wikipedia Commons)

One of those investments was Diamond Valley Lake, an off-stream reservoir that began operation in 2000 and has more storage capacity than Lake Havasu in Arizona.

“People looked at it and said, ‘Oh, a \$2 billion investment. That's crazy,’” said Adel Hagekhalil, the new general manager for Metropolitan, during a recent event for the Sacramento Press Club. **“Now it's saving us.”**

With half of the water in Southern California coming from local sources, Metropolitan has also set a goal to go further by cutting imports in half. Hagekhalil is hoping to build “the fourth aqueduct in Southern California”—an umbrella strategy for diversifying the water portfolio by developing more local water supply, conservation and storage flexibility.

Westlands Water District General Manager Tom Birmingham noticed how such investments have led to more resilience to the drought this year.

“We've read that Metropolitan Water District and the agencies that it serves are in pretty good shape this year, despite the fact that this is one of the driest years on record in California,” said Birmingham. “That's because Metropolitan Water District has, over the course of the last three decades, made significant investments in water supply infrastructure.”

He praised the district for improving conveyance on the California Aqueduct as well and said the commitments like this raise fundamental questions over whether the state and nation should make comparable investments in water supply infrastructure for California.

“Chief among those is: Do we want to preserve the viability of agriculture in California?” said Birmingham. “The food is going to come from somewhere.”

While Westlands, the largest agricultural water district in the nation, has made strides in water conservation over the years, the drought is hitting its farmers hard. The district has taken about 100,000 acres of land out of production in recent years in response to contaminated aquifers and reduced supply, and growers are producing more yields with 25% less water than about 30 years ago. Yet the district projects as much as 300,000 of its 540,000 irrigated lands will go fallow this year due to the drought, and it anticipates spending more than \$100 million on buying water on the transfer market.



Adel Hagekhalil, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

“Even in this critically dry year, because of the cooperation and the efforts being made by water agencies around the state, there's water available for transfer,” said Birmingham, adding that this will also provide for cold water storage in Lake Shasta to benefit salmon.

On top of that, researchers estimate the broader San Joaquin Valley will see as much as 700,000 acres of land permanently fallowed over the next two decades as local agencies implement plans for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Birmingham, however, cautioned against seeing SGMA “as all doom and gloom” and said the district perceived it as an opportunity to codify the practices it was already doing to manage groundwater in the subbasin.

The silver lining with the drought, he explained, has been that it has made it “abundantly clear that we have to all work together to address these issues.” This has already been playing out in negotiations over voluntary agreements for exports out of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, which have focused on a comprehensive watershed-wide approach to protecting endangered species.

“We need to take actions and test them to determine whether they're working,” he said. “If they're not, we need to think about what else should we be doing with the resources that we have.”

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross stressed the negotiations have been progressing, despite skepticism from environmental groups.

“If it were easy, it would have been done a decade ago,” said Ross. “It is very complex, and it really underscores how connected we all are.”

Jennifer Pierre, who is the general manager of the State Water Contractors and has been involved in the negotiations, said she hopes to get more conservation groups on board.

“One of the challenges in the Delta is that everybody has a different vision for how to achieve a shared vision of it,” said Pierre. “And we get stuck.”

Many of those problems boil down to a lack of trust, she explained, which must be overcome to take a risk on new approaches.

“For me, what matters is that we're creating a space to change the trajectory of how we work together and how we learn together and how we use that learning to actually do better,” she said.

Hagekhalil agreed, adding that doing nothing is not an option. He pushed for more state and federal investment in infrastructure to support such goals.

With an \$8 billion federal water infrastructure package in the works, Birmingham said a number of projects could benefit from investments. The expansion of San Luis Reservoir, for example, would add about 120,000 more acre-feet of storage. Also high on his list were raising the height of Shasta Dam and building Sites Reservoir, which could have stored millions of additional acre-feet during the 2017 wet year.

Pierre pointed out that several other projects could provide immediate relief for the current drought, such as turf reduction programs for residents, funding smart meters, lining canals and cleaning up contaminated groundwater basins. She also said the state could make investments in buying down water demand and purchasing water for environmental purposes. Mandating a 25% reduction in water use across the state, as former Gov. Jerry Brown did in the last drought, however, would only lead to a negative response, she cautioned.

Hagekhalil said such a mandate could actually hurt his district's member agencies that depend on recycled water for their supply. He called for more action with infrastructure investment and argued this should be treated as a “Mulholland moment for our future in this state,” invoking the famed water mogul who brokered the first major water deals for Los Angeles.

“I'm just frustrated that we're not talking about big things that we can speak to. We need to stop trying to find excuses not to do it,” said Hagekhalil. “The drought is a wakeup call. And if we don't take advantage of it right now, we have failed.”

Ag leaders facing unprecedented challenges see pay raises, some holds during pandemic

Some leaders of trade organizations important to U.S. agriculture saw their paychecks rise as they struggled to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, but the full impact of CEO compensation won't be known for a while due to delays in reporting data, according to an annual *Agri-Pulse* analysis.

Dawn Sweeney, the former CEO of the National Restaurant Association, is the highest-paid executive in the 2021 *Agri-Pulse* CEO Report with a salary of \$5.9 million, up from \$5.7 million in the 2020 Agri-Pulse report. Mike Sommers, the new CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, was second with a compensation package of \$3.88 million, and the American Bankers

Association’s Robert Nichols is a close third with an income of \$3.15 million, up from \$2.8 million.

Other members of the \$1 million-plus club include David Yarnold, the recently departed CEO of National Audubon Society; Jim Mulhern with the National Milk Producers Federation; Andy LaVigne, CEO of the American Seed Trade Association; Tom Stenzel, with United Fresh Produce, which is merging with the Produce Marketing Association next year; and Thomas Kiernan, the CEO of American Wind Energy Association, which recently merged with the American Clean Energy Association.

The true impact of the pandemic on salaries might not be realized for another year. But some executives were rewarded with pay increases for their efforts to keep supply chains moving and meeting other performance goals. For example, Robb Mackie, president and CEO of the American Bakers Association, saw his base compensation increase from roughly \$355,000 in 2018 to almost \$395,000 in 2020. The President and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association, Michael Dykes, had an increase in base compensation from about \$818,000 in 2019 to about \$869,000 in 2020.

 **CEO Compensation for ‘Top Ten’**

| Name | Organization | Total Compensation |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Dawn M. Sweeney* | National Restaurant Assoc. | \$ 5,891,851 |
| Michael J. Sommers | American Petroleum Institute | \$ 3,884,282 |
| Robert S. Nichols | American Bankers Assoc. | \$ 3,145,960 |
| Leslie G. Sarasin | Food Marketing Institute | \$ 2,838,789 |
| Geoff Freeman | Consumer Brands Assoc. | \$ 2,386,703 |
| Jim Matheson | National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. | \$ 2,111,767 |
| Tom Gallagher | Dairy Management Inc. / National Dairy Promotion and Research Board | \$ 1,512,930 |
| Rebeca Romero | Independent Community Bankers of America | \$ 1,470,571 |
| Thomas Nassif* | Western Growers Assoc. | \$ 1,226,554 |
| John H. Downs Jr. | National Confectioners Assoc. | \$ 1,210,132 |

*: Denotes no longer CEO

Source: Agri-Pulse analysis of non-profit tax data for top food, ag and energy associations.

Bob Skelton, the chief administrative officer at the American Society of Association Executives, said that because CEO salaries are set by contracts, pay cuts resulting from the pandemic won’t occur for another year or two — if at all. And with tax deadlines extended due to pandemic disruptions, there is inadequate information available to get a full picture of the impact on compensation.

“The biggest challenge I have right now is lack of pandemic data,” he said.

Reporting varies by association, he said. "Some associations are just like gangbusters with the pandemic because it's a question of who their members were. ... So [some] did very well and I certainly would expect that on the compensation side of things it would be the same. But then a lot of other associations got hit pretty hard, because their members got hit pretty hard," he said.

Vishal Gupta, a professor in the University of Alabama’s Culverhouse College of Business, told *Agri-Pulse* that the effect may be limited, if at all.

“For nonprofits whose revenues are not affected by Covid, it is likely that CEO compensation will not be depressed for too long,” he said. “However, for nonprofits whose revenues go down due to Covid, CEO compensation may go down as long as the current conditions (high uncertainty) are present.”

Since the pandemic stifled many trade associations' ability to host the revenue-generating conventions and other events the groups often rely upon, Skelton said the true financial impact will likely depend on an association's ability to respond to gathering restrictions.

“If face-to-face was their way of getting training and development out to their members,” Skelton said, “could they quickly switch to online or to other digital offerings and could they make money doing that? I think some did that very well and others not so well.”

While the total extent of the pandemic's effect on CEO compensation remains murky, Skelton said that trade associations are currently busier than ever due to the new administration and its priorities.

“You have a ton of money flowing in, with the incentive programs Congress has passed and the infrastructure bill, everybody's trying to get a piece of it and that is where trade associations shine,” he said. “So, I think they're going to do very well and, accordingly, executives are going to do very well if they're successful in their activities.”

Not all association executives earned more money than the prior year as a result of job changes or changes in bonuses and other benefit contributions. The most notable is Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who left the helm of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, where his compensation totaled slightly more than \$900,000 in 2019. As a cabinet member, Vilsack earns roughly \$221,000.

Environmental Defense Fund President Frederic Krupp saw his base salary increase by about \$30,000 from 2019 to 2020, but total compensation dropped by \$36,577, due to a sharp drop in his bonus potential. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall's base pay stayed roughly the same, but contributions for retirement and other benefits declined by about \$4,500.

Editor's note: Based on reader's suggestions, we try to add new associations each year. But some have not recently filed their 990 forms or do not list compensation levels for their top staff members. That's despite *Agri-Pulse's* request for more information, which is required by the IRS to be provided upon request. For example, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences is new to our list this year, but the most recent filing is for 2017. The same is true for the National Black Farmers Association, which last filed in 2017 but lists no compensation for President and Chairman John W. Boyd, Jr. The organization lists \$596,823 in expenses.

For California Citrus Mutual, President Casey Creamer is their new president, but the group's 2019 filing does not detail his compensation. *Agri-Pulse* noted that "other" salaries and wages for the organization's staff is \$819,254. The previous president, Joel Nelsen, earned \$212,859.

You'll find most of this detail near the individual's name or in the footnotes, including which CEOs receive compensation from more than one organization or which salaries reflect only partial years. Names with an asterisk denote those who are no longer at the helm of each organization but are listed on their most recent 990 forms.

See chart starting on page 4 for the entire list of CEO salaries compiled by our team for 2021.

[View the complete CEO salary report from 2020 here.](#)

| Name of Organization | President/CEO/ Executive Director or VP | Position | Base Compensation | Potential Bonus | Other Compensation | Retirement/ Deferred Payment | Tax-Free Benefits | Total Compensation | Filing Year |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Agricultural Retailers Assoc. | Daren Coppock | President & CEO | \$362,041.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$16,500.00 | \$21,243.00 | \$399,784.00 | 2019 |
| Almond Alliance of California | Elaine Trevino | President | \$143,651.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$143,651.00 | 2019 |
| American Angus Association | Allen Moczygemba* (10/18-5/19) | CEO | \$257,851.00 | \$65,102.00 | \$45,905.00 | \$18,356.00 | \$16,062.00 | \$403,276.00 | 2019 |
| American Bakers Assoc. | Robb Mackie | President & CEO | \$394,957.00 | \$115,000.00 | \$19,001.00 | \$41,400.00 | \$24,777.00 | \$595,135.00 | 2020 |
| American Bankers Assoc. | Robert S. Nichols | President & CEO | \$1,739,099.00 | \$1,050,000.00 | \$42,683.00 | \$282,300.00 | \$31,878.00 | \$3,145,960.00 | 2019 |
| American Beverage Assoc. | Katherine Lugar | President & CEO | \$1,014,535.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$28,500.00 | \$1,071,035.00 | 2019 |
| American Coalition for Ethanol | Brian Jennings | CEO | \$131,083.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,218.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$136,301.00 | 2019 |
| American Cotton Shippers | William Allen | President & CEO | \$298,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$45,000.00 | \$343,500.00 | 2020 |
| American Dairy Coalition | Laurie Fischer | Executive Director | \$59,982.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,093.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$68,075.00 | 2019 |
| American Egg Board | Emily Metz (6/20-12/20) | CEO | \$167,552.00 | \$52,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$219,552.00 | 2020 |
| American Farm Bureau Federation | Vincent (Zippy) Duvall | President | \$518,805.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,564.00 | \$21,063.00 | \$26,118.00 | \$569,550.00 | 2019 |
| American Farmland Trust | John Piotti | President & CEO | \$293,361.00 | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$16,167.00 | \$325,028.00 | 2019 |
| American Feed Industry Association | Constance Cullman (7/19-4/20) | President & CEO | \$223,077.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,850.00 | \$3,797.00 | \$228,724.00 | 2020 |
| American Frozen Food Institute | Alison Bodor | President & CEO | \$397,200.00 | \$80,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$61,992.00 | \$26,803.00 | \$565,995.00 | 2019 |
| American Hereford Association | Jack Ward | Executive Vice President | \$238,031.00 | \$24,507.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,168.00 | \$5,394.00 | \$279,100.00 | 2020 |
| American Jersey Cattle Association | Neal Smith | Executive Secretary & CEO | \$63,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,963.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$75,463.00 | 2019 |
| American Lamb Board | Megan Wortman | Executive Director | \$133,900.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$133,900.00 | 2020 |
| American Petroleum Institute | Michael J. Sommers | President & CEO | \$1,643,160.00 | \$862,500.00 | \$84,624.00 | \$1,265,050.00 | \$28,948.00 | \$3,884,282.00 | 2019 |
| American Seed Trade Assoc. | Andrew LaVigne | President, CEO, & Treasurer | \$740,620.00 | \$125,840.00 | \$0.00 | \$117,075.00 | \$34,033.00 | \$1,017,568.00 | 2019 |
| American Shorthorn Association | Montie Soules | Executive Secretary | \$123,269.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$123,269.00 | 2019 |
| American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals | Matthew Bershadker | President & CEO | \$562,186.00 | \$200,000.00 | \$810.00 | \$41,400.00 | \$39,143.00 | \$843,539.00 | 2019 |
| American Soybean Association | Ryan Findlay* (10/19-6/20) | CEO | \$269,418.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,343.00 | \$23,978.00 | \$301,739.00 | 2020 |
| American Sugar Alliance | Vickie Rideout Myers | Executive Director | \$190,190.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,495.00 | \$0.00 | \$232,685.00 | 2019 |
| American Sugarbeet Growers Assoc. | Luther Markwart | Executive Vice President | \$464,744.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$42,750.00 | \$62,008.00 | \$569,502.00 | 2020 |
| American Veterinary Medical Assoc. | Janet Donlin | Exec. VP & CEO | \$362,786.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$1,800.00 | \$407,586.00 | 2019 |
| American Clean Energy Assn. (formerly American Wind Energy Assn.) | Thomas C. Kiernan* | CEO | \$552,083.00 | \$106,100.00 | \$314,205.00 | \$71,112.00 | \$9,250.00 | \$1,052,750.00 | 2019 |
| American-International Charolais Association | J Neil Orth | Executive Vice President | \$133,600.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$133,600.00 | 2018 |
| Assoc. of Public and Land-Grant Universities | Peter McPherson | President | \$476,316.00 | \$0.00 | \$82,600.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$33,845.00 | \$620,761.00 | 2019 |
| CA Association of Wine Grape Growers | John Aguirre | President | \$212,738.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,628.00 | \$10,637.00 | \$26,249.00 | \$261,252.00 | 2019 |
| CA Citrus Mutual | Casey Creamer | President | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 2019 |
| CA Fresh Fruit Association | Ian Lemay (6/19-2/20) | President | \$136,503.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,283.00 | \$13,728.00 | \$157,514.00 | 2020 |
| Cattlemen's Beef Board | Greg Hanes | CEO | \$285,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$33,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$333,000.00 | 2020 |

| Name of Organization | President/CEO/Executive Director or VP | Position | Base Compensation | Potential Bonus | Other Compensation | Retirement/Deferred Payment | Tax-Free Benefits | Total Compensation | Filing Year |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Center for Food Safety | Andrew Kimbrell | Executive Director | \$190,573.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$20,331.00 | \$0.00 | \$210,904.00 | 2019 |
| Center for Rural Affairs | Brian Depew | Executive Director | \$99,526.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,835.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$112,361.00 | 2019 |
| Center for Science in the Public Interest | Peter Lurie | President | \$241,641.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,294.00 | \$1,143.00 | \$250,078.00 | 2020 |
| Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | Robert Greenstein* | President | \$216,487.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,567.00 | \$15,705.00 | \$27,781.00 | \$262,540.00 | 2019 |
| Christmas Tree Promotion Board | Marsha Gray | Executive Director | \$205,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$205,000.00 | 2020 |
| Consumer Federation of America | Jack Gillis | Executive Director | \$181,731.00 | \$0.00 | \$23,830.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$205,561.00 | 2020 |
| Consumer Reports Inc | Marta L. Tellado | President & CEO | \$663,731.00 | \$60,000.00 | \$43,238.00 | \$47,000.00 | \$4,765.00 | \$818,734.00 | 2020 |
| Corn Refiners Assoc. Inc | John Bode | President & CEO | \$643,966.00 | \$125,000.00 | \$2,083.00 | \$29,400.00 | \$37,167.00 | \$837,616.00 | 2019 |
| Cotton Board | William Gillon | CEO | \$311,338.00 | \$40,773.00 | \$3,564.00 | \$37,062.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$395,737.00 | 2020 |
| Cotton Council International | Bruce Atherley | Executive Director | \$256,377.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,225.00 | \$21,101.00 | \$12,023.00 | \$294,726.00 | 2019 |
| CropLife America | Chris Novak | President & CEO | \$577,678.00 | \$132,250.00 | \$45,260.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$47,014.00 | \$830,202.00 | 2019 |
| Dairy Management Inc. | Thomas P. Gallagher ¹ | CEO | \$625,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$212,969.00 | \$27,107.00 | \$22,854.00 | \$887,930.00 | 2019 |
| Defenders of Wildlife | Jamie Rappaport Clark | President & CEO | \$472,544.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,564.00 | \$36,806.00 | \$7,519.00 | \$520,433.00 | 2020 |
| Ducks Unlimited Inc | Adam Putnam | CEO | \$257,946.00 | \$8,750.00 | \$743.00 | \$9,461.00 | \$20,057.00 | \$296,957.00 | 2020 |
| Environmental Defense Fund Inc. | Frederic D. Krupp | President | \$631,539.00 | \$95,758.00 | \$0.00 | \$72,000.00 | \$25,805.00 | \$825,102.00 | 2020 |
| Environmental Law & Policy Center of Midwest | Howard A Learner | President & Executive Director | \$433,094.00 | \$10,480.00 | \$750.00 | \$19,330.00 | \$23,153.00 | \$486,807.00 | 2020 |
| Environmental Working Group | Ken Cook | President | \$295,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$21,167.00 | \$316,167.00 | 2019 |
| Farm Credit Council | Todd Van Hoose | President & CEO | \$534,310.00 | \$240,336.00 | \$0.00 | \$69,718.00 | \$2,504.00 | \$846,868.00 | 2019 |
| Farm Foundation | Shari Roggie-Fidler | President (9/19-4/20) | \$69,808.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,762.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100,570.00 | 2020 |
| Feeding America | Claire Babineaux-Fontenot | CEO | \$627,284.00 | \$145,151.00 | \$3,438.00 | \$8,400.00 | \$31,073.00 | \$815,346.00 | 2020 |
| Fertilizer Institute | Christopher Jahn* | President & CEO | \$505,918.00 | \$110,484.00 | \$0.00 | \$40,462.00 | \$21,161.00 | \$678,025.00 | 2019 |
| FFA Foundation | Molly Ball | President | \$223,093.00 | \$0.00 | \$240.00 | \$18,722.00 | \$37,111.00 | \$279,166.00 | 2019 |
| FFA Organization | Mark Poeschl* | CEO | \$246,357.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,584.00 | \$20,885.00 | \$41,496.00 | \$310,322.00 | 2019 |
| Florida Sugar Cane League | Ryan Weston | CEO | \$582,083.00 | \$139,906.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$721,989.00 | 2018 |
| Food and Water Watch | Wenonah Hauter | Executive Director | \$240,415.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,042.00 | \$9,990.00 | \$274,447.00 | 2019 |
| Food Marketing Institute | Leslie G. Sarasin | President | \$1,517,856.00 | \$891,250.00 | \$53,272.00 | \$351,150.00 | \$25,261.00 | \$2,838,789.00 | 2019 |
| Food Research & Action Center | James Weill* | President | \$195,383.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,723.00 | \$21,293.00 | \$228,399.00 | 2019 |
| Friends of the Earth | Erich Pica | President | \$190,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,700.00 | \$6,099.00 | \$201,799.00 | 2020 |
| Consumer Brands Assn. (Formerly Grocery Manufacturers Assn.) | Geoff Freeman | President & CEO | \$1,242,014.00 | \$292,468.00 | \$21,240.00 | \$808,332.00 | \$22,649.00 | \$2,386,703.00 | 2019 |
| Growth Energy | Emily Skor | CEO | \$641,036.00 | \$187,200.00 | \$3,083.00 | \$33,000.00 | \$18,681.00 | \$883,000.00 | 2019 |
| Hass Avocado Board | Emiliano Escobedo | Executive Director | \$349,619.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$349,619.00 | 2020 |
| Holstein Friesian Association of America | John M Meyer | CEO | \$287,602.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,962.00 | \$318,564.00 | 2018 |

| Name of Organization | President/CEO/ Executive Director or VP | Position | Base Compensation | Potential Bonus | Other Compensation | Retirement/ Deferred Payment | Tax-Free Benefits | Total Compensation | Filing Year |
|--|---|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Humane Society of the U.S. | Kitty Block | President & CEO, CIO | \$369,473.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$21,243.00 | \$20,294.00 | \$411,010.00 | 2019 |
| Independent Community Bankers of America | Rebeca Romero Rainey | President & CEO | \$1,106,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | \$21,314.00 | \$16,800.00 | \$26,457.00 | \$1,470,571.00 | 2019 |
| Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy | Sophia Murphy (10/20-12/10) | Executive Director | \$22,030.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,650.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$23,680.00 | 2020 |
| International Dairy Foods Assoc. | Michael Dykes | President & CEO | \$869,200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$15,250.00 | \$23,113.00 | \$907,563.00 | 2020 |
| MANRRS | Ebony Webber | COO | \$70,250.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$70,250.00 | 2017 |
| Mushroom Council | Bart Minor | President and CEO | \$261,717.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$8,400.00 | \$11,200.00 | \$7,200.00 | \$298,517.00 | 2020 |
| National 4-H Council | Jennifer Sirangelo | CEO | \$456,747.00 | \$0.00 | \$810.00 | \$29,537.00 | \$26,617.00 | \$513,711.00 | 2020 |
| National Assoc. of Conservation Districts | Jeremy Peters | CEO | \$182,229.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$9,557.00 | \$7,999.00 | \$199,785.00 | 2019 |
| National Assoc. of Counties | Matthew Chase ⁴ | Executive Director | \$616,614.00 | \$88,009.00 | \$203.00 | \$66,210.00 | \$32,103.00 | \$803,139.00 | 2019 |
| National Assoc. of State Departments of Agriculture | Barbara Glenn | CEO | \$295,001.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,000.00 | \$7,903.00 | \$328,904.00 | 2019 |
| National Assoc. of Wheat Growers | Chandler Goule | CEO | \$254,890.00 | \$10,717.00 | \$110.00 | \$10,829.00 | \$8,942.00 | \$285,488.00 | 2019 |
| National Audubon Society Inc. | David Yarnold* | President & CEO | \$554,027.00 | \$527,500.00 | \$29,668.00 | \$22,400.00 | \$19,751.00 | \$1,153,346.00 | 2020 |
| National Biodiesel Board | Donnell Rehagen | CEO | \$315,755.00 | \$42,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$16,669.00 | \$24,842.00 | \$399,266.00 | 2020 |
| National Bison Association | Dave Carter | Executive Director | \$92,079.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$92,079.00 | 2019 |
| National Cattlemen's Beef Assoc. | Kendal Frazier* | CEO | \$480,689.00 | \$75,000.00 | \$6,990.00 | \$22,000.00 | \$16,880.00 | \$601,559.00 | 2019 |
| National Black Farmers Association | John W. Boyd, Jr. | President/Chairman | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 2017 |
| National Chicken Council | Michael J. Brown | President | \$486,720.00 | \$93,600.00 | \$5,724.00 | \$66,800.00 | \$18,118.00 | \$670,962.00 | 2019 |
| National Confectioners Assoc. | John H Downs Jr | President & CEO | \$875,093.00 | \$175,000.00 | \$2,536.00 | \$134,375.00 | \$23,128.00 | \$1,210,132.00 | 2020 |
| National Corn Growers Assoc. | Jon Doggett | CEO | \$440,803.00 | \$12,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$15,744.00 | \$497,047.00 | 2020 |
| National Cotton Council | Gary Adams | President | \$392,985.00 | \$21,550.00 | \$2,628.00 | \$33,639.00 | \$30,642.00 | \$481,444.00 | 2019 |
| National Council of Farmer Cooperatives | Charles Conner | President | \$566,500.00 | \$220,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$9,250.00 | \$8,286.00 | \$804,036.00 | 2019 |
| National Dairy Promotion and Research Board | Thomas Gallagher ¹ | CEO | \$625,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$625,000.00 | 2020 |
| National Farmers Union | Roger Johnson* | President | \$338,339.00 | \$30,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$16,800.00 | \$8,291.00 | \$393,430.00 | 2019 |
| National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board/Milk PEP | Yin Woon Rani | CEO | \$400,000.00 | \$26,215.00 | \$23,430.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,700.00 | \$451,345.00 | 2020 |
| National Grain and Feed Assoc. | Randall Gordon* | President | \$354,846.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$48,447.00 | \$27,122.00 | \$442,415.00 | 2020 |
| National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry | Betsy Huber | National President | \$54,600.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$54,600.00 | 2019 |
| National Grocers Assoc. | Gregory Ferrara (9/19-12/19) | President & CEO | \$312,893.00 | \$80,667.00 | \$26,324.00 | \$37,000.00 | \$24,487.00 | \$481,371.00 | 2019 |
| National Grocers Assoc. | Peter Larkin(1/19-8/19)* | President & CEO | \$554,228.00 | \$123,200.00 | \$60,491.00 | \$56,000.00 | \$37,818.00 | \$831,737.00 | 2019 |
| National Honey Board | Margaret Lombard | CEO | \$226,800.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$226,800.00 | 2020 |
| National Mango Board | Manuel Michel | Executive Director | \$170,000.00 | \$17,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$187,000.00 | 2020 |
| National Milk Producers Federation | Jim Mulhern | President & CEO | \$804,407.00 | \$150,356.00 | \$108,251.00 | \$30,800.00 | \$30,585.00 | \$1,124,399.00 | 2019 |
| National Oilseed Processors Association | Thomas Hammer | President | \$327,104.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$6,714.00 | \$24,011.00 | \$367,829.00 | 2020 |
| National Peanut Board | Robert Parker | President & CEO | \$268,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$269,000.00 | 2020 |

| Name of Organization | President/CEO/ Executive Director or VP | Position | Base Compensation | Potential Bonus | Other Compensation | Retirement/ Deferred Payment | Tax-Free Benefits | Total Compensation | Filing Year |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| National Pork Board | Bill Even | CEO | \$380,600.00 | \$60,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$440,600.00 | 2020 |
| National Pork Producers Council | Neil Dierks | CEO | \$375,000.00 | \$35,894.00 | \$0.00 | \$23,357.00 | \$16,498.00 | \$450,749.00 | 2019 |
| National Potato Council | William K. Quarles (6/19-6/20) | CEO | \$192,314.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$22,591.00 | \$214,905.00 | 2020 |
| National Potato Council | John Keeling* (through 6/19) | Former VP & CEO | \$206,447.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,435.00 | \$213,882.00 | 2020 |
| National Potato Promotion Board | Blair Richardson | President, CEO | \$607,000.00 | \$133,000.00 | \$48,560.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$788,560.00 | 2020 |
| National Renderers Assoc. | Nancy Foster | President & CEO | \$257,152.00 | \$0.00 | \$38,258.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$295,410.00 | 2019 |
| National Restaurant Assoc. | Dawn M. Sweeney* | President & CEO | \$1,904,375.00 | \$1,979,027.00 | \$19,356.00 | \$1,959,473.00 | \$29,620.00 | \$5,891,851.00 | 2019 |
| National Rural Electric Cooperative Association | Jim Matheson | CEO | \$1,190,458.00 | \$450,950.00 | \$57,452.00 | \$374,906.00 | \$38,001.00 | \$2,111,767.00 | 2019 |
| National Save the Family Farm Coalition | Niaz Dorry | Executive Director | \$38,194.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$38,194.00 | 2019 |
| National Turkey Federation | Joel Brandenburger | President & CEO | \$374,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$36,400.00 | \$410,400.00 | 2019 |
| National Watermelon Board | Mark Arney | CEO | \$218,752.00 | \$8,100.00 | \$6,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$18,628.00 | \$251,480.00 | 2020 |
| National Wildlife Federation | Collin O'Mara | President & CEO | \$305,703.00 | \$0.00 | \$38,404.00 | \$20,860.00 | \$27,308.00 | \$392,275.00 | 2020 |
| Natural Resources Defense Council | Mitchell Bernard* | Interim President | \$330,085.00 | \$7,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$40,200.00 | \$22,742.00 | \$400,527.00 | 2020 |
| North American Blueberry Council | Mark Villata | Executive director | \$294,800.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$19,500.00 | \$16,737.00 | \$331,037.00 | 2019 |
| North American Meat Institute | Julie Anna Potts | President & CEO | \$460,838.00 | \$141,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$22,400.00 | \$37,518.00 | \$661,756.00 | 2019 |
| North American Millers Assoc. | James A. McCarthy (9/19-7/20)* | President & CEO | \$262,794.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$36,775.00 | \$0.00 | \$299,569.00 | 2020 |
| Organic Consumers Assoc. | Ronald Cummins | International director | \$112,900.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$112,900.00 | 2019 |
| Organic Trade Assoc. | Laura Batcha | CEO & Executive Director | \$250,526.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$285,526.00 | 2019 |
| Paper and Packaging Board | Mary Anne Hansan | President | \$286,340.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$286,340.00 | 2020 |
| People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals | Ingrid Newkirk | President | \$23,398.00 | \$0.00 | \$782.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,180.00 | 2020 |
| Pheasants Forever Inc. | Howard K. Vincent | President & CEO | \$305,846.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$33,358.00 | \$15,947.00 | \$18,630.00 | \$383,781.00 | 2020 |
| Popcorn Board | Contract with Smith Bucklin | N/A | \$186,082.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$186,082.00 | 2020 |
| Produce Marketing Assoc. | Catherine Burns ² | CEO | \$587,157.00 | \$93,003.00 | \$94,245.00 | \$18,751.00 | \$28,475.00 | \$821,631.00 | 2019 |
| Ranchers Cattlemen Action Legal Fund; United Stockgrowers of America | William Bullard Jr. | CEO | \$175,190.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$175,190.00 | 2019 |
| Renewable Fuels Assoc. | Geoffrey C Cooper | President & CEO | \$319,708.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$47,956.00 | \$27,023.00 | \$394,687.00 | 2019 |
| Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA | Edna Rodriguez | Executive Director | \$94,242.00 | \$0.00 | \$31,713.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$125,955.00 | 2019 |
| SNAC International | Elizabeth Avery | President & CEO | \$330,343.00 | \$40,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,257.00 | \$6,917.00 | \$388,517.00 | 2019 |
| Softwood Lumber Board | Cees de Jager | CEO | \$350,000.00 | \$150,000.00 | \$122,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$622,500.00 | 2020 |
| USA Poultry & Egg Export Council | James Sumner | President | \$315.00 | \$125,099.00 | \$0.00 | \$31,564.00 | \$14,340.00 | \$171,318.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Beet Sugar Assoc. | Brian Baenig* | President | \$322,069.00 | \$45,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$30,221.00 | \$5,905.00 | \$403,195.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Dairy Export Council | Thomas J. Vilsack* | President & CEO | \$824,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$49,340.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$1,555.00 | \$902,895.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance | Erin Fitzgerald | CEO | \$291,442.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,697.00 | \$10,262.00 | \$309,401.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Grains Council | Tom Sleight (10/18-6/19)* | Former President & CEO | \$412,292.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$47,084.00 | \$7,351.00 | \$466,727.00 | 2019 |

| Name of Organization | President/CEO/ Executive Director or VP | Position | Base Compensation | Potential Bonus | Other Compensation | Retirement/ Deferred Payment | Tax-Free Benefits | Total Compensation | Filing Year |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| U.S. Grains Council | Ryan Legrand (6/19-9/19) | President & CEO | \$180,631.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,336.00 | \$10,426.00 | \$219,393.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council | Kasey Cronquist ³ | President | \$255,637.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$255,637.00 | 2020 |
| U.S. Meat Export Federation | Dan Halstrom | CEO | \$288,088.00 | \$44,397.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$25,114.00 | \$27,418.00 | \$397,017.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Poultry and Egg Association | James Sumner | President | \$315,635.00 | \$125,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$31,564.00 | \$14,340 | \$486,638 | 2019 |
| U.S. Soybean Export Council | James Sutter | CEO | \$445,671.00 | \$67,575.00 | \$22,064.00 | \$17,875.00 | \$34,208.00 | \$587,393.00 | 2019 |
| U.S. Wheat Associates | Vince Peterson | President | \$313,377.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$31,713.00 | \$32,312.00 | \$377,402.00 | 2019 |
| Union of Concerned Scientists | Kenneth Kimmell* | President | \$326,351.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,032.00 | \$22,400.00 | \$23,435.00 | \$373,218.00 | 2020 |
| United Fresh Produce Assoc. | Thomas Stenzel ² | President & CEO | \$510,080.00 | \$215,843.00 | \$225,363.00 | \$165,873.00 | \$8,832.00 | \$1,125,991.00 | 2020 |
| United Sorghum Checkoff/National Sorghum Producers Assn. | Tim Lust | CEO | \$220,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,000.00 | \$6,400.00 | \$237,400.00 | 2020 |
| United Soybean Board | Polly Ruhland | CEO | \$500,000.00 | \$50,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$34,200.00 | \$11,000.00 | \$595,200.00 | 2020 |
| USA Rice Federation | Elizabeth C. Ward | President & CEO | \$381,385.00 | \$50,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$41,250.00 | \$18,539.00 | \$491,174.00 | 2019 |
| Waterkeeper Alliance | Marc Yaggi | Executive Director | \$228,197.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$36,823.00 | \$265,020.00 | 2019 |
| Waterways Council | Michael Toohey* | President & CEO | \$331,271.00 | \$24,375.00 | \$14,331.00 | \$16,380.00 | \$31,159.00 | \$417,516.00 | 2019 |
| Western Fairs Association Inc. | Sarah Cummings | Executive Director | \$118,980.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$118,980.00 | 2020 |
| Western Growers Association | Thomas Nassif* | President and CEO | \$800,797.00 | \$316,090.00 | \$70,083.00 | \$27,500.00 | \$12,084.00 | \$1,226,554.00 | 2019 |

*This executive is no longer at the helm of the organization.

1. Tom Gallagher is the CEO of both Dairy Management Inc. and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. His combined compensation from both roles is \$1,512,930.
2. Tim Lust is the CEO of both the National Sorghum Producers and the United Sorghum Checkoff. His combined compensation from both roles is \$237,400.
3. U. S. Highbush Blueberry Council contracts with Kasey Cronquist for managing the association. He also manages the North American Blueberry Council.
4. Matthew Chase's role includes leading the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties Research Foundation and Financial Services Corporation.

Democrats pulling together \$3.5T tax and spending package

House Democrats are forging ahead with writing a massive new tax and spending package with major implications for the next farm bill as well as producers' finances.

House committees started debating their portions of the budget reconciliation measure last week and will continue into next week. The House Agriculture Committee meets this Friday to divide up the \$89.1 billion that it was authorized to spend.

The House Education and Labor Committee, which has authority over child nutrition programs, meets Thursday to consider its part of the bill.

Last week, the House Natural Resources Committee started debating its portion of the package, which includes some funding for a new Civilian Climate Corps as well as provisions to protect endangered species.

The committee's draft includes \$900 million for CCC workers that would be employed by the Bureau of Land Management and \$400 million for CCC work at the Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill would provide \$150 million to carry out environmental studies required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The committee meets Thursday to continue debating amendments to the draft.

The House Ways and Means Committee is responsible for the bill's tax provisions, including potential new taxation of capital gains on inherited assets, but the panel will first take up the bill's health care, family leave and child care provisions during a marathon session scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Democrats have been negotiating exclusively with each other since no Republicans are expected to vote for the package, and details of the bill have been kept under wraps as well.

A member of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, said during an online event Sept. 1 in her home state that the bill is likely to include about \$20 billion for conservation and research spending. "We've been listening to farmers" in crafting the provisions, she said. But one source familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday that the number was likely to be significantly higher than \$20 billion.

A spokesman for the House Agriculture Committee didn't respond to questions about the spending plans.

The conservation spending is intended for promoting climate-smart agriculture practices and distributed through the next farm bill, which Congress is due to write in 2023. More than 60 groups, including conservation organizations and some farm groups, recently appealed for \$30 billion in new conservation funding.

House Ag's reconciliation also will have additional spending for forestry, farm debt relief and other Democratic priorities.

Democrats, meanwhile, have been grappling with internal resistance to some of President Joe Biden's ideas for paying for the spending package, including his proposal to start taxing capital gains at death. Under current law, inherited assets aren't taxed until they are sold and only at a stepped up basis, the gain since the heir acquired the assets.

Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has floated an alternative proposal that would still tax capital gains at death but provide a \$5 million per-person exemption and an additional exemption, possibly worth \$25 million, for family farms, the Wall Street Journal reported. Under Biden's proposal, there would be a \$1 million personal exemption but no exemption for family farms; the tax on farms would be deferred until the operation is sold.

Republican members of the committee are appealing to Wyden to debate the tax provisions in committee.

"Failure to hold a full, open markup, as our House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committee counterparts are doing, would amount to a massive and unfortunate concession to the House, as well as to congressional leadership," the Republicans wrote.

"It would also serve to further erode the American people's trust in the Senate as an open and effective institution, substituting a secretive process behind closed doors for a productive public dialogue."

Democrats have little room for error in the House, which they control 220-212, and none at all in the 50-50 Senate. Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., have both expressed reservations about spending \$3.5 trillion as called for in Democrats' fiscal 2022 budget resolution that authorized the reconciliation bill.

Manchin privately told the White House that he wouldn't support more than \$1 trillion in spending, Axios reported Tuesday evening.

But White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain insists that he's optimistic about the bill's chances. "We're going to work together to find a way to put together a package that can pass the House, that can pass the Senate, that can be put on the president's desk and signed into law," Klain said Sunday on CNN's State of the Union.

Colombia trade investigation has US dairy exporters concerned

The growing trade relationship between the U.S. and Colombia is threatening to turn sour for U.S. dairy and industry representatives are asking the Biden administration to step in.

U.S. dairy exports to Colombia have been on the rise thanks to the free-trade agreement the two countries agreed to in 2012, but now the Colombian dairy industry is looking to throw a wrench into the works.

The Colombian government is investigating claims of domestic harm from U.S. exports of milk powder – a process that could lead to safeguard actions to limit imports – and the U.S. dairy sector isn't happy about it.

Colombia, under the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, has every right to investigate, U.S. Dairy Export Council Executive Vice President Jaime Castaneda tells *Agri-Pulse*, but he also stressed that there is rising concern the process will become tainted by domestic politics as elections loom in the South American country. Safeguard actions are temporary import restrictions such as quotas or tariffs.

U.S. dairy exports to Colombia have been climbing as tariffs go down, a sure sign that the agreement is working the way it is supposed to, but the situation is also angering Colombian dairy farmers.

Claiming that domestic producers are being harmed by the influx of U.S. milk powder, they petitioned the government to investigate. The endgame – what Colombian producers want, according to Castaneda – is for Colombia to erect safeguard measures.

U.S. dairy exports to Colombia were relatively small, said Castaneda, "but as the tariffs went down ... we began exporting more and more product."

Colombia's tariffs on milk powder are dropping 2.2% each year until they are zero in 2026.

Taking advantage of lower tariffs under the free trade agreement between the two countries, the U.S. shipped \$78 million worth of whole milk powder to Colombia in 2020, according to data maintained by USDEC and the National Milk Producers Federation. That's about two-thirds of the total \$124 million worth of all dairy products that the U.S. exported to Colombia last year.

The U.S. was only exporting about \$21 million worth of dairy goods to Colombia in 2012, the year the FTA was implemented. That nearly tripled to \$59 million by 2014 and by 2019, U.S. exports to the country totaled \$144 million, according to data from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

“Colombia is one of our top markets in the world – 11th largest – and we’re only part way into phasing in the U.S.-Colombia FTA’s benefits,” said Shawna Morris, vice president of trade policy for the U.S. Dairy Export Council and National Milk Producers Federation. “The FTA has been instrumental to growing our exports to that market.”

Still, Castaneda argued, U.S. exports are very small compared to Colombia’s domestic production, so there is no way it could be harming the country’s farmers and processors.

“They haven’t been able to prove any harm,” said Castaneda, who testified last month in a hearing that the Colombian government held on the safeguards.

Colombia’s equivalent of the U.S. International Trade Commission would have to show “a significant overall impairment in the position of a domestic industry,” when it comes to the investigation, and U.S. industry officials say that’s not likely under a proper process.

If Colombia were to enact safeguard measures on U.S. milk powder, they could be applied for two years and then possibly extended for another two years, under the terms of the free trade agreement.

The primary concern is that as Colombia nears its next presidential election in May next year – President Iván Duque is running for another term – there’s a possibility that that there will be political pressure to award the dairy farmers the safeguards they want.

“Sparked by a vocal domestic industry, the Colombian government’s investigation appears to be a politically driven attempt to impose additional tariffs under a safeguard mechanism,” USDEC and NMPF said in a statement.

“It’s a year of elections,” Castaneda said. “That’s why we’re very concerned that the Colombian government may do something that prevents due process.”

And that’s why USDEC and NMPF asked U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to bring up their concerns with Colombian Commerce Minister Ximena Lombana when the two met virtually last week.

Tai did raise the issue with Lombana, a U.S. government official confirmed for *Agri-Pulse*. Lombana assured Tai that Colombia is “committed to a transparent process” for the investigation.

Lombana also pledged that Colombia will remain in “continued close dialogue with U.S.” during the investigation, the official said.

EPA Science Advisory Board gets ready for action

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board, which has been dormant so far during the Biden administration, is likely to tackle climate change and environmental justice issues when it starts meeting again later this year, EPA and new members say.

An EPA spokesperson cited those subjects and also said “EPA expects SAB to work on diverse topics important to EPA’s mission.” The agency is in the final stages of hiring new board members, and the SAB’s first meeting is likely to take place before the end of the year, the spokesperson said.

The board is made up of 47 outside scientists and is supposed to provide peer review of EPA studies and regulations, help guide research priorities and provide advice to the EPA administrator on request.

In announcing the new members, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said, “This highly qualified, diverse group of experts will ensure that EPA is receiving sound science-based advice to inform our work to protect people and the environment from pollution.” The board includes 22 women and 25 men, including 16 people of color, "making it the most diverse SAB since the committee was established," EPA said.



EPA Administrator Michael Regan

An EPA spokesperson cited those subjects and also said “EPA expects SAB to work on diverse topics important to EPA’s mission.”

One newly appointed member, Purdue agronomy professor, Sylvie Brouder, said, “It’s great to have a board with a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives. That is going to be especially important as we tackle difficult issues like climate change, an issue that will impact and does impact so many different communities.” Brouder has previously served on the board.

Steven Hamburg, chief scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund and a returning member, echoed Brouder, saying, “We are at a critical point in our fight against climate change and have no time to waste. I welcome the Biden administration’s commitment to following the science as we move forward in developing thoughtful, evidence-backed solutions.”

Austin Omer, Illinois Farm Bureau associate director of natural resource policy, was reappointed to the board and will also serve on the Agricultural Science Committee. He said that “as a scientist working in a policy organization, my goal is to make sure our farmer leaders, members, and policy staff have a good understanding of what science is telling us about many different issues.” But he had no insight into which specific issues the SAB might address.

The board’s importance depends in large part on how the administration in office wants to use it. The Trump administration tried to limit the breadth of expertise on the SAB by excluding from its membership any scientists who were currently recipients of EPA grants. In addition, the Trump administration rejected offers of help from the board in crafting the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to adhere to the Clean Water Act’s “objective of restoring and maintaining ‘the chemical, physical and biological integrity’” of the nation’s waters, as the SAB said in a February 2020 commentary.

The board’s comments did not affect the trajectory of the rule, however, and it was finalized in April 2020. The Trump-era rule was vacated recently by a federal judge.

The new iteration of the board is likely to have more influence, since the Biden administration's intent to rely on scientific advisers and has touted the expertise of its board, most of which is made up of new appointments. The members were chosen from 352 candidates.

The EPA board has six committees: Agricultural Science; Chemical Assessment Advisory; Climate Science; Drinking Water; Economic Analysis, and Environmental Justice Science Committee. There's also a Radiation Advisory Subcommittee.

Following are biographical summaries of some of the SAB members, starting with members of the Agricultural Science Committee. Quotes are from the EPA bios.

Florence Anoruo is a plant physiologist/ecologist/environmental scientist who is an associate research and extension scientist in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences at South Carolina State University, where she is also Director of Emerging Crops. "Her research and community outreach work are focused on an evidence-based community centered participatory approach to achieving just, equitable and sustainable solutions to food insecurity, climate/energy justice in underserved and marginalized frontline communities in South Carolina and beyond."

Purdue agronomist Sylvie Brouder, mentioned above, "studies field-to-landscape scale nutrient cycling with an emphasis on crop ecology, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions and nutrient balances and losses in agro-ecosystems; she translates new knowledge to practice via development of diagnostics and recommendations for on-farm nutrient management."

Elena Irwin is a distinguished professor of food, agricultural, and environmental sciences in economics and sustainability at Ohio State University. Irwin "studies land use and ecosystem services in urban, rural and regional contexts in the U.S., including the impacts of land use change on water quality and other ecosystem services. Her research includes integrated modeling of regional economic and ecological systems, climate change, and sustainability assessment of environmental policies at local, regional, and national scales."



Elena Irwin

Illinois Farm Bureau Austin Omer's research interests "include refining existing conservation practices to overcome barriers to adoption, investigating the interaction of conservation practices, and balancing the trade-offs of agriculture sustainability efforts across production systems." He has studied the EPA's Section 319 nonpoint grant program USDA's National Water Quality Initiative.

Godfrey Uzochukwu is senior professor and founding director of the interdisciplinary Waste Management Institute at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He "has expertise in soil health, geology, soil mineralogy, soil genesis and land use, environmental science, waste management, environmental sustainability, environmental justice and environmental ethics." Uzochukwu has doctorate from the University of Nebraska in agronomy and soil genesis, mineralogy and classification."

Other SAB members with agriculture experience:

Economic Analysis Committee

David A. Keiser, a professor of resource economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, was previously an assistant professor of economics at Iowa State University and served as the division director of resource and environmental economics at the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development. Keiser co-chaired a review critical of the economic analysis that supported the Trump administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule. Among other things, the review

concluded that the assumption states would step in to fill the regulatory gap left by the NWPR was unrealistic.

Sheila Olmstead, who was an author with Keiser on the same review of the NWPR, is a professor with the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. She “is an environmental and resource economist with expertise in water quality regulation and valuation, water pricing, water markets, the environmental impacts of energy development, adaptation to water-related climate change impacts, and market-based approaches to pollution control.”

Dominique van der Mensbrugghe is a research professor and director of the Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue. “His more recent work has included looking at the damage' side of climate change, particularly on agriculture, and assessing the economic tradeoffs between carbon taxes and lower climate damage.”

Climate Science Committee

Drew Shindell is Nicholas professor of earth sciences at Duke University. “His research group is particularly focused on quantifying the impacts on human health, agricultural yields, climate and the economy of policies that might be put into place to mitigate climate change or improve air quality.”

Drinking Water Committee

Amy Childress is Gabilan distinguished professor of science and engineering and director of the environmental engineering program at the University of Southern California. “Childress' research and scholarly interests are in the area of desalination, wastewater reclamation, and the water-energy nexus.”

Environmental Justice Science Committee

C. Marjorie Aelion, associate vice chancellor for research and engagement and professor of environmental health sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “studies groundwater and surface water quality, remedial technologies for environmental contaminants, associations between environmental contaminants and health outcomes, and ethnic disparities of environmental exposures.”

Sacoby Wilson is an associate professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health. As director of Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health, he “is engaging communities in the Washington, DC region on environmental health issues .. including industrial chicken farming on Maryland's Eastern Shore.”

NRCS watershed programs could see \$918M from infrastructure bill

Key USDA watershed programs that fund agricultural waste management, water quality, and flood prevention projects would get \$918 million through the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package awaiting a final House vote.

The Senate-passed legislation would spread the watershed funding across three programs that serve different functions but are all oversubscribed, Department of Agriculture officials told *Agri-Pulse*. House leaders have promised that the bill will get a vote in the House by Sept. 27.

The bulk of the funding — \$500 million — would be devoted to the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program administered through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service; a USDA spokesperson tells *Agri-Pulse* the current WFPO backlog is \$719 million for 112 projects in 26 states.

The program works with local sponsors to bolster watershed protection and improvement projects that deal with flood prevention, water supply management, wildlife protection, and agricultural water management.

Dan Sebert, executive director of the National Watershed Coalition, said funding has increased over the last few years, but the infrastructure money would be an “additional shot in the arm.” The program received annual appropriations of \$150 million in fiscal year 2019 and \$175 million in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

The type of projects that get funding vary across the country.

Western states use the funds for projects “to make the irrigation systems that are in place more efficient and effective in terms of loss to evaporation and more efficient transfer of water to where it is needed,” Sebert told *Agri-Pulse*.

States in the central United States generally use the money for upstream flood control projects like building small dams, he said. Some eastern states such as Virginia and West Virginia have several dams, too.

The small dams “catch floodwater and catch the rain where it falls and then release it slowly over time so that the main channel of that watershed is not overwhelmed for days and days,” Sebert said.

The projects require local project sponsors. In many cases, local conservation districts fill that role and partner with USDA.

“America’s conservation districts are often leaders in their communities on watershed-scale projects, which can serve as a first line of defense in times of extreme weather events,” Michael Crowder, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, told *Agri-Pulse*.

Projects intended for addressing extreme weather events include the construction of small dams to prevent localized flooding, developing irrigation projects to minimize drought, and protecting land from soil erosion.

According to USDA, the agency is currently spending \$150 million for 51 projects across 48 states. Some 2,100 projects have been “active or completed” across every state in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Basin, USDA noted on its website. Out of the 2,100, about 1,271 are dam-related projects.

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program is expected to receive \$300 million from the infrastructure bill. This program — currently facing a \$24 million backlog for 130 Damage Survey Reports across 12 states — helps local communities recover from natural disasters.

Another \$118 million in the infrastructure bill would go toward the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, which provides assistance to renovate dams nearing the end of

their roughly 50-year lifespan. The program faces a backlog of more than \$500 million and a to-do list of 164 dams across 30 states.

“It renovates these dams, brings them up to current criteria based on hazard class, and continues a stream of benefits that the dam provides on into the future beyond the original design life,” Sebert said.



Michael Crowder, NACD

The program has helped with the construction of 11,845 dams across the U.S. since the late 1940s, according to USDA, and has received annual appropriations of \$10 million for fiscal years 2019-2021.

“The rehabilitation funding supports planning, design and construction for high-hazard dams in 38 states that have reached their design life and are eligible,” a USDA spokesperson said. “Funding is being prioritized for those projects that have authorized plans and are able to complete construction.”

Both WRP and WFPO have received a combined \$50 million a year in farm bill funding, according to NACD.

As weather and rainfall patterns have shifted to new parts of the country in recent years, Sebert said he’s raising awareness of watershed funding opportunities in those areas that may not have known about it.

News Briefs:

California Farm Bureau plans rally to oppose farmworker union election measure.

The California Farm Bureau Federation plans to host a rally outside of the California state Capitol on 11 a.m. Thursday in opposition of [Assembly Bill 616](#), a measure that will change the current process for farmworker union elections.

The bill, sponsored by United Farm Workers, already passed through the California legislature and is now at the desk of Governor Gavin Newsom. Proponents say that it simply allows farmworkers to use mail-in ballots in union elections, but it is being opposed by several trade associations — which includes CFBF as well as the Western Growers Association, the California Fresh Fruit Association, the Agricultural Council of California and the African American Farmers of California — who collectively claim on a campaign website that it “effectively eliminates farm workers' right to vote and the secret ballot in union elections.”

“It is both ironic and shameful that a body of elected leaders would act to strip farmworkers of their own democratic protections in the union election process, including the right to a secret ballot vote overseen by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board,” noted Western Growers President and CEO Dave Puglia in a statement after the bill passed.

According to a [release](#), the CFBF believes that secret-ballot elections overseen by the Agriculture Labor Relations Board would better protect farmworkers from intimidation and coercion.

“The Senate eliminated the farm employees’ right to choose, for themselves, whether they want to have a portion of their paycheck deducted and sent to a union,” CFBF president Jamie Johansson said in a release. “AB 616, by the Agriculture Labor Relations Board’s own analysis, will result in fewer elections because AB 616 does not require them to occur.” Johansson will speak at the rally. Participants in the rally also plan to address water issues by calling on Newsom and the legislature to start working on water storage and conveyance projects created in 2014 by Proposition 1.

New strategy for freezing produce could reduce food sector energy consumption.

A freezing strategy with origins in medical science could be the solution to successfully preserving fresh tomatoes and potatoes so they don’t defrost into mush, with the bonus of reducing energy consumption in the food products sector. Researchers at the Albany, Calif., office of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service picked up on the isochoric chamber freezing method that an engineering team at UC Berkeley designed for transporting organs to transplant recipients. Cristina Bilbao-Sainz, an ARS agricultural engineer, says the process maintains the cellular integrity of food items because the pressure inside the chamber “doesn’t let the ice continue expanding freely.” Instead, the chamber suspends the vacuum-sealed fresh food in water or another solution and only about 10% of the volume of the chamber freezes, even as the whole chamber is placed in a standard freezer. After being brought back to room temperature, the chamber is opened and food is removed — preserved, and undamaged by the process. Bilbao-Sainz says the first test products were foods that deteriorate with traditional freezing, such as tomatoes and potatoes. After one month in the chamber, she says “all the quality properties in terms of texture, color and nutritional content were very similar to the fresh tomato.” Without the need to lower large volumes to below the freezing point, the process consumes less energy than traditional freezing. As public research continues on the “optimal conditions” for various foods, Bilbao-Sainz says, “we are trying to find partners to work with” to bring the technology to industry.

Farm Hands West: GSA hires Zischke to lead new task force

The Grower-Shipper Association has created a new task force to help support farmers as they battle Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus or INSV. **Mary Zischke**, former executive director of the California Leafy Greens Research Board, was hired to lead and coordinate the Task Force’s activities. GSA also added **Jasmine Rodriguez** to its team to help assist local farm advisers and help advance the University of California’s cooperative research efforts. Rodriguez is currently working toward her biology degree at California State University, Monterey Bay and also serves as a laboratory assistant for entomology research projects at the UC Cooperative Extension in Monterey County.

Cassandra Pye has been asked to sit on the Public Policy Institute of California’s board of directors. She is a former member of the PPIC Statewide Leadership Council and currently works serves as the executive vice president and chief strategy officer for Lucas Public Affairs. Earlier in her career, Pye has worked at the California Retailers Association, California Chamber of Commerce, and in the office of former California governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** as his deputy chief of staff.

Andrea Montagna has been tapped as the new chief executive officer of Bonduelle Fresh Americas. He succeeds **Mary Thompson** who stepped down from the position earlier this year. Bringing 20 years of experience to the position, Montagna most recently served as CEO of Bonduelle Italy.

The American Sugar Alliance has elevated **Robert Johansson** to the new role of director of economics and policy analysis. Johansson joined ASA in January 2021 as the associate director of economics and policy analysis. Before joining ASA, Johansson served as the chief economist at the Department of Agriculture.



Robert Johansson

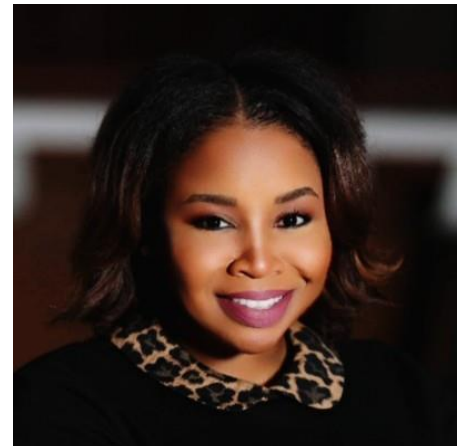
Katharine Emerson has returned to the World Food Program USA as its new chief of staff. Emerson most recently served as the director of political affairs at Bayer. Before that, she was the director of public policy and political strategy at the National Corn Growers Association.

Ashlee Johnson joined The Russell Group as vice president. Johnson previously worked at FMC Corporation as the director of global sustainability. Before that, she worked at Tyson Foods as the manager of community and state government relations. She also worked at USDA during the Obama Administration as the chief of staff for the deputy secretary.

Jim Monroe announced he will be joining Smithfield Foods on Sept. 20 as vice president of corporate affairs. Monroe currently serves as the assistant vice president of communications at the National Pork Producers Council. **Chloe Carson** will be NPPC's primary media contact after Monroe departs on Sept. 17.

The International Wood Products Association has selected **Bradley McKinney** as the new executive director of the organization, effective Sept. 13. McKinney most recently served as vice president of economic security and operations for the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Before that, he served as chief of staff for the International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce. Earlier in his career, he worked for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture handling issues related to international trade, agriculture and manufacturing.

Kent Swisher has been named the incoming president and CEO of the North American Renderers Association, following the retirement of current NARA President and CEO **Nancy Foster**, on Dec. 31, 2020. Swisher will also serve as president of the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation (FPRF), the rendering industry's research organization. Swisher has been with NARA for the past 18 years, most recently as the senior vice president for international programs.



Ashlee Johnson

The National Agricultural Law Center has added **Jana Caracciolo** and **Samantha Mikolajczyk** as the center's newest staff attorneys. A Florida native, Caracciolo grew up on a small honey tangerine farm which sparked her interests in food science. She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Food and Resource Economics and later interned for the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, as well as the Marketing, Regulatory, and Food Safety Programs Division of USDA's Office of the General Counsel. Caracciolo will focus her research on food labeling and food safety-related issues. Growing up on a strawberry farm in Texas, Mikolajczyk worked as a policy intern for Texas Gov. **Greg Abbott** and as a research fellow at

Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. Mikolajczyk will focus her research on general agricultural, food, and environmental law issues.

Fayrouz Saad has accepted a new job at USAID as the director of public engagement. She previously was the executive director of the Office of Global Michigan and worked at the Department of Homeland Security during the Obama Administration. She has also ran for Congress representing Michigan's 11th Congressional District, but lost the Democratic primary.



Dawn Breikreutz

Dawn Breikreutz has been tapped as the new president of the Soil Health Academy. Breikreutz succeeds Ohio farmer and co-founder of SHA **David Brandt**, who has served as president of SHA since its inception in 2017. Breikreutz currently serves on the SHA board of directors as treasurer. Breikreutz and her husband own and operate Stoney Creek Farm in Redwood Falls, Minn.

GB Enterprises has tapped **Ellie Murphy** to be its first appointed director of sustainability and food safety. Most recently, she worked for Marathon Petroleum Corporation, leading various sustainability efforts across logistics. She graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural

Engineering and later earned a Master's in Urban Sustainability and Resilience from Xavier University.

Manuel Otero has been reelected as director general of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with his term ending in 2026. Otero first took office as director general of IICA for a four-year term in January 2018 and was reelected to the post by the ministers and secretaries of the 33 countries of the Americas that participated in the Conference of Ministers. Otero is a native of Argentina and a veterinarian who has a focus on sustainable development issues.

Sources report that **Anne Alonzo** elected to leave her role at Corteva as the Senior VP, External Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer, after a little more than a year and a half in that job. She previously served as President and CEO of the American Egg Board.

The **National Biodiesel Board** has rebranded. The association told its members yesterday that their new name and brand will be: Clean Fuels Alliance America.

Two firefighters responding to the California wildfire crisis have died. **Allen Johnson** and **Marcus Pacheco**, two employees of USDA's Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, passed away on Sunday Sept. 5 due to illness, the agency said in a press release Sunday. Johnson dedicated over 40 years of his life working in Region 5. He worked for many years on the Stanislaus National Forest, spending most of his career on the Groveland Ranger District. Pacheco served for 30 years in various firefighting roles for multiple agencies. He was currently working with the Forest Service as an assistant fire engine operator on the Almanor Ranger District in the Lassen National Forest while also assuming the role of training officer for the Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District.

William "Bill" Huffman passed away on August 3 at the age of 76. Growing up on a rice farm in Gridley, Calif., Huffman graduated from Humboldt State University in 1967 with a degree in journalism and minors in political science and public relations. He began his career at KFBK, a

radio station in Sacramento, and also worked at the Sacramento Bee. He spent some time working at the Federal Land Bank and then moved to Farmers Rice Cooperative where he worked for 33 years as vice president of communications and governmental affairs.

Best regards,

Sara Wyant
Editor

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