

## Big changes or a band-aid for the Valley's air quality challenges?

A draft environmental justice plan proposes big changes for the small San Joaquin Valley city of Shafter. To fix the air quality here, which is among the worst in the nation, the state will spend \$50 million annually on test projects like shifting highway traffic to avoid the area, cutting back on idling at drive-throughs and adding incentives for industry to upgrade to clean locomotives, for consumers to buy electric cars and for the city to switch to electric school buses and garbage trucks.

Dairies and farms will see similar incentives programs as well, launching as soon as the state approves the plan. Yet one component, a citizen-run air monitoring network, is already placing scrutiny on pesticide use in the area.



A map of Shafter with the seven-mile radius for the air quality improvement zone.

**Some question whether the plan is strong enough, when wildfire smoke has set back much of California's greenhouse gas reduction efforts, and others wonder how a multi-million dollar investment in a small community will be any more than a band aid for a region long-plagued with air quality issues.**

While the plan is limited to a seven-mile radius around Shafter and its 17,000 residents, the city is within the most agriculturally productive county in the nation. Kern County accounts for about \$7.3 billion in annual farm sales, with tree nuts, milk and table grapes topping the list of commodities.

The plan is one of two pilot projects the state is running in poor, rural communities to tackle air quality issues that have eluded regulators for decades. A sister plan is also being drafted in South

Central Fresno. Lessons learned here will be used for 18 other projects in the Central Valley, with 30 in total across the state.

The projects stem from Assembly Bill 617, a measure authored by Democratic Assemblymember Cristina Garcia of Bell Gardens and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2017. Since then, the state has allocated a total of \$490 million for emissions reductions incentives, paid for by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

**The fund, however, has been tapped for “non-air quality related state programs,” such as the new Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, leaving the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District concerned the money for these pilot projects may not last or be replaced.**

Since October 2018, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has been working with the air district and local communities to implement the measures in AB 617, beginning with community steering committees. The district has led dozens of listening sessions and workshops with the two committees as it builds a checklist for the plans, which is known as the Community Emissions Reduction Plans, or CERPs. This month the district released drafts of the CERPs, spelling out the steep challenges ahead and outlining a long list of proposed measures. The air district also acknowledges it implements the most stringent air regulations in the country, with nearly 650 rules already on the books.



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia, D-Bell Gardens

Among the dozens of regulatory measures proposed in the 175-page plan for Shafter, a section on agriculture details the emissions from engines, dust, dairy manure, pesticides and fertilizers. The CERP allocates an annual budget of nearly \$20 million toward the ag programs.

In presenting the draft at a meeting in August, District Program Manager Todd DeYoung told the steering committee: “We've heard a lot of concerns about dairies.”

Under the plan, the district and state would provide \$3.9 million to cover up to 75% of the cost for five dairies to upgrade feed mixing equipment from diesel to electric motors. It would also put \$2.5 million towards incentivizing dairies to retire old diesel trucks and purchase near-zero- or zero-emission vehicles.

The plan also volunteers the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to help dairies install digesters for the manure, as well as adopt alternative manure management plans, such as aeration or the emptying of manure lagoons during the sensitive months of December and January. Notably, Governor Gavin Newsom significantly cut GGRF funding for the state’s two methane reduction programs in the budget he signed last month.

Fiscal concerns were also raised by committee members.

**“I want to see monitoring of these dairies before we commit millions of dollars to them,” said Tom Frantz, an almond grower who sits on the committee alongside five other environmental justice advocates and 19 local residents.**

For almond growers, the plan would put \$2.5 million toward incentives for purchasing low-dust harvesters. Reducing agricultural dust further, farm advisors would ramp up efforts to help local farmers implement no-till, low-till and precision ag practices. In January, the state also invested \$1 million into a related pilot project to incentivize on-farm alternatives to the burning of wood and crop residue, for practices like chipping the material and introducing it back into the soil or transporting to a cogeneration plant.

CERP would also help farmers electrify irrigation pumps through \$200,000 in grants. This would cover as much as 90% of the cost.

**“This is well above what we’ve done in other areas,” said DeYoung. “That’s about 40% more than what we would normally pay.”**

Since the draft was released, committee members have proposed eliminating the dairy truck and dairy digester programs from the CERP, while doubling the funding to the ag burning program to \$1 million.

Jessica Coria, a district air quality specialist, added that pesticides have also been a top concern for the community.

As part of AB 617, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has also been working with the district to install a community air monitoring network. Volunteers operate the individual air monitors, rather than DPR staff.



A low-dust nut harvester is on display at the state capitol.

“I wouldn’t say that it rises to the level of data that DPR or ARB can collect,” said Emily Marquez of the Pesticide Action Network, explaining at a DPR meeting in March how her environmental advocacy group supplants agency staff in helping communities manage the air monitors.

During that same meeting, a DPR committee reviewed recent spikes in readings from existing air monitors in Shafter. The spikes were from the pesticide 1,3-D. DPR later reported it would further mitigate use of the pesticide as a result, while industry has disputed the department’s interpretation of the readings, according to sources. The Shafter steering committee feared for the health impacts of 1,3-D use, requesting the state further restrict applications, while adding a notification system for residents during applications and expanding the buffer zones. The air district mentions the concerns in the CERP document, but defaults to the authority of the state.

**According to the plan, "DPR and CARB are committed to including in the CERP actions to address pesticides" and will draft a strategy by the end of August 2019.**

The Shafter steering committee has also requested more meetings to discuss air monitoring, as the district finalizes plans to add more monitors to the network.

Others in the committee raised concerns about pollution floating in from beyond the small radius around Shafter. Wildfire smoke will continue to plague the region, while the surrounding mountains collect air pollution in the valley like a bowl. The air district deferred to the broad activities of the state legislature and administration in funding wildfire prevention and suppression across California.

Wrapping up the steering committee meetings, the air district plans to publish the two CERPs by September 12, presenting them to the district governing board the following week. ARB will review the plans in October and vote to adopt the final drafts in February.

## Six questions for Assemblymember Heath Flora

Republican Assemblymember Heath Flora's family has been involved in California agriculture since his ancestors homesteaded in Modesto in the 1920s.

Coming from ag into the legislature in 2016, the experience was "mind-numbing" with how little representation ag had compared to other industries, he said.

Flora spent 15 years as a volunteer firefighter and still owns a farm equipment supply company. His District 12 represents San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties, an agricultural region at the center of California's largest water conveyance projects.



Assemblymember Heath Flora

Flora recently spoke with *Agri-Pulse* about the policy battle behind the state's ag equipment upgrade program, the threat of the gig economy bill being passed and the regulation load farmers struggle under.

### **1. Describe the challenges you have in representing a rural community in a legislature dominated by urban lawmakers.**

Obviously, water is a huge fight for us. A lot of the water comes from my district and a few districts north of me. The ag community is constantly fighting with lifetime water rights that families have had for generations, hanging on to those to make sure they have enough to grow their crops.

A lot of the Bay Area and the southern part of the state just simply have no concept of what that actually means. It gets even further into the pesticide usage and greenhouse gas production – whether it's livestock or trees and how those are marrying together and the actual data behind that, and understanding that. Actually, our California agriculture, if it stays the same, is a

tremendous benefit to dealing with some of these issues, as opposed to it being a gross polluter, like we're typically framed in.

Education is one of the biggest hurdles that we have. It's about getting legislators and staff out to farms. It's really easy to have a narrative in the Bay Area of what you perceive to be important. When you go see it in real life, you have a very different perspective. There are assemblymembers like Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) and Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), and some of those folks that love these ag tours. Jim comes from an ag region, but Blanca is from L.A. It's not her wheelhouse. She's been so supportive in a lot of ways.

**2. You were outspoken on the bill blocking the Cadiz water project, calling it “bureaucratic red tape designed to slow projects down that particular special interests do not like.”**

That was probably one of the more frustrating pieces of legislation that we've seen, quite frankly, and it really irritated me on a lot of different fronts.

First of all, we have a water source in the southern part of the state. We've tried to tap into it for years now. It's just one time after another. They move the goalpost because there's a group of very powerful environmental lobbyists who don't want it. We have federal senators that hate the bill and are actively trying to kill it. They lean on their people.

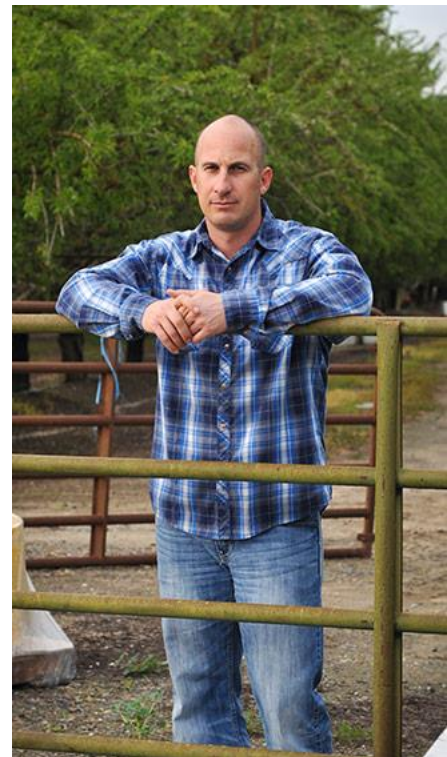
CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) is one of those things that we've talked about a lot in (the Natural Resources Committee). I'm not necessarily saying CEQA is all bad. But it's absolutely abused. For very little money, any citizen or group can file a lawsuit and just absolutely hold us hostage.

The governor has been on a statewide water fix. That's been one of his pillars for his next few years. We totally support that. We can't have a statewide water fix if it's on the backs of Northern California. When all of these projects that are viable in the southern part of the state get killed by environmental groups, it really hurts us. If its 50,000 barrels of water down there, that's 50,000 barrels less.

All of these things have to be put on the table. We can't allow special interest groups to kill them for their own personal agenda.

**3. What are some of the concerns the agriculture community in your district has brought to you?**

It's the constant barrage of new regulations we drop on top of businesses, and especially the ag world.



Flora on his farm.

A few years ago, it was ag overtime. Now it's minimum wage. It's very hard for the business community to stay out of trouble. Then you have a group of attorneys just waiting to exploit them when they make a mistake. We're seeing that a lot right now in the Central Valley. Whether it's as simple as a paystub violation, there's 13 things on the law that are required on a pay stub. If any one of those things aren't on there, that's a sueable offense. Old ADA attorneys are now suing businesses for these paystub violations. The business owners are not trying to exploit anyone. It's not wage theft by any means. It's just that they screwed up the employee ID number or the last four of the social and they get sued for it.

**4. During a hearing earlier this year, you mentioned farmers are willing to upgrade tractors to meet air quality requirements but need incentives. The state program for this had its funding cut in half last month.**

The governor's office had been pretty good to work with on this. We're not quite back to where we need to be (for the funding). But it certainly has not fallen on deaf ears.

The tractor replacement program was incredibly beneficial for our region. The California Air Resource Board set a goal where they want to take by 2025 another 12,000 of these dirty, polluting tractors out of the system. To do that, we needed funding and they had about \$250 million a year to reach their goals. The staff proposed and the board adopted this plan. But this got very political. There were some things that were done politically that ticked a lot of dem leadership off. And the ag community got absolutely hammered.

It didn't start out all roses. It started in about 2008 and farmers didn't buy into it at all. They didn't want any handouts. The paperwork was clunky; it just didn't flow right.

But the local air districts absolutely came on board with the ag community and started streamlining all of this. You had this amazing relationship between the air districts, the local ag community and the dealerships.

It gets very frustrating for me that we allow politics to kill good policy.

**5. What are your thoughts on the legislative session this year?**

I will say AB 5. The Dynamex situation with independent contractors is probably the biggest hurdle we have right now. It's going to take the governor to intervene. If that goes through as it's currently written, it'll be an absolute game changer, not only for agriculture, but for the entire state of California.

Our fights were in the budget. For the ag community, there hasn't been a ton of bills come through there this year in a weird way.

**6. What would you say to farmers who are concerned their voice isn't being heard in Sacramento?**

It is a concern. We need to be engaged. Every day, a particular labor group is in this building, walking the hallways, pushing their agenda. Ag doesn't do that.

They're at home working and it's hard for them to get up here and do this. But we need that engagement right now.

If I am constantly the squeaky wheel and I kick a door down on whatever policy discussion it may be and there's nobody behind me, I'm just taking arrows for nothing.

I'm happy to do that. But we can educate the groups that we treat our people well, we pay them properly, we take care of their healthcare – which was 99.9% of the ag community out there. We have to control that narrative, and we can't if we're on the sidelines.

If political action is not part of your business plan, then we're all going to be in really big trouble. Otherwise, if we're not controlling our narrative, they'll control it for us, and they're probably going to be wrong.

## **Interstate transport of hemp at issue in appeals court case**

The hemp industry is closely watching a court case being argued Wednesday whose outcome could cast a shadow over interstate transportation of the highly touted commodity.

Big Sky Scientific, an Aurora, Colo., wholesale distributor of cannabidiol (CBD), which can be extracted from cannabis plants, is trying to reclaim more than three tons of hemp seized by the Idaho State Police (ISP) in January. Lawyers for the company, Ada County, Idaho, and the Idaho State Police will be presenting their cases before a three-judge panel from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle.

At issue is whether the interstate transport of hemp is legal. Idaho says no, because under state law, any amount of THC is illegal in the state. Big Sky and the hemp industry, however, say the shipment of hemp that meets the definition in the 2018 farm bill by having 0.3% or less of THC, is lawful.

The saga began Jan. 24, when an Idaho State Police specialist pulled over a truck near Boise and caught the unmistakable whiff of marijuana. Another officer arrived with his dog, who “alerted” to the smell. The driver was arrested and the hemp seized.

Big Sky sued to get its hemp back, but a federal magistrate judge upheld the police seizure, agreeing with the county and the ISP that last year’s farm bill only covers hemp produced in compliance with that law.

Ada County and the ISP argue that for hemp to be produced legally, it has to have been grown under a federally approved state plan as required by the farm bill. Big Sky and hemp proponents, however, say the county and the police are misreading the law, which they say “grandfathered” hemp produced under pilot programs authorized by the 2014 farm bill.

In May, shortly after briefing was completed in the case, USDA General Counsel Stephen Vaden issued a memorandum to address questions that were swirling around hemp production in the wake of the farm bill. Among Vaden’s conclusions: States and tribes may not prohibit interstate transportation of hemp lawfully produced under a 2014 pilot program.

The seizure of legally produced hemp “is not the result that Congress intended,” says Elijah Watkins, a lawyer with the Stoel Rives law firm who is representing Big Sky. He says the

company did everything by the book, purchasing licensed product whose THC level was properly tested, and hiring a “reputable transporter.”

The county and ISP, however, disagree, contending that the farm bill did not extend interstate commerce protections to hemp produced under the pilot programs. In essence, the case will come down to how the Ninth Circuit interprets the 2018 farm bill.

Asked why Idaho is pursuing the matter, ISP spokesman Tim Marsano said, “The Idaho State Police has as its mission to enforce the laws of the state of Idaho as written.” He added that the 6,700 pounds of hemp remains in ISP custody and it “seemed dry” when it was removed from the truck it was contained in a few weeks ago.

Big Sky has support from the hemp industry in the form of a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the American Trade Association of Cannabis and Hemp, who said that if the court upholds the seizure, “hemp-related interstate commerce could grind to a halt because it would give a green light to seizures like the one in Idaho at issue in this case.” And two Montana hemp growers filed a friend-of-the-court brief saying they would be unable to transport hemp out of Montana, or risk seizure (and criminal charges) by states like Idaho.

The case’s significance may fade once USDA publishes its interim final rule this fall guiding the implementation of the hemp program in the farm bill. Eric Steenstra, president of Vote Hemp, said “the case will largely become moot after USDA publishes hemp regulations.”

“Idaho officials had no business seizing this shipment as it was produced legally under the 2014 farm bill,” Steenstra said. “Hopefully they will now get that message loud and clear.”

## Georgia judge finds 2015 WOTUS rule unlawful

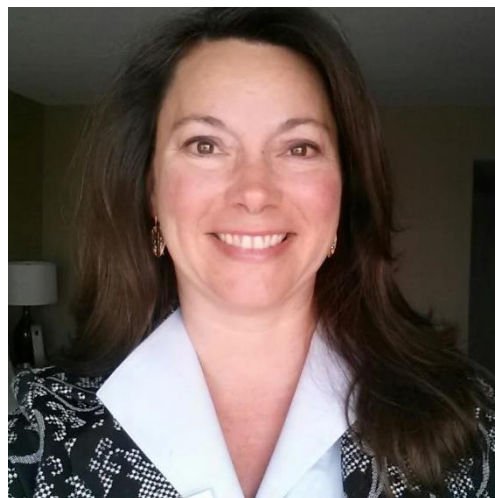
Another federal court has found the 2015 “waters of the U.S.” rule legally deficient, but language in the ruling could add another layer of controversy to the Trump administration's efforts to rewrite the rule.

U.S. District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood in Georgia said in a ruling Wednesday the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers overreached in defining their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, specifically in asserting federal authority over activities in interstate waters, tributaries and adjacent waters.

Wood did not invalidate the rule but kept an injunction in place preventing its implementation in 11 states. Along with other court rulings, that means the 2015 rule is in place in 23 states and not in effect in 26, with the situation in New Mexico complicated by that state's shift in litigation position earlier this year.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, which earlier this year won a decision in Texas that also found the rule legally wanting, hailed the latest decision.

**“The court ruling is clear affirmation of exactly what we have been saying for the past five years,” AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. “The EPA badly misread Supreme Court precedent. It**



Ellen Steen, AFBF



**encroached on the traditional powers of the states and simply ignored basic principles of the Administrative Procedure Act when it issued this unlawful regulation.”**

Wood found the WOTUS rule’s “vast expansion of jurisdiction over waters and land traditionally within the states’ regulatory authority cannot stand absent a clear statement from Congress in the CWA. Since no such statement has been made, the WOTUS Rule is unlawful under the CWA.”

She also determined the agencies’ “inclusion of all interstate waters in the definition of ‘waters of the United States,’ regardless of navigability, extends [their] jurisdiction beyond the scope of the CWA because it reads the term navigability out of the CWA.”

The judge used the “significant nexus” test developed by former Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy in the *Rapanos* decision to analyze the legality of the WOTUS rule. Kennedy had said in enacting the CWA, Congress “intended to regulate at least some waters that are not navigable in the traditional sense” but also said “the word ‘navigable’ must be given some effect.”

National Wildlife Federation attorney Jim Murphy said the judge’s adoption of the Kennedy test is a good sign for opponents of the EPA/Corps rewrite effort. EPA and the Corps proposed a new rule in December using the *Rapanos* plurality opinion written by late Justice Antonin Scalia as a starting point as directed by President Donald Trump in an executive order in February 2018.

The Wood decision “reiterates that they’re barking up the wrong tree in terms of their replacement rule. No court has given credence to the Scalia opinion as having controlling authority.”

Wood said the way the agencies defined “tributaries” in the rule would allow even “remote and insubstantial” waters to be jurisdictional. She added that the definition of waters “adjacent” to tributaries also was unlawful, “both because of its combination with tributaries and the selection of overboard geographic limits without showing a significant nexus.”

AFBF senior regulatory director Don Parrish, the organization’s point man on the WOTUS rule, was ecstatic about the ruling, saying it went much further than a Texas ruling earlier this year.

“It does give [the agencies] a roadmap on reasons to repeal” the 2015 rule, he said. EPA and the Corps are working to finish a new final rule by the end of the year.

## **Will global warming require ranchers to rethink grazing?**

Global CO<sub>2</sub> levels have increased from 330 parts per million (ppm) in 1976 to 405 ppm last year and could reach 600 ppm as soon as 2050. That could be good news in terms of stimulating plant growth, but it also means less nitrogen, which could rob cattle of a key nutrient when they graze.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) ecologist David J. Augustine in Fort Collins, Colorado explored what happens when the forage grasses that cattle eat become less nutritious and harder to digest, and if it affects the animal’s ability to gain weight as it grazes.

Augustine and his colleagues simulated the 600 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> levels on a mixed-grass prairie in the Northern Plains that produces the native grasses that make up the forage used by cattle. Yearling cattle in rangeland systems in the Northern Plains typically are grazed on forage grasses from May to October before they go to finishing lots where they are fed grain-based diets.

The researchers collected data for seven years and found that the amounts of forage increased, but the decline in nutritional quality was consistent across the years and that by the end of the grazing season, individual cattle would weigh about 30 pounds, or 12 percent, less.

The study was published last year and since then, Augustine and his colleagues at the Rangeland Resources and Systems Research Unit in Cheyenne, Wyoming and in Fort Collins, have been searching for new ways to help ranchers address the problem. They say that trying to induce cattle to eat more of the available grass isn't a viable alternative because of its reduced nutritional content.

Instead, Augustine and his fellow researchers say that ranchers may want to consider shortening the traditional grazing season because by late summer forage grasses are less nutritious and the cattle gain only negligible weight from early September to mid-October. Net returns also are consistently higher for cattle removed from grazing and sold in early September, according to another ARS study.

Other options include feeding cattle nutritional supplements, seeding pastures with legumes to add nitrogen to the soil, applying low levels of fertilizer, stimulating new grass growth with prescribed burning and adjusting stocking rates in response to changing weather and climatic conditions (e.g., wet periods and drought) that affect grass production.

### **New conservation innovation, soil health funds available**

The California office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service selected five Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) projects that will receive a combined \$450,000. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers CIG as part of its Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS uses CIG to invest in innovative conservation technologies and approaches with the goal of wide-scale adoption to address natural resource issues.

“These grants will help spur creativity and problem-solving on California’s farms and ranches,” said Carlos Suarez, state conservationist for NRCS in California. CIG grants were awarded for:

- The University of California will work with small grain producers to demonstrate and facilitate best nitrogen fertilizer management practices.
- Land Trust of Napa County will study the effects of fuels-reduction prescribed grazing on plant communities in oak woodland habitats.
- American Farmland Trust will develop a framework for decision making to prioritize water infiltration and farmland protection projects for conservation resilience in the San Joaquin Valley and other areas of California.
- The University of California will gather data to address key questions related to water quality impacts of swine grazing and develop best management practices for these types of operations.
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will seek to increase adoption of Bee Better Certified (BBC) label specific to vineyards.
- California Deer Association will study the feasibility of using Thermal Imaging drone technology to rescue and relocate deer and pronghorn fawns and elk calves thereby reducing wildlife mortality.

More information on CIG can be [found here](#).

In a separate announcement, USDA's NRCS announced \$1.9 million in funding for 15 Soil Science Collaborative Research projects focused on soil science and soil survey research. The University of California – Davis was selected for a project to develop a simpler, automated soil taxonomy process that will greatly simplify the task of soil classification. All of the projects are [summarized here](#).

## Farm Hands West: Newsom appoints Swanson to Water Commission

**Matt Swanson** was appointed to a four-year term on the California Water Commission by Governor **Gavin Newsom**. In this position he will help provide a public forum for discussing water issues, advise the Department of Water Resources, approve rules and regulations and monitor and report on the construction and operation of the State Water Project. Swanson previously served as president and chief executive officer at Associated Feed in Turlock since 1998.

Kraft Heinz has named **Paulo Basilio** as the new CFO, replacing **David Knopf**. Basilio currently serves as the chief business planning and development officer and will take over as CFO on September 1. Knopf became CFO in 2017, and will return to 3G Capital where he has been a partner since 2015.

Inari adds **Todd Martin** and **Scott Keetle** to the company's commercial operations team. Martin will serve as the new vice president of commercial development. He brings over 30 years of experience in the agriculture industry and most recently served as the CEO of the Independent Professional Seed Association (IPSA). Before that, he worked for Syngenta and Merrill Lynch. Keetle will serve as Inari's general manager within the commercial operations leadership team. He brings over 20 years of experience in the seed industry and has held senior positions at AgReliant Genetics and Corn States.



Todd Martin

Arcadia Biosciences Inc announced its current CEO, **Raj Ketkar**, will retire on September 1 and **Matthew Plavan** will take over the helm. Ketkar joined Arcadia in 2016 following the departure of its founder **Eric Rey**. Before that, Ketkar brought over 30 years of experience in the agricultural industry, mostly in management roles with Monsanto. Plavan joined Arcadia in 2016, and previously held executive roles at Cesca Therapeutics Inc. He also served as Cesca's CEO from 2012 to 2015.

Progressive Produce has hired **Dominic DeFranco** as the new vice president of sales. DeFranco brings over 30 years of experience in the produce industry. He started his career in the produce industry working for the family business, D. DeFranco & Sons. He most recently served as the senior sales manager at Fresh Del Monte.

**Steve Lutz** has begun a new position with Category Partners LLC as vice president of Insights and Innovation. He most recently served as the vice president of member engagement at the Produce Marketing Association. Before that, he was chief strategist and vice president of

marketing for CMI Orchards. He served at the Washington Apple Commission from 1992-2000, becoming president and CEO in 1996.



Steve Lutz

The U.S. Apple Association has named **Jeff Colombini** to serve as the chair of the Board of Directors. Colombini is a third-generation California grower and tree fruit business owner, and will serve the 2019-20 term. Colombini currently serves as the president of Lodi Farming Inc., a company that farms 1,800 acres of apples, cherries, olives, and walnuts in the northern San Joaquin Valley. Before farming full time, Colombini worked as an operations analyst for Stanislaus Food Products and as a loan officer for the Farm Credit System.

Past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the California Citrus Quality Council, **Charles Coggins, Jr.** passed away on August 18, at the age of 88. He served on the board from November 1992 to January 2008, and in 2003 he received the Albert G. Salter

Memorial award which recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to and achievements in the citrus industry. Coggins is known for his research on plant growth regulators, beginning with gibberellic acid (GA) and continuing with programs to retain 2,4-D. Coggins was a professor at the University of California Riverside where he served for 37 years. He served as Chairman of the UC Riverside Department of Plant Sciences and helped create the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences. He also served 15 years as executive secretary/treasurer for the International Society of Citriculture.

**Best regards,**

**Sara Wyant**

**Editor**

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