



Sara Wyant, Founder and Editor, Agri-Pulse

Sara Wyant leads Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc. an electronic publishing company with the largest and most experienced editorial team covering agriculture and food policy issues in Washington, D.C. The firm's subscription-only products and website, Agri-Pulse.com, include the latest updates on farm policy, commodity and conservation programs, trade, nutrition, food safety, rural development, and environmental and regulatory programs. She is currently President of the National Association of Farm

Broadcasters (NAFB) Foundation and has previously served on numerous boards, including serving as chairwoman on the Farm Foundation's board of trustees and as past president of the American Agricultural Editor's Association. A graduate of Iowa State University in journalism and political science, Wyant grew up on a Century farm near Marengo, Iowa which she and her husband now own, in addition to the Century farm her husband's family originally homesteaded near Almont, North Dakota.



Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture

Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on January 9, 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom. In re-appointing Secretary Ross, Governor Newsom cited her unmatched leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and in California, including environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and trade. Secretary Ross was initially appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011. Before joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996-2009 and as Vice President of the Agricultural Council of

California from 1989-1996. Her prior experience before moving to California included staff work for a United States Senator, a presidential candidate, and government relations for rural electric cooperatives and public power districts. Secretary Ross is passionate about fostering the reconnection of consumers to the land and the people who produce their food and improving the access of all California citizens to healthy, nutritious California-grown agricultural products. Secretary Ross has strengthened partnerships across government, academia and the non-profit sector in the drive to maintain and improve environmental stewardship and to develop adaptation strategies for the specific impacts of climate change. She has initiated programs to provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, energy efficiency, nutrient management, and ecosystem services; and she has worked to provide greater access to farm-fresh foods at school cafeterias through CDFA's Farm to Fork Program. Secretary Ross grew up as a 4-H kid on a farm in western Nebraska. She and her husband, Barry, own 800 acres of the family farm where her younger brother, a fourth-generation farmer, grows no-till wheat and feed grains. The Secretary has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program. She has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions.



Don Cameron, Farmer and Chair, California State Board of Food and Agriculture

Since 1987, Don has been the Vice President and General Manager of Terranova Ranch, Inc. located 25 miles southwest of Fresno, California. Terranova farms approximately 6,000 acres, in addition to 1,500 acres custom farmed for other clients. The farm has a mix of 25 conventional, organic and biotech field crops including conventional and organic processing tomatoes, peppers, onions, seed product, corn and a diversity of other annual crops. Perennial crops grown consist of walnuts, wine grapes, almonds, pistachios and olives for oil. In addition, Don owns and farms Prado Farms located in Fresno County. Don served on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel from 2011-2018. In 2012,

Don served an appointment at the federal level on the Working Group for the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture (AC21). He currently serves as chairman for the California Cotton Alliance, director and past chairman for the California Tomato Growers Association, director for Western Growers Association, Raisin City Water District and Chairman for the McMullin Area GSA. Don was awarded the 2017 Agriculturalist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Further, Terranova Ranch, Inc. was awarded a 2017 Governor's Environmental Leadership Award (GEELA) for ecosystem and land use stewardship associated with a flood capture and recharge project. Don has served on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture since 2014 and was appointed President of the Board in February 2018. Don is a graduate of California State University, Fresno with a degree in Biology. He is married with two adult children.



Ashley Boren, Executive Director, Sustainable Conservation

Ashley has directed the strategy, growth and operations of Sustainable Conservation since 1997. She received a 2007 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her unwavering commitment to innovative, balanced problem-solving to address a variety of critical environmental problems facing California. Prior to joining Sustainable Conservation, Ashley spent eight years at Smith & Hawken, a mail order and retail gardening company, where she worked in finance, new business development, inventory planning and retail merchandising. She began her career at The Nature Conservancy in program development and fundraising. In addition to her work at Sustainable Conservation, Ashley serves on the

California State Board of Food and Agriculture, on UC California's President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and on the Executive Committee of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute's External Advisory Board at UC Davis. She served on the Board of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation from 2002 to 2011, the last two years as Chair, and on Stanford Business School's Alumni Consulting Team Board from 1995 to 2002, the last three years as Chair. Ashley is a graduate of the Marlborough School in Los Angeles, which awarded her their 2008 Woman of the Year Award, and has a BA in human biology, an MA in applied economics and an MBA from Stanford University.



Kelli McGannon, Director, Western Regional Corporate Affairs, The Kroger Company

Kelli is the Regional Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for the Western Region. She is responsible for Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, King Soopers, QFC and Ralphs. Kelli was promoted to her current role in May of 2017; previously she was the Corporate Affairs Director for King Soopers. In addition to her current role, Kelli currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Food Bank of the Rockies, 5th Gear Kids, Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation, and the Colorado Retail Council. Kelli has two boys and is a native of Colorado.



Jamie Johansson, President, California Farm Bureau Federation

James D. "Jamie" Johansson was elected president of the California Farm Bureau Federation in December 2017. Johansson previously served as first vice president for two years. He became a statewide officer in 2009, when he was elected second vice president. Johansson is a former chairman of the CFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee and former vice president of the Butte County Farm Bureau. His service in Farm Bureau has included membership on a half-dozen other statewide advisory and policy recommendation committees. He grows olives and citrus fruit in Oroville and operates an olive oil company, Lodestar Farms. He is a co-founder of the Sierra Oro Farm Trail Association and a former board member of the California Olive Oil Council. Johansson served four years on the Oroville City Council, which selected him to serve as vice mayor. His community involvement also includes service on the Oroville Chamber of Commerce board. He received the Business Advocate of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce and his farm was named Butte County Specialty Farm of the Year by the Economic Planning Corp. Johansson attended the University of Alabama and Colorado State University, where he studied political science.



Susanne Wasson, President, Crop Protection Business Platform, Corteva Agriscience

Susanne is the President of the Crop Protection Business Platform for Corteva Agriscience. Previously, she was the Vice President of Commercial Effectiveness. Prior to being named VP, Susanne was the U.S. Commercial Leader of the Crop Protection Business of Dow AgroSciences. She was previously a Global Business Leader for the Range & Pasture and Industrial Vegetation Management herbicide business and a Global Business Leader for the Seeds and Traits business focused on licensing of Dow AgroSciences' Bt library, and M&A activities for seeds in Asia. She has held several other roles in marketing, sales and finance in her 29-year career. Susanne is a member and past chapter president of P.E.O. (philanthropic education organization for women), and

also a member of the Delta Delta Delta Foundation Crescent Fund committee. She is currently on the Board of Directors of United Way of Central Indiana, Chairman of the Board of Crop Life America, and was the 2018 chairman of the FFA Foundation Sponsors Board. She was awarded an Honorary American FFA Degree and was a 2016 recipient of the Indianapolis Business Journal Women of Influence award. Susanne earned degrees in Agricultural Economics and Accounting from Oklahoma State University, and a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University.



Paul Buttner, Manager of Environmental Affairs, California Rice Commission

Paul Buttner is Project Manager and has served as Manager of Environmental Affairs at the California Rice Commission since 2001, leading wildlife conservation. He has nearly 30 years of environmental resources management and public policy experience. He previously worked at Resource Management International and Cargill.



Jacob Katz, PHD, California Trout

Jacob was born with gills. Fascinated with what happened below the water line, he grew up chasing fish in every creek, puddle, river and pond he could find. Jacob earned his Ph.D. in ecology at the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences with Dr. Peter Moyle. He directs CalTrout's Central California region where his work focuses on redesigning California's antiquated water infrastructure.



Brian Dahle, State Senator

Sen. Brian Dahle previously represented California's First Assembly District from 2012 until 2019. Before joining the Legislature, Brian served on the Lassen County Board of Supervisors for 16 years. In the legislature, Brian works across party lines for job creation and economic development in the rural North State and throughout California, pushing policies that keep families on their farms, protect water rights and support the business community. In addition to his service in elected office, Brian is a farmer and small business owner. Brian and his wife Megan live in Bieber with their three children.



Brett Sciotto, CEO, Aimpoint

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and a former Army Intelligence Officer, President & CEO Brett Sciotto brings a practical, results-oriented approach to the civilian business world. His training in and emphasis on mission-critical information gathering and targeted research methodology make him unique in his approach to problem solving in a corporate environment. Sciotto's disciplined, vetted approach to research is coupled with his military precision in detailed analysis and final presentation to his clients. With nearly two decades of research expertise, Brett has had tremendous success advising corporate leaders, government officials and state and national organizations at all levels.



Udi Lazimy, Senior Sustainability Manger, Just

Udi is a highly skilled international operations, sustainability and business strategy director with 15 years of experience leading sustainability, sourcing, agricultural, environmental, and social justice operations at the national and international levels in both the private and nonprofit sectors. In addition, he co-founded and/or coordinated multiple community-based organizations and has over a decade of experience instructing international service, leadership development and outdoor adventure travel programs.



Eric Schulze, Vice President, Memphis Meats

Eric Schulze, PhD is a molecular biologist, genetic engineer, science policy strategist, STEM educator, TV presenter, and former federal biotechnology regulator. He is currently Vice President of Product and Regulation at Memphis Meats, where he leads the design and development of the company's first-ever cell-based meat products as well as its regulatory, policy, and government affairs. Dr. Schulze is also the company spokesperson. He previously served as Senior Scientist for Memphis Meats. Before that, he served as a U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulator within the Obama Administration handling a portfolio of novel food and drug biotechnology products and policy. He holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in genetic, cellular, and molecular biology with a specialty in embryonic stem cell engineering from the University of Southern California, a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Loyola University New Orleans (2005), and is trained in broadcast communication, speechwriting, and risk assessment. Eric is a first-generation college graduate. He absolutely loves being a professional scientist. He has served at the National Science Foundation where he helped to develop federal STEM Education policy. In a personal capacity, he currently advises the National Academy of Sciences' Roundtable on Systemic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education and hosts the Smithsonian's 'Ask Smithsonian' online show.



Nicki Briggs, MS, RDN, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Perfect Day

Recognized as one of PRWeek's 40 Under 40 'Trailblazers to Watch,' Nicki Briggs is a driven brand communications leader and passionate food and nutrition expert. Nicki harnesses her expertise as a Registered Dietitian to drive integrated brand communications strategies, with a penchant for simplifying complex food and nutrition messages for diverse audiences. Prior to joining Perfect Day, Nicki led global brand communications for Chobani. She is responsible for building the brand's voice and played a pivotal role in transforming a once regional yogurt company into a one-billion-dollar brand in less than five years — gaining the company recognition as one of the fastest-growing startups of all time. Nicki's work at Chobani is

featured in the Harvard Business School case study, "Growing a Live and Active Culture" along with hundreds of publications globally. Nicki lives in Seattle with her husband and two children, Tilly and Hank. When she is not learning about the wonders of flora-based fermentation, Nicki enjoys cooking and going for long hikes in the Pacific Northwest.



Dave Puglia, President & CEO, Western Growers

Dave Puglia was selected President and CEO of Western Growers in 2019. Since joining the organization in 2005, he has focused on leading public policy initiatives affecting the agriculture industry in California and other western states. Puglia has been at the forefront of major legislative and regulatory issues involving water supply, water quality, energy, air quality and labor. His work has included negotiating statewide water bond provisions to enhance storage capacity, advocating for a comprehensive safe drinking water solution in partnership with environmental justice leaders, and negotiating the nation's first state regulatory standard for prevention of heat illness in agricultural settings. Before joining Western Growers, Puglia served for seven years in the California Attorney General's Office, first as Press Secretary and then as Director of

Public Affairs and Communications. He has also worked as a public affairs consultant to numerous corporations and industry groups in addition to serving in senior roles on several statewide political campaigns. Puglia is currently Vice Chair of the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center Advisory Council and has served on several industry-related boards and advisory councils. A Sacramento native, Puglia earned a bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from Sacramento State University and resides with his wife Lezlie in Orange County, California.