



CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST LEGACY

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FALL 2012

Sustaining the Land Base for Future Farmers

The ability to sustain farmland in the Central Valley is threatened by increasing pressure to convert to other uses, exorbitant land prices, and declining land availability. "These are enormous obstacles to the next generation of farmers who will be growing our food," said Janie Gatzman, former Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT) board member and Senior Appraiser at American Ag Appraisal. "Land prices are so high that unless a young farmer has backing or already owns land, buying new land is often out of reach."

"The tool of conservation easements can be used to lower land values by removing the development potential while also infusing reinvestment capital into the operation," said Bill Martin, CVFT Executive Director. "This provides a two-fold benefit by sustaining the land as farm ground in perpetuity, but also making the farming operation more economical to manage with lower land carrying costs – not to mention ensuring local food production."



Beach Orchard

Farmers like Gene and Patricia Beach in Merced used a conservation easement to forever protect their farm and way of life, but their decision also provides future farmers with an opportunity. As more farms are set aside for the specific use of agricultural production the more land will be available for those who want to continue farming in the future.

The Beach Farm, owned by Gene and Patricia, is a beautiful 80-acre property located near the city of Livingston in Merced County. This prime farmland produces almonds and has been in their family for 25 years. In 2008, Gene and Patricia worked with CVFT to place a conservation easement over the property, permanently protecting it from conversion to other uses.

"This conservation easement gives my children the option to come back to the farm if they want, but if they don't, the land will always be farmed," said Gene Beach.

"Essentially, if you have more land with conservation easements, it will make the land value lower and, theoretically, make it easier for a new farmer to purchase," said Gatzman. "One hundred years from now when my grandchildren want to farm, conservation easements will ensure that there are farms left to live on, work on, and feed us."

"A conservation easement allowed the Beach Family to sustain the land for their family, but also ensured that the land will be available as farmland down the road," said Martin. ♪

How to Get Involved:

Visit our website and learn how to join a committee, volunteer, or donate – www.valleyfarmland.org

Updates:

Save the Date – Crabs for Conservation, a community crab feed, January 26, 2013, at the The Waterloo Gun and Bocci Club in Stockton. Mark your calendars, so you don't miss out!

Monthly Enews – Sign-up!

Sign-up for our monthly Enews via our website and get updates on farmland conservation projects, commodities, events, pictures, and more!



Follow us on Facebook:



Connect and share with us on Facebook. Be the first to hear about what we are doing and let us hear from you!



The Central Valley Farmland Trust has earned accreditation status from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2008. Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review. This includes the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land. CVFT has begun the year-long process to renew their accredited status.

Accreditation renewal is required to ensure land trusts continue to comply with the Land Trust Standards and Practices and the accreditation program requirements. The CVFT staff, board, and committees have begun working towards accreditation renewal and we look forward to achieving this goal by September 2013.

Our Mission:

To work with landowners and conservation partners to preserve agricultural lands in the California Central Valley for future generations.

Website address:
www.valleyfarmland.org



Director's Message

No, you don't need to adjust the screen or get a new pair of reading glasses! As a direct result of your ongoing support we are providing you with new and improved communications. Starting with our Annual Report, which you should have received a few weeks ago, we have committed to a complete overhaul of the **look**, the **how**, and the **when** we communicate with you, our valued supporters.

During our eight years in existence we have accomplished many milestones and have become a valuable resource to farmland owners and municipalities in the Central San Joaquin Valley. But along the way we have never lost sight of the fact most of our success is due to your support. So we feel it is critical to not only let you know about our successes, but share them in a manner that exudes success.

Our motto is "Preserving Farms that Feed the World". If you ponder that statement for any period of time it does not take long to realize its profound overarching significance. Food, at a basic level, is necessary to sustain life. In Western cultures it also serves as a thread that binds families. Here in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley we arguably have the most productive farmland in the world and as a result are blessed with an abundance and wide variety of foods. Not to mention the fact agriculture is a driving economic force, providing jobs and rippling economic benefits throughout the region and the state! Let's not take that for granted!

What do our motto and the significance of farmland and food have to do with our quality of communications? The answer: "Everything!" Most of you do not take for granted the importance of prime farmland, the incredible food it produces, and horizon to horizon open space it affords. But there are those that have placed prime farmland lower on their list of things to protect and preserve. If we expect others to take farmland preservation, with all its direct benefits, seriously shouldn't we also communicate with them in a manner that exudes success? ☺

Bill Martin
Executive Director



Magneson Farm

Our Vision

Preservation of the Central Valley's agricultural lands is vital to protecting our agricultural economy, heritage, unique agricultural resources and quality of life. We envision a future in which the Central Valley can accommodate population growth and urban development while preserving the most productive agricultural lands, thus creating and maintaining our irreplaceable farmland and high-quality environment for future generations. ☺



pictured L to R: John Whiteside, with his wife, Carol Whiteside, our keynote speaker, pictured with Randy and Sue Siefkin, owners of the State Theater in Modesto.

Annual Carnegie Event a Huge Success – Dinner with Degas

On Saturday, October 20th, 120 friends and supporters of Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT) came together at the Carnegie Arts Center, Modesto, to enjoy dinner, camaraderie in agriculture, and the stunning artwork of Edgar Degas to benefit the land trust.

Board President Denny Jackman kicked off the evening festivities by welcoming guests and introducing board and staff members. He was followed by emcee, Tim Byrd, charter member of the land trust, who thanked the gracious sponsors of this event: American Ag Credit, E&J Gallo Winery, and Mid Valley Agricultural Services Inc. Guests enjoyed appetizers and dinner served by Barnwood Restaurant and Catering, Ripon, with local foods provided by Ratto Brothers, Inc., Modesto, and flowers provided by The Flowery, Turlock.

Throughout the evening, guests were able to bid on a selection of fine silent auction items from gift baskets to jewelry and exclusive evenings out. "Our annual fundraiser was a huge success this year and my wife and I were so pleased to be able to support Central Valley Farmland Trust at this event," said Ron Freitas, CVFT board member.

Ron also added, "Assisting with the silent auction gave me the ability to interact with our supporters. We are proud to be dedicated to an organization so committed to saving farmland."

As guests enjoyed dinner, Tim Byrd introduced the evening's keynote speaker Carol Whiteside. An expert on agricultural land use policy, her talk focused on local and regional planning issues and was a highlight of the evening. "I give tremendous credit to CVFT for being one of the first agricultural land trusts in the Central Valley – they are doing such important work," said Whiteside. "With a significant number of acres under conservation easement they are truly a leader in farmland protection. This demonstrates their maturity as an organization and their focus on serving our community."

This annual event will be held again in 2013 at the Carnegie Arts Center. Please watch our publications for event details and sponsorship opportunities. ♫



Dinner with Degas table settings

Event Sponsors, Donors & Buyers

Our warmest and sincerest gratitude to our guests, event sponsors, and table sponsors. Thank you for supporting farmland conservation here in the Valley!

Event Sponsors:



Table Sponsors:

Bank of the West Agribusiness
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and the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
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Silent Auction Buyers:

Rosie Burroughs
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Robin Flournoy
Ron Freitas
Marilyn Hoobler
Peter and Rochelle Koch
Scott and Sally Magneson
Benina Montes
Glenn Navarro
Candy Silveira
Paul Wenger
Dr. Tom Yamashita



President's Message Farmland Conservation - Our Common Ground

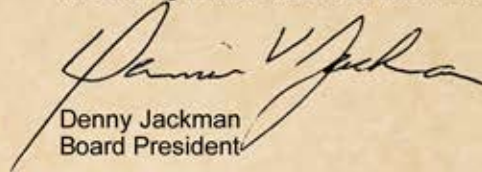
Though we all enjoy our individual freedoms and the right to vote and speak our minds, we are bound by our need for a safe and secure system of food generation and delivery. Conservation of our farmland is a basic human need and thus common ground, one of our most important interdependent issues.

At Central Valley Farmland Trust we are focused and committed to our landowners, the public benefits of farmland conservation, and our conservation partners. Our history proves it, our motto says it. We have worked hard to gain the trust of the landowner community and our board and staff never lose sight of this important relationship. We are farmers working for farmers!

As your Board President, I feel proud to be part of an organization that is the leading force of on-the-ground farmland protection in the San Joaquin Valley. Central Valley Farmland Trust takes the action to assist the private property owner to save farmland forever.

With almost 13,000 acres of farmland permanently protected for our future generations and another 500 acres awaiting funding, we are committed to a bright future for farming in the Central Valley.

Preserving Farms that Feed the World! ♻️


Denny Jackman
Board President



CVFT Board of Directors (pictured L to R): Maxwell Norton, Ron Dolinsek, Ken Oneto, Denny Jackman, Ron Frietas, Monica Bianchi, & Barbara Smith

Central Valley Farmland Trust Welcomes New Board Member: Barbara Smith

Barbara Smith works for American Ag Credit in Stockton as a Vice-President in their Valley Corporate Division. She has over 22 years experience serving financial and banking needs of Central Valley agriculture. Barbara lives in Walnut Grove with her husband Duncan, where they farm pears on their family farm in Courtland. The farm has been in Duncan's family since the early 1860's. Barbara is originally from Placer County (Lincoln) where she grew up and is still involved in her family's sixth generation sheep and cattle ranch.

Barbara and Duncan are dedicated to preserving their respective family legacies for the benefit of their two children, George and Hannah, and for their nieces and nephews. "International travel has given us an understanding of how truly unique, valuable, and irreplaceable Central Valley farmland and climate are," said Smith. "It's so important to protect this resource for our continued health and prosperity." They are founding members of the Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT) and Barbara has served on their budget and finance committee since its formation.

"We are so pleased to welcome Barbara as our newest member of the board where she will hold the position of Treasurer," said Bill Martin, CVFT Executive Director. "She has a passion for farmland conservation and the experience to help us fulfill our mission." ♻️





Friends of Farmland event attendees on a tour of the LangeTwins Winery led by Randy Lange.

Friends of Farmland – An Exclusive Evening

The Friends of Farmland event brings together landowners, volunteers, sponsors, and significant donors of Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT). The invitation-only event was held November 8th at the LangeTwins Family Winery & Vineyards in Acampo. This occasion gives CVFT the opportunity to thank each guest for their important contribution to the organization's farmland conservation efforts.

Guests had an exclusive opportunity to tour the LangeTwins Winery, enjoy tasting the new Caricature Red Wine and the wonderful LangeTwins Chardonnay. The tour was led by Randy Lange, while he and his wife Charlene poured wine and shared stories of the development of the winery.

"It was a great evening and we appreciated the chance to introduce LangeTwins and our sustainable winery to the CVFT," said Randy Lange of LangeTwins Winery. "It is a different experience when you get to walk through the winery and view the details that make it run. It was our pleasure to host this event and look forward to a return visit!" Following the tour and wine tasting, guests were treated to a delicious meal catered by Addy's Paella, Lodi.

"Central Valley Farmland Trust is grateful to the Lange family for their hospitality and generosity," said Bill Martin, CVFT Executive Director. "The opportunity to bring together our landowners and donors at such an exclusive venue is tremendous and we look forward to growing this event in the future." ١



CVFT surprised guest Jeanie Ferrari with a birthday celebration.

L LANGETWINS
WINERY AND VINEYARDS



Guests enjoyed an elegant dinner setting amidst the wine barrels.

Editor's note: This is the first article in a three part series to appear in the *Legacy* on the loss of farmland and its effect on food production and our water and soil resources. Vance Kennedy, a retired hydrologist with the Department of the Interior is the primary contributor.

The Urgency to Stop the Loss of Farmland

The Central Valley of California is losing its farmland at an astounding rate. In 2008, the Department of Conservation reported that 1.3 million acres of agricultural lands had been converted to non-agricultural uses since 1984, led by the conversion of prime farmland.

The Valley boasts the world's largest area of Class 1 soils (prime farmland, the best there is), a moderate climate, and water from snowmelt in the Sierras. It's the perfect place to grow food. These agricultural lands produce nearly half of the nuts, fruits, and vegetables in the nation; the Valley is a vital part of California's economy.

A burgeoning population will continue to need food and water, amidst a changing climate. World population is expected to reach nine billion by 2050. The Central Valley population is expected to more than double by 2040. We will have to feed this population with significantly less farmland.

As agricultural lands continue to be threatened, so too, is our food source, water supply, and quality of life.

Farming, aside from its obvious benefits of producing food and sustaining family businesses, plays a significant role in ground water recharge. As an example, "About half of the water used by the city of Modesto has come from pumping groundwater. Without it, Modesto would be a much drier city and much more susceptible to drought," said Vance Kennedy, retired hydrologist with the Department of the Interior. "About 60 percent of groundwater recharge is due to farmers' flood irrigation, according to a U.S. Geological Survey study."

"Additionally, saving farmland from conversion protects their sandy loam soils which also add greatly to ground water recharge," continued Kennedy. "The need to protect farmland is urgent because our next generation will be depending on less land to feed more people."



Central Valley Farmlands

There is also new research supporting the protection of farmland as it relates to mitigating the effects of climate change. A recent report from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Energy Commission with research performed by a team at UC Davis provide valuable data on climate change adaptation.

The report "suggests that land-use policies which protect existing farmland from urban development are likely to help stabilize or reduce future emissions, particularly if they are coupled with 'smart growth' policies that prioritize urban infill over expansion."

The report also suggest that even greater climate benefits can be gained by using farming practices that reduce emissions, sequester carbon, and buffer crop production from uncertainties in future climate situations and fluctuating energy prices.

Protecting farmland protects our water, soils, food source, and could prove essential in our efforts to adapt to a changing climate. ↴



Vance Kennedy

Read more about these issues in Part 2 of our series on *The Urgency to Stop the Loss of Farmland*, due out in our next issue of CVFT's *Legacy*.

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Donation in Memory:

Donation in memory of
H. L. McCabe,
Given by Les and Liz McCabe

Farmlands

LEGACY SOCIETY

Farmlands Legacy Society – Making a Planned Gift

The Central Valley Farmland Trust has created the Farmlands Legacy Society to recognize their special circle of friends who have made the choice to leave a planned gift to the organization.

Ken Oneto and his wife Florence "Florrie" are one of the founding members of the Farmlands Legacy Society. "Leaving a planned gift to CVFT was an important way for us to give to the future success of the organization," said Ken Oneto. "As farmers ourselves, we know the level of trust and understanding between this organization and landowners. Making sure they are able to continue protecting farmland and helping landowners is why I have committed my time and money to CVFT."

Planned giving is a way of supporting a non-profit that enables philanthropic individuals to make larger gifts than they could make from their income today. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate. Common planned gifts types are: outright gifts that use appreciated assets as a substitute for cash; gifts that return income or other financial benefits to the donor in return for the contribution; or gifts payable upon the donor's passing.

The members of the Farmlands Legacy Society receive exclusive event invitations, special recognition, and the comfort of knowing that they have left a lasting legacy of farmland conservation to the Central Valley Farmland Trust.

To learn more about the Farmlands Legacy Society or to leave a planned gift to the Central Valley Farmland Trust please contact Bill Martin, Executive Director at the CVFT office or consult your tax advisor. ☎



Ken and Florence Oneto



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Central Valley Farmland Trust

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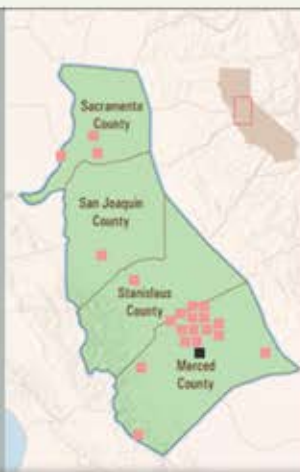
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Beach Farm

Beach Farm is a beautiful 30 acre parcel located near the City of Livingston in Merced County. This prime farmland produces almonds and has been in the family for 25 years. An agricultural conservation easement was placed on the property and it was permanently protected in 2008.

Beach Farm
Langille-Carman Farm
Cochrane Farm
Cole
Du Granut Ranch
Sutter Home Winery
Espinoza Family Farm
Jessie Espinoza Farm
Espinoza Farm
Floca-Graser Farm
Furey Ranch
Humboldt Ranch
Jorgensen Ranch
Magneson Farm
Main Stone I Farm
Menghetti Farm
Okuya Farm
Pfeiffer
Mello Farm
Silveira Family Farm
Silva Farm
Zollinger-Nunes Farm



Visit Us Online:

Check out our website and learn about our conserved farms and ranches, about our conservation program, and how you can get involved. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and to sign-up for our monthly Enews!

Central Valley Farmland Trust Website Homepage