



# Yolo County Farm Bureau Quarterly Ag Report

November 2019

## Woodland Chamber of Commerce Recognized Present and Future Leaders in Ag at 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Farm-City Dinner

One has contributed to Yolo County agriculture for years. Another holds the promise of contributing to agriculture for years to come.

Both were honored by the Woodland Chamber of Commerce Oct. 17 during the organization's 52nd annual Farm-City Banquet before more than 420 people in the Woodland Community Center.

Taylor Christine Rodriguez, a student at Woodland Community College who will be transferring to Chico State next year, was recognized with the 2019 Twyla J. Thompson Women in Agriculture Scholarship. Meanwhile, longtime executive director of the Yolo County Farm Bureau, Denise Sagara, was honored as the 2019 Chamber Agri-Business Person of the Year.

The Farm-City Banquet has been revised several times and has ranged from a luncheon to a sit-down dinner over the many years it has been held. This year, the event was featured in the Kevin and Lorie Haarberg Gymnasium at the Community Center and featured numerous games, drawings and a silent auction for a mixture of fun and fundraising to provide revenue for future scholarships.

Those attending included Woodland business and civic leaders along with those in Yolo County agriculture.

Sagara is well-known in farming. She has been the executive director of the Yolo County Farm Bureau since 1998 and was recognized in 2012 Yolo County Farm Bureau Agriculturist Award. She has also served on the 40th District Agricultural Association, Yolo County Fair Board.

A native of Emmett, Idaho, Sagara moved to Yolo County with her family in 1960 and attended Esparto schools, where she still lives with her husband and high school sweetheart, Steve, of Sagara Farms.

She was hired as the Yolo County Farm Bureau's executive director in 1998 and has spent the past 21 years working behind the scenes making sure the bureau runs effectively at representing county farming interests.



Her work was praised by Farm Bureau President Joe Martinez, who said that those in the Farm Bureau and Yolo County agriculture know she's the "agri-business person of the year, every year."

"I've had the distinct pleasure of serving with Denise as president not once but twice," continued Martinez. "One of my ultimatums to Denise when I continued as president this second time was to continue to please be the executive director because there is no way I could do what I do in the field if it wasn't for her taking care of the Farm Bureau."

Sagara joins a "who's who" among Yolo County agriculture in receiving the award. The first Agribusiness Person of the Year was Jim Leathers in 1968. Other notable figures include Bernell Harlan, Regnar Paulsen, B.E. Giovanetti, Fred and Joe Heidrick, Bernell Harlan Jr., Peter Faye, Skip Quinlan, Dick Klenhard, Richard and Evelyn Rominger, Dona Mast, Gene Miyao, Ernie Hodges, Blake Harlan, Rich Jenness, Kim Timothy, Dan Best, Scott, Karen, Casey and Angela Stone, Tim O'Halloran, Frank and Tom Muller, Frank Sr. and Jane Siefertman and in 2018 Mark Mezger.

Rodriguez has been working toward a degree in agribusiness, said Dr. Candice Stafford-Banks of Woodland Community College. The courses Rodriguez has been taking have included basic and advanced ROP farm mechanics and agricultural personal finance.

She has worked as a parts inventory intern for Valley Truck and Tractor, an office assistant for Steidlmayer Family LLC in Colusa and also served under Sagara as an ag education intern at the Farm Bureau. She has also been involved for years with the Future Farmers of American and the Farm to Fork Presentation Team.

Both Rodriguez and Sagara had little to say on accepting their awards, other than their sincerest "thanks" for the recognition.

The Twyla J. Thompson Women in Agriculture Scholarship is named after the late Twyla Thompson, a long-time chamber volunteer, who was also well-known in agriculture, often advocating on a variety of water issues. Commonly called "Mrs. T," Thompson herself received the Agribusiness Person of the Year award in 1985. She died in early February 2017.

Host for the evening was Josh Hilliard, who kept the crowd laughing with a variety of jokes and individual recognition of those attending. Anderson Family Catering provided the dinner.

Event sponsors included Brooks Painting Inc., Cache Creek Casino Resort, Clark Pacific, Comstock's Magazine, Conaway Preservation Group, Dignity Health, Farm Credit West, Firehouse Entertainment, Fairfield Inn & Suites & Holiday Inn Express, MyCali Design, Thompson Family, Travis Credit Union, Tri Counties Bank, Van Beurden Insurance Services, Woodland Motors, Waste Management and Yolo Federal Credit Union.

— Jim Smith, Editor, Daily Democrat, Woodland, CA.



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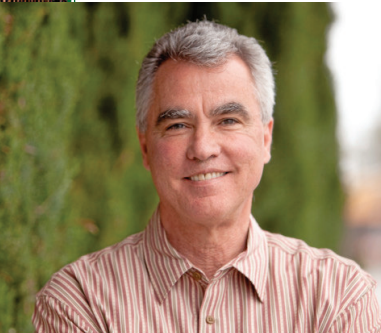
# Yolo County Farm Bureau 106<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Celebration & Meeting of Members

In 1914 Yolo County was one of the first counties to formally organize into the Yolo County Farm Bureau. The purpose was to promote and protect Yolo County's agriculture. A few years later the state organizations, California Farm Bureau Federation and the national organization, American Farm Bureau Federation, were formed.

Each year the Farm Bureau holds an Annual Meeting to elect or re-elect Officers and Directors. Meetings are held the third Thursday in January. This year's event will be held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds, 1250 Gum Avenue, Woodland. The event will start at 5:30 pm with a Social Hour and a Silent Auction, followed by dinner served by Buckhorn Catering. The program will start at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$70 each, or \$525 for a table of 8.

Tim O'Halloran will be awarded the YCFB 2020 Agriculturalist of the Year Award. Tim is the General Manager of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District which manages water supplies for a

*Celebrating the  
Agriculturalist of the Year:  
Tim O'Halloran*



"Tim O'Halloran is a water resources manager with a background as an agricultural engineer, receiving his degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He has been an active participant in various water committees and organizations, including serving as president of the California Irrigation Institute (2006-08). He is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. He currently serves as general manager of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which manages water supplies for a significant part of Yolo County. For the past 13 years, O'Halloran and the district have forged partnerships throughout the region to provide reliable and affordable water for farms and ranches, while preserving the natural resources of the Cache Creek watershed. He also has developed innovative programs to improve efficiency, water quality and habitat, and creatively manage the groundwater resources in the region." - The Davis Enterprise

**Yolo County Farm Bureau Board of Directors  
cordially invite you and your  
guest(s) to join us:**

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020

Time: 5:30pm Social Hour & Silent Auction  
6:30pm Dinner  
7:30pm Program

Place: Yolo County Fairgrounds, Waite Hall  
1250 Gum Avenue, Woodland

Cost: \$70 Individual Ticket  
\$525 Table of 8

Please RSVP by January 9, 2020  
Tickets can be purchased online at [www.yolofarmbureau.org](http://www.yolofarmbureau.org)  
Sponsorships are available

significant part of Yolo County. He has also been a leader in Yolo County's complying with the Sustainability Groundwater

Management Act requiring water districts to complete and submit a plan to the State Water Board to bring their district into

compliance with sustainability requirements.

The public is invited to attend the event and join us in honoring Tim.

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Freeman Barsotti

Dominic Bruno

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Garrett Driver

Robert Falconer

Mike Hall

Mike Howard

Bret Leishman

Stan Lester

Joe F. Martinez

Jeff Merwin

Eric Paulsen

Justin Rominger

Casey Stone

Don Tompkins

Paul Underhill

YF&R Representative

Eric Willson

## Ag in the Classroom – CAITC Conference Overview



The California Ag in the Classroom Conference provides educators from around the state the opportunity to interact with people who work in agriculture and bring their experiences back to their classrooms. Participants are able to attend two farm tours and learn about how the agriculture industry functions from field to fork.

Throughout the weekend there are speakers that give presentations on all types of topics, including pests and insects, nutritional benefits of canned tomatoes and how animal rights activists are affecting the industry. Each session includes a raffle of items that will be useful in the classroom with each participant walking away from the event with armfuls of goodies to help make teaching agriculture easier and enjoyable to all students.

The event encourages educators to share what they take from the conference and to learn creative ways of teaching about

agriculture from each other. Participants leave the conference full of inspiration and passion for teaching the upcoming generation about how important agriculture is to all of us.

This year, Yolo County Farm Bureau staff attended the event and provided a Make 'N Take presentation consisting of Crop Duster Crafts and Mini Magnetic Maps. Teachers were provided with several CAITC resources that include lesson plans so they can apply lessons about agriculture to the crafts. The groups talked about how crop dusters are used for planting rice as well as applying fertilizers, and how growing rice provides a temporary habitat for a variety of wildlife. The maps were used to highlight top crops or water resources by county and the group talked about using the craft to teach a more in-depth lesson on either agricultural water or a top crop of the teacher's choice.

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# 2018 Yolo County Crop Report

The gross value of Yolo County’s agricultural production for 2018 was \$675,896,000. This represents an increase of \$39,501,000 or 6.2% above 2017’s value of \$636,395,000.

Almonds remain the number one spot with a gross value of \$112,980,000, followed by Processing Tomatoes with a gross value of \$100,944,000. Almonds, Tomatoes, Wine Grapes, Rice and Organic Production are the top five commodities according to gross value. Alfalfa Hay, Walnuts, Sunflower Seed, Nursery Products, and Cattle round out the top ten commodities of 2018.

To see this, or any previous crop reports online, or to learn about the programs and services provided by Yolo County Department of Agriculture, visit: [www.yolocounty.org/ag](http://www.yolocounty.org/ag).

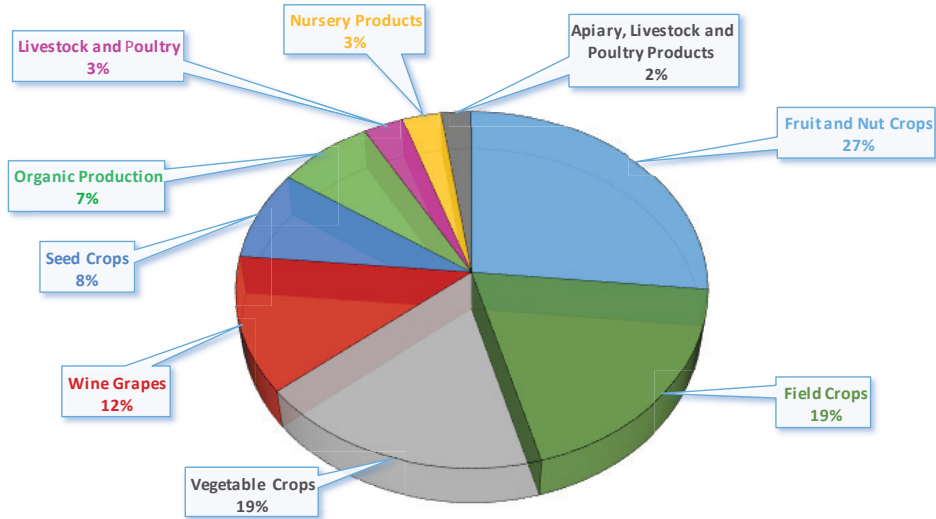


## COMMODITY SUMMARY

Commodity	2018	2017	2016
Fruit and Nut Crops	\$179,245,000	\$192,564,000	\$156,395,000
Field Crops	\$129,393,000	\$88,256,000*	\$98,394,000*
Vegetable Crops	\$124,626,000	\$106,843,000	\$152,518,000
Wine Grapes	\$83,596,000	\$86,012,000	\$81,264,000
Seed Crops	\$54,921,000	\$61,737,000*	\$66,429,000
Organic Production	\$48,525,000	\$49,989,000	\$58,863,000
Livestock and Poultry	\$20,541,000	\$18,944,000	\$19,026,000
Nursery Products	\$19,687,000	\$19,068,000	\$18,303,000
Apiary, Livestock and Poultry Products	\$15,362,000	\$12,982,000	\$10,463,000
Total	\$675,896,000	\$636,395,000*	\$661,655,000*

\* Corrected Value

## COMMODITY SUMMARY 2018



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