



**Ag Leadership**

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

# **Class 54 Inauguration & Dinner**

# **Profiles in Leadership Award Ceremony**

October 11, 2024  
DoubleTree Hilton Hotel  
Fresno Convention Center

**GROWING LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



*Welcome!*

## **MISSION**

Growing leaders who make a difference.

## **VISION**

Leaders united to strengthen California agriculture and sustainably supply the world.

## **VALUES**

Integrity ♦ Excellence ♦ Respect



# Ag Leadership

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

## **Class 54 Inauguration & Dinner 2024 Profiles in Leadership Award Ceremony**

Friday, October 11, 2024  
DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Fresno Convention Center

*Honoring Classes 4, 14, 24, 34 and 44*

- 5:30 p.m. Reception hosted by the Alumni Council
- 6:45 p.m. Welcome & Dinner  
*Dwight Ferguson, CALF President & CEO*  
*Mike Young (35), CALF Board Chair*
- 7:30 p.m. Profiles in Leadership Award Ceremony  
Award Recipient: *Carlos Castañeda (36)*  
Presented by: *Tom Ikeda (26)*  
  
Award Recipient: *Steve McShane (33)*  
Presented by: *James Ewart (49)*
- 7:45 p.m. Class 54 Inauguration  
*Dane White, CALF Director of Education*  
*Judy Sparacino (HF), CALF Programs Manager*
- 8:45 p.m. Closing  
*Abby Taylor-Silva (45), CALF Executive Vice President*

(HF) = Honorary Fellow Award recipient

**Class 54 Inauguration & Dinner  
Sponsored in Part by**



**FARM CREDIT**

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*Thank You!*



**Ag Leadership**

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

## **Wine Donations**

Delicato Family Wines  
James Ewart (49)

## **Centerpiece & Plant Donations**

Belmont Nursery  
Jon Reelhorn (38)



**Award Recipient  
Carlos Castañeda (36)**



Owner & President  
Castañeda & Sons Inc.





## 2024 Profiles in Leadership Award

The Profiles in Leadership Award recognizes Ag Leadership Program alumni for leadership actions that result in the betterment of industry, community, business, government, education and/or the environment.

**Carlos Castañeda (36)** is being presented with the 2024 Profiles in Leadership Award for his leadership and commitment to providing opportunities for farmworker communities. His dedication to helping undocumented individuals find jobs through the H-2A program has transformed families and villages in rural Mexico. Annually, he assists more than 1,000 people as they secure work in the U.S.

Carlos, who operates his family's farm labor contracting business, visits the areas from which he recruits employees. In some of these remote locations, families live in small shed-like structures. When farmworkers return home, they often have saved enough money to build comfortable houses, buy livestock and provide stability for their families. These communities have been transformed in part due to the job opportunities provided by Carlos.

Carlos underscores that the people he helps are respectful, grateful and working hard for many months at a time while living away from their families. He describes H-2A as a life-changing program that provides opportunities to many impoverished communities.

Through partnerships he has developed, Carlos is able to provide housing for thousands of farmworkers. He has mentored many first-generation immigrants and is working on developing a financial literacy program to assist those who want to purchase their own homes. In his parents' home region in Mexico, Carlos has also donated vans to provide transportation for students who would otherwise be unable to attend school.

Carlos is actively involved in industry and community service, including a USDA advisory committee and participates with the Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Rocio, have five children and Carlos volunteers his time as a soccer and basketball coach for their teams.



**Award Recipient  
Steve McShane (33)**



Director of Development and Community Relations  
The Bridge Restoration Ministries



## 2024 Profiles in Leadership Award

The Profiles in Leadership Award recognizes Ag Leadership Program alumni for leadership actions that result in the betterment of industry, community, business, government, education and/or the environment.

**Steve McShane (33)** is being presented with the 2024 Profiles in Leadership Award for his impactful public service and community engagement. His dedication to volunteerism and his role as a city council member highlight his commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

Steve's public service began in college when Gov. Pete Wilson appointed him to the California Postsecondary Education Commission. He later served as student body president at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo before working for former state Sen. Bruce McPherson.

During his 14 years on the Salinas City Council, Steve secured more than \$200 million in capital improvements, contributing to projects such as a new public library and police service center. He also initiated the city's first community garden, established an adopt-a-tree program and created annual funding for public art.

Steve believes in the importance of long-term thinking for the agricultural industry and community development. He emphasizes the necessity of having individuals with agricultural backgrounds in public policy discussions, particularly on critical issues like air quality and energy.

He co-founded Central Coast Community Energy and has served on various boards, including the Monterey Bay Air Resources District and the California Vanpool Authority. Steve was also CEO of the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce for two years. During many years of his local public service, he owned and operated McShane's Nursery & Landscape Supply in Salinas.

Steve now helps individuals in Monterey County through drug and alcohol recovery as the director of development and community relations at The Bridge Restoration Ministries. He and his wife, Danielle (43), have two children.

*Introducing*

CLASS  
**54**



*Welcome to*  
**Ag Leadership!**



**Marisa Alcorta**  
**Apprenticeship Program Director**  
**Center for Land-Based Learning**

Marisa is the apprenticeship program director at the Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL), an agricultural education nonprofit in Woodland. CLBL's mission is to inspire, educate and cultivate future generations of farmers, agricultural leaders and natural resource stewards.

Marisa launched the first registered apprenticeship program to train beginning farm managers in the state and the first Spanish-language professional development program for agricultural front-line leaders in the Sacramento region. She manages a team of four, overseeing program funding, curriculum design and delivery, participant tracking, outreach, recruitment and partnership building.

Marisa earned a bachelor's degree in plant science from Cornell University and a master's degree in horticulture and agronomy from UC Davis. She serves on the board of California FarmLink and on the CalCAN Farmer Advisory Committee.

Marisa was raised in Austin, Texas, and moved to California in 2004. She has been a farmhand, crew leader, farm manager and owner/operator on a diverse array of farming operations in California. She and her husband are co-owners of Terra Firma Farm, a 220-acre operation which grows certified organic vegetables, fruits and nuts. Marisa loves hiking, reading books and spending time with her family and friends.



**Jake Barcellos**  
**Partner**  
**A-Bar Ag Enterprises**

Jake is a fourth-generation farmer and partner at A-Bar Ag Enterprises in Firebaugh. The family farm operates on approximately 7,500 acres, growing almonds, pistachios, Pima cotton, processing tomatoes and olives. It also provides custom farming services to nearby farms.

Jake's role involves overseeing office operations and fieldwork. He helps manage financial accounts, workforce planning and crop optimization, ensuring that their farming practices are productive and sustainable. He also focuses on long-term profitability to maintain the viability of the farm for future generations.

Jake earned a degree in agricultural business from Fresno State University, which he credits for giving him the skills to balance business management and farming operations effectively. His education, combined with hands-on experience, helps him make informed decisions to improve efficiency.

Jake is dedicated to supporting the local farming community and is actively involved in several industry groups. He and his wife, Rachel, are parents to sons Beau and Augie. His commitment to the success of his farm extends to preserving the agricultural heritage of the region and contributing to its future. He also hopes to pass the farm on to his children, should they choose to continue farming.



**Megan Bell**  
**Founder/Winemaker**  
**Margins Wine**

Megan is the founder and winemaker of Margins Wine, a winery based in Santa Cruz County that produces low-intervention wines with organic grapes from lesser-known regions, vineyards and varietals.

In addition to executing all wine production tasks, managing wholesale partnerships and overseeing direct sales, Megan has spent the last six years co-farming a small organic vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. During the off-season, Megan travels to wine fairs throughout the country to share the Margins story and connect with consumers.

Megan graduated from UC Davis in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in viticulture and enology and an English minor. Since 2020, she has served on the board of The Vanguard, a nonprofit that promotes ecological farming, empowerment and equity in the wine industry.

Megan is originally from the Bay Area. She moved to Santa Cruz in 2015 after a few years of traveling to work in winery and vineyard internships in Oregon, New Zealand and France. In her free time, she enjoys reading contemporary fiction, hiking and cooking up creative farm-to-table meals for herself.



**Hunter Berry  
Manager – Special  
Assets Department  
Yosemite Farm Credit, ACA**

Hunter manages the special assets department at Yosemite Farm Credit, ACA, a member-owned cooperative dedicated to serving farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses across various California counties. Yosemite Farm Credit offers an extensive range of financial services, including short-term operating loans, real estate loans and construction financing, customizing these products to meet the distinct needs of its members and supporting their prosperity.

Hunter oversees the management of the association's delinquent and distressed loan portfolios, specializing in workouts. He leads a team of seven, including three direct reports, and serves as the lead loan officer on numerous accounts. Furthermore, he is a member of the loan committee for distressed credits, through which he focuses on the negotiation, review and approval of restructurings.

Hunter resides in Turlock with his wife, Jenna, and their children, Owen and Ashlynn. In their free time, they enjoy camping and beach trips. He is deeply committed to his community as an active member of Turlock Sunrise Rotary and serves as the chair of the Turlock Christian Ag Advisory Board. He is also a member of the National FFA Farm & Agribusiness Management Career Development Event Committee and mentors students at California State University, Stanislaus.





**Kelly Bishop  
Conservation Program  
Representative II  
Imperial Irrigation District**

Kelly is a conservation program representative II for the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program, which promotes efficient irrigation practices to support the nation's largest ag-to-urban water conservation agreement.

Kelly leads a team of seven, ensuring consistent communication, procedures and training. She oversees quality control for over 350,000 acres annually and represents the department in internal audits. Since 2018, she has contributed to custom software development for the program. In 2022, she took on processing over \$40 million in annual conservation payments to growers.

Kelly graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2009 with a degree in agricultural science and minors in agricultural communications and agribusiness. She operated a floral and events business, Buds & Blooms by KMB Designs, from 2011 to 2021 while working full time. Active in her community, she has volunteered for the Imperial Valley Food Bank and is the scholarship chair for the Imperial Valley CWA and IID.

Kelly and her dog, Tink, live in a 1939 Sears Craftsman kit home, where she follows her grandmother's tradition of always having a puzzle to work on. She enjoys history, architecture and traveling, most recently to Iceland.



**Cameron Boomgaarden**  
**Orchard Operations Manager**  
**Vann Brothers**

Cameron is the orchard operations manager at Vann Brothers, a family-owned and operated company based in Northern California. Vann Brothers is a vertically integrated grower, buyer and processor of almonds. The company also grows walnuts and pistachios and manages over 13,000 acres of almonds, walnuts and pistachios in Yolo and Colusa counties.

Cameron is responsible for the organization of farm resources, ensuring effective and efficient crop production, and the evaluation of current on-farm procedures and practices, to optimize operations.

Cameron graduated from California State University, Chico in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a minor in agriculture. Since then, he has obtained his qualified applicator license and pest control adviser license.

Cameron was born and raised in Yuba City, where he resides with his girlfriend and their two dogs. A passionate sports enthusiast, Cameron loves watching baseball and football with friends and family. He also enjoys traveling, American history and barbecuing.



**Hillary DeCarl**  
**Field Representative**  
**Del Rey Avocado Company**

Hillary is a field representative on the California sourcing team for Del Rey Avocado, a grower, packer and shipping company of fresh avocados based in San Diego County. Del Rey packed over 40 million pounds of avocados from California this season at its main facility in Fallbrook.

Hillary is responsible for sourcing avocados from California, where she builds strong relationships with growers and purchases their avocados. She aims to be a valuable resource by also assisting with audits and certifications, walking groves to make crop estimations and assessing trees to offer recommendations for crop nutrition.

Hillary graduated from George Washington University in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science. She was a member of Class 2 of the Board Leadership Development Program from the Hass Avocado Board. She serves on the board for the California Certified Organic Farmers handler chapter, the Avocado Inspection Committee and Hass Avocado Board.

Hillary grew up in Temecula and returned after college. She played volleyball at George Washington University and is still involved with the sport as a youth coach. She loves traveling, enjoying great food and staying active.



**Allison Dericco**  
**Estate Vineyard Manager**  
**Rodney Strong Vineyards**

Allison is a seasoned expert in viticulture and farming with a distinguished 14-year career at Rodney Strong Vineyards. Starting as a viticulture technician, she has advanced up the ranks to her current role as estate vineyard manager, through which she oversees 1,158 acres of premium wine grapes. Her journey in viticulture is deeply rooted in her multigenerational California farming background, which has profoundly shaped her approach to vineyard management.

Allison is responsible for implementing cutting-edge farming practices, ensuring high standards of quality and optimizing vineyard efficiency. Her expertise extends to cultivating a collaborative work environment, fostering teamwork and driving the success of the vineyard.

Mid-career, Allison pursued further education by earning a viticulture degree from Washington State Extension. This provided her with advanced knowledge and innovative techniques that complement her hands-on experience and enhance her effectiveness in managing large-scale vineyard operations. Allison's leadership seamlessly integrates traditional farming values with modern viticultural methods. Her commitment to sustainable practices and continuous improvement contributes significantly to the ongoing excellence and success of Rodney Strong Vineyards.

Allison is an enthusiastic adventurer who enjoys quality time with her dog, golfing and exploring new destinations. She actively pursues personal challenges, such as ultra marathons and conquering notable peaks, including Kilimanjaro.



**William Dyt**  
**Partner**  
**Dyt Dairy**

William is a partner of Dyt Dairy, milking 2,000 cows twice a day with 14 employees. He took over full-time responsibility of running the farm in 2020, when it moved to its new location in Nuevo.

Will wears many hats – day-to-day manager, human resources, secretary, environmental compliance, futures trader, milk hedger, breeder and more. The job is seven days a week, with days starting at 4 a.m.

Will graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in dairy science and a minor in ag business. Shortly after graduating, he was elected to the board of directors for California Dairies Inc. in 2015 and served three terms until terming out in 2024. During this time, he also was appointed to the board of the National Milk Producers Federation.

Will was born in Corona, Calif., where the dairy farm was previously located. His parents, Andy and Diane Dyt, and his older sister, Dionne, are a very close family and enjoy water sports together.



**Consuelo Fernández**  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
**Brokaw Nursery**

Consuelo is the chief operating officer (COO) at Brokaw Nursery, a leading company based in Ventura. With over 70 years of experience, the nursery specializes in producing clonal avocado trees and supplies more than 85% of the California avocado industry. It also has a strong focus on intellectual property management.

Consuelo is an ingeniero agrónomo who studied at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Chile. In addition to her role as COO, she is actively involved in the avocado industry. She serves on the California Avocado Commission Production Research Committee and is the vice president of the California Avocado Society.

She has been with Brokaw Nursery since 2009 and relocated from Chile to California in 2014. She oversees the nursery's business and farming operations, research and development and the international management of intellectual property.

Consuelo grew up in Chile. Traveling is part of her life; she spent one year in South Africa working with avocados. She enjoys being outdoors, reading and spending time with her two daughters.



**Jarred Greene**  
**Assistant Ranch Manager**  
**Nickel Family Farms**

Jarred is an assistant ranch manager at Nickel Family Farms, a multigenerational enterprise with origins dating back to the 1850s. The company is renowned for its cultivation of a diverse range of crops, including alfalfa, almonds, cherries, citrus, corn, cotton, olives, onions, melons, tomatoes and wine grapes, spanning both the southern and mid-central valleys.

Jarred oversees a portion of the daily operations in Dos Palos and Firebaugh. His responsibilities encompass irrigation and fertility scheduling for almonds, corn, onions and wine grapes; water monitoring; and managing all aspects of almond cultivation. He is also involved in irrigation automation and supervises the use of automated sprayers for almonds.

Jarred earned a degree in agricultural business from California State University, Fresno. He also earned multiple certificates from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC) program, participated as a fellow in the Almond Board of California's (ABC) Almond Leadership Program and was an honorary member of the ABC Strategic Ag Innovation Committee.

Raised in various Central Valley locations, Jarred now resides in Madera. He is the youngest of three siblings, enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with family and friends, and has a deep passion for the mountains and the Dallas Cowboys.



**Rachael Kimball Laenen**  
**Director of Farming and Operations**  
**Kimball Ranches – El Hogar**

Rachael is director of farming and operations for Kimball Ranches – El Hogar, growing avocados on 150 acres in Santa Paula. She is the sixth generation of her family to farm in Ventura County and the fourth to grow avocados.

Before farming, Rachael worked in international motorsport, managing global sponsorships and delivering high-level events and hospitality. She returned to California to work for her father and, six months later, their grove was devastated by the Thomas Fire. She has been on a steep learning curve ever since. Rachael is responsible for food safety, workplace safety, employee relations and grant applications. She participates in all farming decisions -- from crop nutrition to water management and harvest scheduling. She also oversees replanting and the rebuild of all ranch structures.

Rachael graduated from Indiana University in 2003 with a degree in French and Italian literature and a minor in international studies. She is active in the avocado industry; she serves as the vice chair of the California Avocado Commission and was a member of the Hass Avocado Committee, Marketing Committee, Sustainability Taskforce and Succession Taskforce.

She and her husband, Andrew, a British photographer, have a young son, Eugene.





**Lizandro Magana**  
**Vice President of Agriculture**  
**California Olive Ranch**

Lizandro is the vice president of agriculture at California Olive Ranch, one of the largest growers of super high-density olive trees in the United States.

Lizandro has been a core member of California Olive Ranch for over 15 years. He oversees the agronomical, operational and budgetary aspects of the agricultural side of the business with over 30 employees and over 4,000 acres of olives in the north state.

Lizandro grew up in Mexico before migrating to the U.S. He is one of two sons. He graduated from Hamilton City High School and attended Butte College in Oroville. He has obtained certifications, such as pesticide applicator license and qualified applicator license, throughout his agricultural career. He is a certified master miller and certified olive oil grower from the courses offered at the UC Davis Olive Center. He actively participates in two agronomy boards that combine South American and European countries.

Lizandro enjoys spending time with his wife and four children. Some of their favorite activities consist of traveling, enjoying amusement parks and trying new foods. Their favorite places to visit are San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Mexico. They are planning a visit to Italy and France in the coming years.



**Patty Martinez**  
**Compliance Manager**  
**Marz Farms**

Patty is a compliance manager at her family's business, Marz Farms, one of the largest berry growers in Ventura County.

As a second-generation grower, Patty is responsible for overseeing all aspects of regulatory and legal compliance, integrating risk management into everyday business decisions and processes. Marz Farms cultivates over 2,500 acres of raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and blackberries. It employs over 1,500 people without the use of labor contractors.

Patty graduated from UC Davis in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in managerial economics with an emphasis in finance and agribusiness. After graduation, she moved to Berlin, Germany, where she was a junior ambassador for the Department of State and received an economics certificate from the Humboldt University of Berlin. She received her J.D. from Loyola Law School in 2019.

Passionate about agriculture, Patty serves on the Ventura County Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee and is a director at Zone Mutual Water Company. She is also a board member of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council. An avid traveler with a special fondness for Guadalajara, Patty also pursues street photography as a hobby, capturing the essence of daily life.



**Timothy Murray**  
**Founder**  
**Murray Ag Real Estate**

Timothy (“Boomer”) is the founder of Murray Ag Real Estate. He oversees all aspects of the business and works directly with buyers and sellers to achieve their desired goals and outcomes on agricultural transactions. His passion for creating lasting and meaningful relationships with empathy and respect, while maintaining a drive to solve complex real estate challenges, Boomer helps growers and investors at every step with their agricultural real estate transactions.

A first-generation citrus grower in Tulare County, Timothy offers a global perspective with respect for regional nuance. His career provides him with firsthand experience in some of the largest and most recognizable financial institutions and technology companies in the world, building teams and scalable partnerships; however, he is just as at home within the citrus groves he operates.

Timothy holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Columbia University. He is licensed with the California Department of Real Estate. He previously held FINRA series 7 and 63 licenses.

Timothy serves on the boards of directors for Sunkist Growers, Inc., Fruit Growers Supply and California Citrus Mutual (CCM). He also chairs the CCM Government Relations Committee.



**Carson Pettit**  
**Grower Relations**  
**Field Representative**  
**RPAC LLC**

Carson is a grower relations field representative for the Northern San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley at RPAC LLC, a grower and processor of California almonds based in Los Banos. Established in 1986, RPAC processes and markets for quality-minded almond growers from throughout California to supply in-shell and kernels to buyers globally.

Carson is responsible for the procurement and relationship management of almond growers. He assists growers with production decisions, connects them with other industry members for on-farm or off-farm practices and builds relationships with prospective growers for future business.

Carson graduated from Tarleton State University in May 2019 with a degree in agribusiness and a minor in marketing. Since then, he has participated in programs such as the Almond Board of California (ABC) Almond Leadership Program and the UC Davis Emerging Leader program.

Carson grew up near La Grange and moved to the Folsom area after graduating from college in Texas to pursue a career in agriculture. He is an honorary committee member for the ABC Global Market Development Committee and spends much of his free time outdoors hiking, hunting and skiing.



**Janeth Quintero**  
**Senior Manager – Product**  
**Integrity Department**  
**Naturipe Berry Growers Inc.**

Janeth is the senior manager of the product integrity department (PID) at Naturipe Berry Growers Inc., a marketing cooperative owned by growers for growers, based in Salinas and Mexico. She oversees the food safety and quality assurance department. Born and raised in Mexico, Janeth moved to California when she was 21 years old and began working in agriculture and fell in love with the field.

With a decade of experience in human resources, Janeth holds the PHRca certification, specializing in California laws and regulations. In January 2023, she transitioned to the PID. Since then, she has obtained several food safety certifications, including PSA, PrimusGFS, HACCP, FSVP and SOE. She is committed to continuous self-improvement and aims to uphold high standards in her work.

Outside of her professional life, Janeth values her family above all. She loves spending time with her husband and children, particularly enjoying the tradition of cooking breakfast for them on weekends. Janeth is a 2nd Dan black belt in Tang Soo Do and a member of the Fierce Tigers Martial Arts nonprofit organization.



**Jenny Scheer**  
**Ag Water Specialist**  
**Water and Land Solutions LLC**

Jenny is an ag water specialist with Water and Land Solutions LLC, which works with farmers to respond to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and other water challenges. She also manages her family's walnut huller.

Jenny leads Water and Land Solutions' work in the Sacramento Valley. She helps agricultural communities chart a path to sustainable water use through groundwater recharge projects, policy development, water district management and infrastructure projects. As huller manager on her family's fourth-generation farm, Jenny is responsible for managing all day-to-day operations. She hulls and dries walnuts for relatives on both sides of the family and other custom hulling clients.

Jenny earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and a minor in religious studies in 2008 from California State University, Chico, and a master's degree in agricultural and resource economics in 2016 from UC Davis.

Jenny grew up in the rice farming community of Richvale and moved back to the Sacramento Valley in 2021. She is a board member of the Butte County Farm Bureau and serves on the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission. Jenny enjoys spending time with her husband and two young boys, especially at her family's cabin at Bucks Lake.



**Theresa Schneider  
Co-Owner  
A&J Family Farms Inc.**

Theresa is co-owner of A&J Family Farms Inc., a walnut farming operation in Butte County. She is a partner with her mom, making their operation women owned. They farm around 200 acres of prime farmland that has been passed through generations.

As a fourth-generation walnut grower, Theresa is pivotal to the family farm operation. While growing up, she admired her father, uncles and grandfather and the work they did. Theresa is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and making sure the farming tasks are complete. She works in the orchards and in the office to keep the farm successful.

Theresa graduated from the UC Davis with a degree in horticulture and emphasis in ag education. She is a member of the CORE Butte Charter School Board and California Women for Agriculture and a livestock leader with the Grange Youth Program.

Theresa grew up in Chico, and when she completed school there was a need to come back and work side-by-side with her father. She cherished the time she spent with her father before his passing in 2018. While she has always been involved in farming, she also has given back to the community in 4-H, FFA and Grange. She loves spending time in the barn with her family and traveling to livestock shows to watch her daughters in the show ring.



**Tony Shelton**  
**Vice President of**  
**Environmental Health & Safety**  
**The Wonderful Company**

Tony is the vice president of environmental health and safety at The Wonderful Company, a \$6 billion global company and one of the largest private enterprises in the U.S. Its iconic brands include FIJI Water, POM Wonderful, Wonderful Pistachios, Wonderful Halos, Wonderful Seedless Lemons, Teleflora and JUSTIN and Lewis Cellars wines.

Tony is responsible for ensuring that The Wonderful Company meets the highest standards in environmental stewardship, workplace safety and regulatory adherence across its global operations.

Prior to joining The Wonderful Company in 2011 as its first director of environmental health and safety, Tony worked at The Coca-Cola Company's syrup plant in Columbus, Ohio. He began his career at the Kellogg Company, where he dedicated 11 years to various roles across multiple facilities, including a tenure at the Battle Creek, Mich. headquarters.

Originally from Illinois, Tony grew up on his family's farm raising cattle, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. He earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in environmental health and safety from Illinois State University. Tony and his wife, Amy, have been married for 23 years and reside in Bakersfield with their two children, Tyler, 19, and Ashley, 16.





**Andrew Smith  
Ag Commissioner/Sealer  
of Weights & Measures  
Sonoma County**

Andrew is the agricultural commissioner and sealer of weights and measures for Sonoma County. The Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures is a regulatory agency responsible for promotion and protection of agriculture, community and the environment through education, outreach and enforcement of laws and regulations.

They achieve these responsibilities through administration of regulations pertaining to exotic/invasive pest exclusion, detection and management, pesticide safety and maintenance of equity in commerce through verification of accuracy in commercial weighing and measuring devices and business practices. They serve county-level administrative capacity for California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

Andrew graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in agroecology. He holds state licenses in disciplines related to his regulatory work, as well as a qualified applicator license in five pest control categories from DPR.

Andrew grew up in Santa Rosa and returned home after college. He found work as an entry-level inspector with the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures and has worked there since. He was appointed agricultural commissioner/sealer by the Board of Supervisors in March 2020. Andrew has been involved in community volunteerism with Farm Bureau, Winegrape Commission and Santa Rosa Junior College Ag Trust and faculty advisory committees.



**Trevor Tauzer**  
**Vice President and**  
**Chief of Operations**  
**Tauzer Apiaries**

Trevor is the vice president and chief of operations at Tauzer Apiaries, a family-owned beekeeping business that provides essential pollination services across Northern and Central California. Under his leadership, the company has grown from 10,000 managed hives to over 40,000 since he assumed day-to-day management in 2012. He is at the helm of daily operations and long-term strategic planning. Trevor's commitment to the business has positioned Tauzer Apiaries as a vital resource for more than 300 growers in California, while also producing 75,000 queen bees annually for beekeepers across the U.S. and Canada.

A graduate of UC Santa Cruz in 2007, Trevor earned a degree in politics with a minor in education. His deep connection to the family business began well before college; he worked with bees during his studies and has continued to play a pivotal role in the operation. Growing up on the family farm, which has been the Tauzer homestead since 1861, Trevor embodies the values of hard work and dedication that have been passed down through generations. His intimate knowledge of the land and the craft of beekeeping has informed his approach to operations and customer engagement.

Since 2019, he has served on the board of the California State Beekeepers Association and serves as chair of the CDFA Apiary Board, advocating for the interests of the state's beekeepers.

Trevor cherishes time spent with his family, often exploring new places and enjoying great food together. His passion for beekeeping, rooted in family history and community engagement, continues to drive him as he navigates the challenges and opportunities within the industry, ensuring that Tauzer Apiaries thrives for generations to come.



**Linda Torres**  
**Assistant Grower**  
**Relations Representative**  
**Constellation Brands**

Linda is an assistant grower relations representative for Constellation Brands. She manages wine grape production contracts across Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma and Napa counties, playing a crucial role in ensuring a consistent supply of premium fruit for Constellation’s diverse portfolio of wine brands.

Her role requires balancing office work and field visits, where she monitors farming practices, ensures adherence to quality standards and builds collaborative relationships with growers. In 2023, Linda successfully managed 437 acres and scheduled over 1,600 tons of grapes, working across multiple wineries.

Linda earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural and environmental plant sciences, with a concentration in fruit and crop production, from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She also holds WSET levels 1 and 2 and is actively involved with the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group, staying up to date with the latest trends in vineyard management. Linda created a bilingual program that focuses on wine education for the field and winery operations teams.

Originally from Stockton, Linda proudly embraces her Mexican-American heritage, valuing the community and culture that have shaped her personally and professionally.



**Jaime Valdovinos**  
**Risk Management Specialist**  
**USDA-Risk Management Agency**

Jaime is a risk management specialist with the USDA-Risk Management Agency (RMA), which administers the federal crop insurance program. RMA supports agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities.

Jaime is responsible for overseeing the insurance programs for stone fruit crops (including fresh and processing apricots, cling peaches, freestone peaches, nectarines and plums) and caneberries (raspberries). Jaime actively participates in outreach efforts to assist in identifying small and limited resource agricultural producer groups, agricultural community-based organizations and under-served producer groups – and the barriers affecting them – to support the successful development and delivery of agricultural risk management tools and education.

Jaime was born and raised in Mexico and moved to Windsor in 2007. He graduated in 2018 from California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural business. He loves spending quality time with his family and friends and enjoys outdoor activities such as mountain biking, hiking and paddle boarding. One of his goals is to hike all the national parks in California; so far, he has visited Lassen, Yosemite, Sequoia, Redwood, Joshua Tree and Pinnacles.



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