



SUMMER 2019

# LEGACY

MAJOR ACRE MILESTONE:

**16,000!**

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and grants,  
and grants...  
Oh my!*

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**Quite the Year**

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PROTECTING THE FARMS THAT FEED YOUR FAMILY



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Charlotte Mitchell

It may only be halfway over, but I can already say 2019 has been quite a year for farmland conservation! In our last issue of the Legacy we introduced our new Conservation Project Coordinator, Chelsea, and our new office. Since then we've put both to work, protecting acres and acres of farmland. And we've welcomed two new board members to the team: Sam Zanutto, who joined the board after several years on the Budget, Finance, and Risk Management committee; and Tom Rogers, a highly respected farmer from Madera County who also serves on the local and state Farm Bureau boards. You can read more about Sam and Tom on page 3.

In the center spread of this issue, you'll read about the seven family farms we have protected this year. Each of these families has demonstrated a deep commitment to agriculture by forever dedicating their land to farming. For some, these easements represent a continuation of the family tradition of forever dedicating land to agriculture; for others, a new focus on forever farmland. Regardless of whether this is the family's first or fourth easement, we are honored to become a part of their stories and have the opportunity to perpetually steward their land – and especially grateful for the supporters like you who make it all possible.



Those seven farms are just the beginning for 2019 – we still have a few more easements in the works that are expected to close this year. And with another dozen easement applications in process for 2020, we are keeping Chelsea very busy! We are fortunate to have a unique, one-time funding opportunity from the State of California this year, which will allow more farms to be protected than ever before (read more on page 6).

I am also excited to announce that our accreditation renewal application has been approved! Once again, CFT has met the highest standards for land conservation, stewardship, and nonprofit management.

I hope 2019 is as fruitful for your family as it has been for farmland conservation.

**“THESE EASEMENTS REPRESENT A CONTINUATION OF THE FAMILY TRADITION OF FOREVER DEDICATING LAND TO AGRICULTURE”**

## OUR MISSION

Help Farmers Protect the Best Farmland in the World

## CURRENTLY SERVING

Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera counties

### Directors:

Tim Byrd, Modesto  
Ron Dolinsek, Rocklin  
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Patrick Johnston, Brentwood  
Jim Jorgensen, Rocklin  
Tom Rogers, Madera  
Larry Ruhstaller, Stockton  
Sam Zanutto, Sebastopol

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Davis Communications Group

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### Contributors:

Melanee Cottrill  
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Charlotte Mitchell  
Raley's



Member in Good Standing



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



We are pleased to welcome two new members to our board of directors, Sam Zanutto and Tom Rogers!

Sam Zanutto lives in Sebastopol, with his wife Brulene and their two children. Sam grew up on a peach and almond farm near

Atwater, where he learned just how fulfilling and rewarding the agricultural lifestyle is.

Sam is currently Associate General Counsel at American AgCredit. He joined the Farm Credit System as an attorney after 10 years as an agricultural lender and several years in private practice. In his spare time he enjoys hiking and other outdoor activities, including grilling and playing music.

Tom Rogers lives in Madera with his wife, Linda. Tom is a third-generation farmer who graduated from Fresno State. He has a wide variety of farming experience, from a dairy growing corn and alfalfa, to cotton, to the almonds he grows today.

When he isn't busy farming, Tom enjoys wine tasting and spending time with friends. He also serves on several nonprofit boards, including the California Farm Bureau Federation.

## MENGHETTI FAMILY HONORED



In our last issue, we brought you the story of Pete and Kathy Menghetti, and the family farm Pete's father founded in 1919.

In a special ceremony held in July at the California State Fair, the Menghetti family was inducted into the California Agricultural Heritage Club, in honor of the family's 100-year farming legacy. Since 1948, the Club has honored "California's agricultural pioneers for their dedication to the industry." The Club notes that membership "is a prestigious award, honoring families and businesses who are descendants of pioneer ranches, farms, and agribusiness of early California that have maintained a financial responsibility in agriculture for at least 100 years."

Of the award, Pete says, "It's great to be a farmer."

Congratulations, Pete and Kathy!

## DON'T MISS SUNSET VINE PAINT & WINE!



Friday, September 20, 4-7 PM  
Bokisch Vineyards, Lodi

Join us for a festive Friday night! Watch the sunset over the grapevines at the beyond beautiful Bokisch Vineyards. Sip a glass of award-winning Spanish varietal wine. Munch on tasty tapas (that's Spanish for appetizers). And of course, make your own incredible painting of the view – no artistic talent or experience needed! You can even customize the colors on your painting if you'd like (those who attended last year can start their own multi-color masterpiece series). It's a night you'll never forget! Perfect for girls night out, date night, or just need to get out of the house night.

Visit [www.cafarmtrust.org/events](http://www.cafarmtrust.org/events) for your tickets today!



## 16,000 MILESTONE ACHIEVED!



What a year for farmland conservation! 16,000 acres conserved represents a huge milestone in CFT's vision of a California where our communities value farming as the best use of fertile farmland, and we all protect the farms that support our economy, environment, and quality of life. Public opinion to protect farmland is shifting; we see it in the form of more donors and more agency funding. From small, humble beginnings, to a still small staff, our community of supporters has protected 73 family farms. We've also built relationships with agency funders who now come to us seeking more farmland projects. Here are the highlights of the seven farms we've protected so far this year, forever dedicating a cumulative total of 345 acres to feeding your family.

### MAGNESON PROPERTY

The Magneson Property is permanent, fertile irrigated pasture land located in Merced County. This is the third property that the Magneson family has placed under an agricultural conservation easement, with nearly 500 acres permanently protected! This property supports the Magneson Dairy for grazing dairy cattle as part of their organic standards.

### KRUPPA FARM

The Kruppa Farm produces almonds and contains an almond huller operation in Merced County. The property is comprised of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance, which are needed for sustained agricultural production. In addition, its proximity to other protected farms creates a lasting opportunity for continued farming. This property was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement supported by the California Department of Conservation and California High Speed Rail Authority.

### SLATER TRUST FARM

The Slater Trust Farm is located in Merced County near Ballico and adjacent to three other protected farms creating a productive swath of conserved farmland. The property produces various row crops, and most recently sweet potatoes. It was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement supported by the California Department of Conservation and California High Speed Rail Authority.



## KRUPPA REED FARM

The Kruppa Reed Farm is located near the little town of Ballico, and is surrounded by many other agricultural conservation easements. This property is home to almonds and row crops and was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement funded by CFT. This property is an example of the power connected properties have, when linked by location and conservation, to create sustained opportunities for productive farming in perpetuity.

## TANNER FARM

The Tanner Farm is located in scenic Merced County next to Kruppa Farm, Kruppa Reed Farm, and Slater Trust Farm creating a beautifully connected farming landscape. The Tanner Farm currently produces almonds and boasts Prime and Farmland of Statewide Importance soils. This property was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement funded by CFT.

## MURPHY FARM

The Murphy Farm is located in a scenic agricultural area of San Joaquin County near Farmington. This property consists of newly planted walnut orchards on Prime soils that previously produced various row crops and vineyards. The farm was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement funded by the California Climate Investments – Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program administered by the California Department of Conservation.

## GAIL MARTIN TRUST FARM

The Gail Martin Trust Farm is located near Delhi. With sandy soils, it is perfect for orchard production and was recently planted with almonds. Historically this property has been planted in various row crops and most recently sweet potatoes. The farm was permanently protected by an agricultural conservation easement funded by the California Climate Investments – Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program administered by the California Department of Conservation.



*The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).*



## PLANNING FOR FOREVER



How do you plan for forever? In one word: Carefully.

No one can predict the future. No one knows what will happen. And yet, in spite of that essential truth, we are making a commitment to protect farmland forever.

As you plan for forever, you can help keep that commitment to protecting farmland. Planned giving is one of the best ways to support the causes you care about. Whether the gift is effective during your lifetime or after, careful planning can ensure your family, financial, and philanthropic goals are all met.

There are too many ways of making a planned gift to list in a short article. But you should know that whatever your philanthropic goals are, there is probably a tool you can use to meet them.

## GRANTS, AND GRANTS, AND GRANTS.... OH MY!

What's the hardest part of protecting farmland? Finding the funding!

At least, in a typical year the hardest part is finding the funding. But 2019 is going to be a super special year.

The State of California recently announced \$17 million in new funding for agricultural conservation projects. The grants are from the Agricultural Land Mitigation Program (ALMP), which provides funding for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on farmland in only six specific counties. As an added bonus, unlike most other grants which provide only partial funding, ALMP will cover the entire value of the agricultural conservation easement.

Our team is working hard to secure as many of these new funds as possible. That means talking to as many farming families as we can. That means a lot of driving up and down the valley. That means visiting farms from Merced to Fresno and

Some tools can provide a steady stream of income and tax advantages during your lifetime, while others can reduce the tax burdens on your heirs.

Ken Oneto, a founding and current CFT board member, and his wife Florence have made a planned gift to CFT. About their decision, Ken says, "Leaving a planned gift to CFT was an important way for us to give to the future success of the organization. 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 CFT." Ken and Florence are inaugural members of the Legacy Society, which recognizes and honors people who have included CFT in their planned giving.

Attorney Margaret Heiser Fulton has a profound message for friends of farmland which she shared with CFT in a 2015 article. "While most people want to provide for their families when they die, it is important to consider that if everyone made a small charitable contribution, either during life or upon death, charities and the causes they support would benefit immensely. If you make a charitable gift to CFT, your gift will ensure that farmland preserved today remains protected in perpetuity."

To learn more, visit [www.cafarmtrust.org/legacy-society](http://www.cafarmtrust.org/legacy-society) or contact Associate Director Melanee Cottrill at (916) 687-3178 or [mcottrill@cafarmtrust.org](mailto:mcottrill@cafarmtrust.org).

everywhere in between. That means drafting reports and reviewing documents. That means filling out a lot of detailed grant applications.

Of course, doing all of that takes an up-front investment before we can secure the grant.

So what does all of that mean for you? That means you have an incredible, one-time opportunity to give a gift that goes further than ever before. You can use the envelope stitched into this newsletter to make a gift today and help secure as much of that \$17 million as we possibly can. And if you'd like to make an even bigger impact through the year, you can visit [www.cafarmtrust.org](http://www.cafarmtrust.org), click on the red donate now button, and become a monthly donor.

No matter how you give, your gift will help secure these grants and protect the farms that feed your family.

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: RALEY'S



Raley's is a privately-owned and family-operated customer experience grocery company headquartered in West Sacramento, CA. Raley's stores are the destination for the best fresh products, affordable offerings, and personalized service. The company's

commitment to infusing life with health and happiness by changing the way the world eats, one plate at a time, has made it a trusted source for food, nutrition, and wellness. Raley's strives to enhance transparency and education in the food system in order to help customers make more informed, healthy food choices.

Through strategic community partnerships, Raley's supports organizations that are creating and sustaining a healthy food system. Raley's works with nonprofits to bolster career pathways in agriculture, food production, and food service. Since 2016, the company has proudly sponsored the Raley's Field Trips on the Farm program presented by CFT, sending 600+ fourth and fifth grade students on farm and store field trips. Raley's operates 129 stores under five banners: Raley's, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill Foods, Food Source, and Market 5-ONE-5. Making healthier offerings accessible to everyone, Raley's has expanded beyond the store to operate grocery curbside pick-up and delivery in their nearby communities.

## SPONSORS

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**20,000 ACRES BY 2020**

20K  
15K  
10K  
5K



**16,170 ACRES  
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Make a gift today at [cafarmtrust.org](http://cafarmtrust.org)