



CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST LEGACY

ARNOLD FARMS: 100 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



Craig, Glenn, and Bill Arnold
- owners of Arnold Farms

Growing peaches is not for the faint of heart. "It's a gamble – weather, water and timing play a huge role in our success," said Craig Arnold, part owner at Arnold Farms along with his father, Glenn Arnold and uncle Bill Arnold. Glenn and Craig Arnold, manage the tree fruit and Bill Arnold manages the sweet potatoes on the farm.

Glenn Arnold tells the story of how his grandfather started with just 15 acres when he came to Merced County, after the big earthquake hit San Francisco in 1906. "He started with chickens, peaches, grapes, olives and almonds," said Glenn. "He arrived shortly after the canal water

arrived and made farming possible." Now the family has over 100 years of experience growing peaches and the operation has grown to about 1,300 acres.

Peaches are not drought tolerant and with the water shortage the Arnold family has had to fallow all their squash ground to divert their ground water allocations to their peaches and almond crops. Adequate water is critical to helping the trees thrive despite stressors such as frost and pests.

The Arnold Farm has 20 full-time labor employees and the same local crews return every year to work their fields. "Peaches are very labor intensive," said Craig. "Our crews know these fields and are skilled at pruning, thinning, and harvesting."

"Thinning, of the fruit, not branches, begins in late April and goes through late May, when we also spread manure for fertilizer since there is so little organic material in the soil here," said Glenn. "Near this time we also spray for insects, prop trees to prevent fruit laden branches from breaking and prepare to harvest the first crop of Elegant Ladies right after July 4."

A long history in growing peaches has allowed the Arnold family to learn to stagger the peach varieties to keep a continual flow of peaches to the processor from July 1 through September. All Arnold Farms peaches are processing peaches that are either canned or frozen. Their processor is Dole and sits directly across the road from them, allowing their peaches to be processed typically within hours of arriving at the facility.

"There is little nutritional value difference between fresh, canned or frozen peaches so there is no need to eat foreign peaches in the off season – use frozen or canned," said Craig.

In December, the peach trees go into their dormancy period until March. During this time pruning, pest management and dormant spray to prevent mites and twig moth occur. Pruning is done in an open vase style so sunlight gets in and workers can get to branches.

"The drought has affected many farmers here in the valley, including us," said Craig. "We are looking at limitations on ground water for years to come. This gives us a very uncertain future, but we have a 100-year perspective and we hope we are here another 100." ☿

FALL 2015

#GivingTuesday

December 1, 2015:
National Day of Giving
Join us online and give to help us reach 20,000 acres by 2020!

Inside this Issue:

Touting Historical Legacy
Bill Martin

Revisiting Farmland Protection Strategies
John Gamper

PEACHES – Arnold Farms: 100 Years of Experience

Director's Message
Ken Oneto

LTA Rally Tour – A Tasting Tour of the Central Valley

An Evening at the Carnegie – CVFT's Annual Gala Event

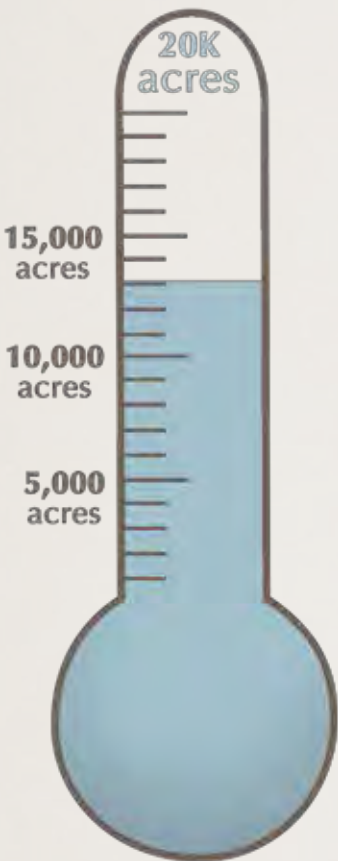


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protect
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE:
TOUTING HISTORICAL LEGACY**



The Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT) was created in May 2004 and I was hired in February 2005. What happened between then and now? Oftentimes we get busy with the matters at hand and forget that it took monumental efforts by many people for CVFT to rise to such an extraordinary level of success. Eleven years as an organization is certainly not a lifetime. But it is important to occasionally stop what we are doing and reflect and document critical milestones. Why? Because everything that has happened over the last 11 years becomes part of our DNA makeup. It is who we are and why we have been so successful. We don't tout this ongoing legacy near enough and it must be chronicled.

Consider the courage and insight it must have taken for the CVFT board in 2005 to hire an executive director with no prior land trust experience. What were they thinking? (tongue in cheek). However, it took very little courage for the executive director to immediately hire Susan Hooper, our associate director. It is at that point when, from humble beginnings, substantive progress emerged. A physical office was secured in Elk Grove, and with the interior design guidance of founding director Jeani Ferrari, office furniture and décor was purchased.

With only two full-time staff members and four counties to service, it seemed a formidable task. But something subtle yet incredibly powerful emerged. The synergy between Susan and me defined a new level of efficiency. Susan's attention to detail and unwavering commitment to "getting the job done" was extraordinary. Simultaneously the board was providing sound guidance and governance to keep the ship righted and on

course to succeed. And succeed we did! For posterity and as part of CVFT's legacy, I've chronicled the following milestones:

- 2004** – CVFT was officially formed
- 2005** – Hired executive director
- 2005** – Hired associate director
- 2005** – Became a charter member of the California Council of Land Trusts
- 2006** – Completed merger of three land trust into CVFT
- 2006** – Held our first event at the Ag Museum in Merced County
- 2006** – Published our first annual report
- 2007** – Published the first issue of our printed newsletter, Legacy
- 2008** – Recognized as one of the first nationally accredited land trusts in California
- 2012** – Contracted with Davis Communications Group to enhance constituent communications and marketing
- 2013** – Reaffirmed accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission
- 2014** – Celebrated our 10th anniversary with a dinner at LangeTwins Winery and a community celebration at Micke Grove Park
- 2014** – Produced our first video, "The Legacy of the Land"
- 2014** – Hired a part-time administrative assistant
- 2015** – Served on the host committee for the Land Trust Alliance national Rally conference
- 2015** – Chosen to host field trip, A Tasting Tour of the Central Valley, for 50 Rally conference participants from across the country.
- 2005-2015** – Closed 29 ag conservation easements permanently protecting over 5,100 acres.

I am not sure what the legacy of the next 11 years will be. But rest assured, the DNA framework established over the last 11 years portends an exciting and productive future for CVFT. You can be a part of it by becoming a member or joining one of our committees. Help us reach our goal of 20,000 acres by 2020. †

\$.94 of every dollar donated to Central Valley Farmland Trust goes directly to farmland conservation. Our goal is big and 2020 isn't that far away. Please consider a generous gift today to help California farmers have land to farm today and tomorrow! Giving a gift is easy: use the enclosed envelope, visit our secure website terminal, or call Susan at the office, 916-687-3178, today!



REVISITING FARMLAND PROTECTION STRATEGIES

BY JOHN GAMPER, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION AND
LAND USE, CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Nothing can be more frustrating to a community than to spend years, sometimes more than a decade, working on a general plan update that includes important farmland protection goals, objectives and action steps, only to see the plan turned on its ear with quarterly general plan amendments and zoning changes designed to accommodate a new commercial source of sales tax revenue or generate additional property tax dollars from new residential subdivisions.

I have represented the California Farm Bureau Federation on farm and ranch land conservation issues for nearly 30 years. During that time, one thing has remained relatively constant: the fiscalization of land use policies by local governments at the expense of agricultural resources.

The adoption of AB 32 focused attention on the fact that the state cannot reach the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals it has established without incorporating sustainable community strategies into regional transportation plans. The passage of SB 375 has ushered in a new era with respect to long-term planning for housing and transportation in urban and suburban regions, the primary objectives being to concentrate development within or closer to existing urban areas and encourage more compact, higher-density communities.

But SB 375 did not include effective strategies to protect our state's agricultural and open-space resources by further discouraging urban sprawl and prevent leapfrog development and far-flung ranchette subdivisions. Farm Bureau worked with a group known as the Working Lands Coalition (WLC), consisting of agricultural, environmental and land trust organizations, along with resource conservation districts, to develop a set of complementary funding strategies to those provided for in the statute for sustainable communities.

The WLC and Farm Bureau requested funding in the first cap and trade auction revenue investment plan for three interrelated programs to reduce the conversion of agricultural and open space lands and to help reinforce the transportation planning objectives of SB 375, and thus further reduce GHGs. The primary elements would have included: a tiered open-space subvention program to incentivize stronger agricultural land protection policies tied to sustainable communities strategies; funding to assist counties to develop and adopt those policies; and funding for the California Farmland Conservancy and Rangeland Protection programs as well as the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, has been an effective farmland protection tool for half a century. The state funded this program beginning in 1972 to encourage increased county participation, which resulted in the long-term protection of more than 16 million acres of productive farmland, open space land and critical habitat. The state's contribution providing substantial

assistance to the counties in financing the property tax relief provided to participating landowners, but the state subventions have essentially been unfunded since 2009. When that happened, one county exited the program immediately and other counties began reevaluating their participation on an annual basis. Approximately half of the participating counties have placed moratoriums on any new contract enrollments and most are struggling to meet their administrative responsibilities under the act.

Continuing a modest annual investment in the subvention program would leverage the state's historic funding and the counties' contributions to help keep farm and ranch land from fragmenting in ways that lead to low-density development and eventual suburbanization. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

TRANSCRIPT: PAUL HARVEY NEWS AND COMMENTARY, SATURDAY, AUG. 5, 2000

"What a country! The best of times is now....Americans are quite intoxicated right now with all of this health and wealth and euphoria. But Americans, in our appetites for more of everything, are making an inerasable mistake. We are carpeting cropland with concrete, so much and so fast that we're stealing from our own future - scenic beauty, breathable air, and edible food....American farmers are less than two percent of our nation's population, yet they feed us and most of 40 other nations. But when our arable acres are gone, they'll be gone forever. Then our country will depend on imported food.

Up to now, American cropland has been protected by self-imposed zoning regulations. But builders have become so prosperous that they can buy zoning officials. I'm sorry to say that, but I have to say it again. Builders have become so prosperous that they can BUY zoning officials. A builder has to keep building, he has to keep on encroaching on whatever open space you have left, after which he can leave town and move on and rape some other landscape.

A few years down the road from today, Americans will look about them at the economic infertility, which subverted our prosperity, and we will be poor again. And we will be beating our breasts in anguish then, demanding to know 'Why didn't somebody warn us?'

Well, somebody tried." 𐄂

HOME-GROWN, HAND-MADE: ARNOLD FARMS

PREACHING PEACHES

Peaches are an important crop for the Central Valley because of our Mediterranean climate and deep alluvial soils. Peaches for fresh market, sold in the grocery produce section, are grown mainly in Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties. Processing peaches are found in the Yuba City region, Southern San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County, Merced County and the Kingsburg area.

APRIL/MAY: FRUIT THINNING



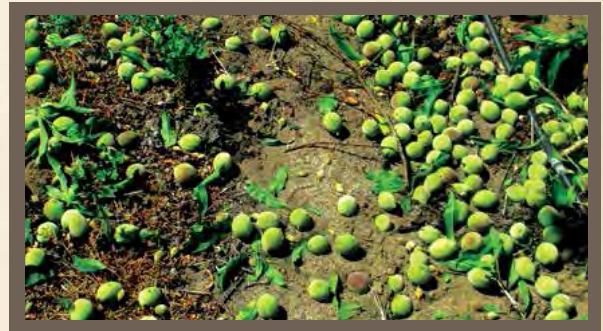
Fruit on tree before thinning, all done by hand



Fruit left after thinning



Worker on ladder thinning



Thinned fruit left on ground to add organic material back in to soil

Fresh market peaches are always freestone. Processing peaches are mostly clingstone and sometimes freestone. Processing peaches can be canned, frozen or used for some other processed use. For example, the Dole processing plant in Atwater makes instant quick-freeze sliced peaches that are prized for making pies and other products. When your mother canned peaches at home, she probably used cling peaches because the firm flesh does not get mushy during cooking. 1

JULY/SEPTEMBER: HARVEST



Peaches ready for harvest



Worker hand-harvesting all fruit



Sizing fruit with size ring to ensure specifications of contract with processor are met



Full fruit bins in tree row will be loaded onto trucks and taken down the road to Dole for processing within hours

OCTOBER-MARCH: DORMANCY AND PRUNING



Beautiful fall image of trees after harvest and just prior to dormancy



Peach trees are dormant, now is the time for pruning



Pruning is a slow, expensive process - all done by hand



Pruning is necessary for successful peach production, pruning is done usually from December - February/March



Ron Dolinsek presents Board Member Emeritus plaque to Denny Jackman, pictured with his wife Patricia.

AN EVENING AT THE CARNEGIE

One hundred of our special friends came together for An Evening at the Carnegie, celebrating the work of the Central Valley Farmland Trust and recognizing those who continue to support our efforts to preserve farms that feed the world. Guests viewed the art of Alfons Mucha and were treated to a special keynote address by Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Ron Dolinsek gave a special presentation to Denny Jackman naming him CVFT's first Board Member Emeritus. Denny is one of the founders of CVFT and served on the board from May 2004 through December 2014.

Thanks to our sponsors (see page 8) who have supported us throughout 2015. Their backing helped make the evening possible. Additional thanks to the guests who joined us. We are grateful to all of our supporters who help to ensure farmland now and forever. †

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

KEN ONETO, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Recently, as part of the annual Land Trust Alliance (LTA) national Rally, a farm / tasting tour was hosted by the Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT). Their last stop brought them to my ranch. I shared with them the types of crops I grow and how the agricultural operations are handled. During the discussion a great question was posed; "Why are you involved in the CVFT?" Well, that answer was very simple; I believe it is very important to have a farmer's perspective on the board. We are required to monitor all our easements every year. Our easements are to protect farmland, agriculture, and the production of food and fiber. This is our most important job as a land trust, to focus on maintaining farmland.

Prior to the formation of the CVFT we restricted our ranch with a conservation easement, but not an agricultural conservation easement. The entity holding the conservation easement has little experience or knowledge of working farms. Each year we have different people monitoring the property. Because of their inherent lack of understanding of

typical farming practices, managing the farm with this type of conservation easement is sometimes problematic.

CVFT's ongoing responsibility of monitoring these farms is paramount. CVFT understands California agriculture. The landlords work their farms to be as productive as possible. They understand how to manage the land as a valuable resource. Farming is hard enough; it needs to be our goal to let the farmers farm. Be their silent partner, all while preserving the most productive farmland in the world.

I am committed to CVFT because it is critical that farmers monitor farmers. I feel that if farmland mitigation money is to be collected, farmers should have some say in how it is to be spent. This is why I am involved and remain involved. We are a farmland trust; it takes cooperation between us and the landowner to make forever work. †



REVISITING FARMLAND PROTECTION STRATEGIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

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We proposed establishing incentives for adoption of stronger policies to reduce conversion of agricultural land in unincorporated areas of counties and to support the state's sustainable community strategy goals. We urged the adoption of a higher percentage of property tax backfill if counties meet specific criteria to enhance the protection of agricultural, open space and watershed areas. The additional level of subvention funding would complement and support the land use and transportation planning objectives of SB 375.

New funding for the California Farmland Conservancy Program; the Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program; and the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program would help guide development toward compact growth scenarios. Local planning is a fundamental part of the SB 375 process, but every region experiences strong pressures for sprawl in directions that are not consistent with sustainable community strategies. The purchase of voluntary easements can protect lands on the periphery of existing urban or developed areas. By permanently reinforcing urban limits, they can shift development in the preferred direction while providing protection to important farmland.

The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing growth and development impacts on agricultural resources. Providing sufficient funding to this program would allow California to adequately monitor compliance and progress with its land conservation strategies.

Unfortunately, funding for these three interrelated programs has yet to materialize. Although some of the state's most respected agricultural and natural resource managers embraced the nexus between farmland conservation and GHG reductions, that connection was thought to be too tenuous by those holding the purse strings.

We will continue to promote the GHG reduction benefits of creating a new, cost-effective land conservation methodology that complements and strengthens efforts that are consistent with the emission reduction goals of the state. If implemented, these strategies would maintain our agricultural productivity and help to preserve our nation's food security. ☹

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE RALLY AND A TASTING TOUR OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY

This year the Land Trust Alliance, our national governing land trust organization, hosted The National Land Conservation Conference in Sacramento. Seven board members attended and all staff attended the workshops, meetings and networking experiences. To share California agriculture with event attendees, CVFT hosted a tour – A Tasting Tour of the Central Valley – for 48 guests attending the conference (some from as far away as Maine). We toured

Galeazzi Farm and saw walnut harvest in action while enjoying spicy walnuts and walnut cookies. Lunch was hosted by Markus and Liz Bokisch at Bokisch Ranches. Guests were treated to Addy's Paella and the delicious Bokisch Spanish varietal wines. The tour concluded at KLM Ranches where guests were treated to cherry pie and ice cream while learning about cherry and corn harvest. ☹

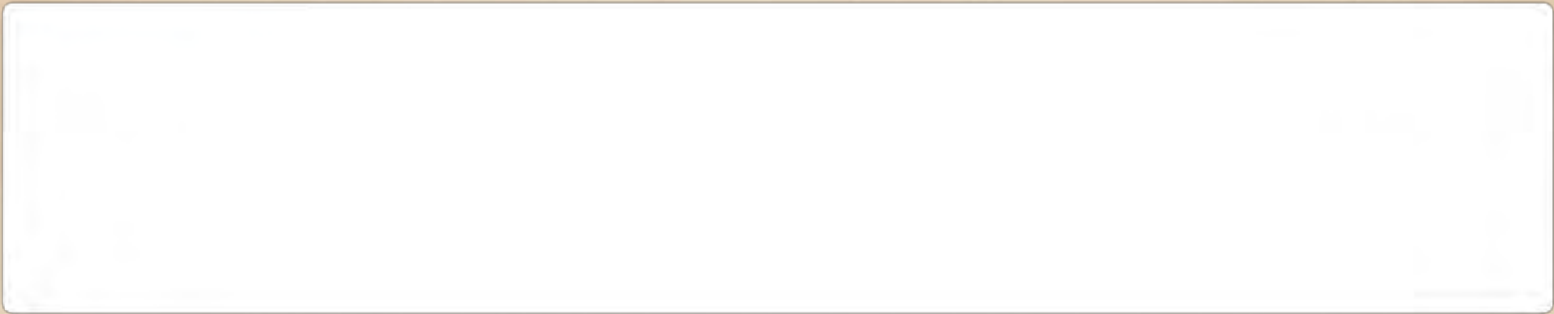
Check out our Facebook and Twitter feed for tour pictures!



CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST

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