



FROM FARMING TO REAL ESTATE AND BACK AGAIN HOW A 4TH GENERATION FARMER COMMITS TO THE LAND



Farming and family go hand-in-hand, but like every relationship, sometimes this pairing is strained. Chris Borello grew up on the family farm his immigrant grandfather founded, but his father guided him away from the land because it's a hard lifestyle. His father was so successful that now, of 12 in his generation, Chris is the sole farmer.

Currently, Chris farms mostly walnuts, cherries, and peppers, along with 300 head of Black Angus cattle. Chris studied political science and urban planning, thinking real estate would be his vocation. After five years, Chris realized real estate just wasn't his passion. Armed with knowledge he gained studying and selling, he leased land and went back to the land, growing hay in Santa Clara County. Here, Chris serves on the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau board and encourages the community to learn about agriculture at his 15-acre u-pick cherry operation. He loves being able to provide an educational agriculture experience, where lots of kids come out and can learn where their food comes from.

Recently, Chris worked with Central Valley Farmland Trust to place a conservation easement over 100 acres near the City of Stockton. The property is all prime farmland, the most precious and rare kind. The land has been mostly row and field crops; Chris plans to plant hay soon. As a business-minded farmer, Chris recognized and appreciates the crucial role an easement

can play in making a farming operation viable and even profitable. Plus, this project furthers his family's legacy and Chris' lifelong commitment to ensuring land remains open and productive.

"We are happy to have helped Chris and his family to further his lifelong commitment to agriculture, and ensure the farming operation can be handed down to the next generation," said executive director, Charlotte Mitchell.

Chris appreciates groups like the Santa Clara Open Space Authority, which he believes are symbolic of a transition in the public's view of land conservation. The Authority is publically funded and works to conserve open space, shifting the burden of conservation from individual landowners to the general public.

Like his life as a farmer, his love story is not only charming, but also remarkable. Chris and his wife Mary have been together since they were 15 years old. Today, they have three children, a daughter that is seven and two sons ages four and five. Mary was skeptical when Chris wanted to go back to farming, but she supported him. Now, recognizing that family and farming go hand-in-hand, Chris thinks "it would be cool if my kids wanted to [farm]." And with a conservation easement, he's helped to set up the fifth generation for a successful farming future.

PROTECTING FARMS THAT FEED YOUR FAMILY

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Central Valley Farmland Trust is to work with landowners and conservation partners to preserve agricultural lands in the California Central Valley for future generations.

CURRENTLY SERVING

Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, and Madera Counties.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CHARLOTTE MITCHELL

In this issue, we had the immense pleasure of speaking with Chris Borello, a diversified farmer with operations in multiple central California counties. He exemplifies the reasons we need to protect the valuable and limited natural resource of our farmland. A multi-generational farmer who, like so many others, was discouraged to make a career as a farmer. The hours are long, the work is hard, Mother Nature is not always working in your favor, and market volatility - all make a compelling set of reasons to have a town job.

But farmers view the world as more than just dollars and cents; farmers care about and safeguard the land, livestock, and poultry with a passion and perseverance that cannot be found anywhere else. They enjoy and take pride in knowing they are providing nutritious food to families in our region and throughout the world. And, farmers steward the land so the next generation can have the opportunity to be a farmer. With less than 1% of the population employed as farmers, we must strive to educate the public and ensure our most valuable working landscapes are protected. And with our population expanding, we must make every effort to retain the farmlands that grow the most nutritious, safe, and affordable food supply to feed our families.



...FARMERS VIEW THE WORLD AS MORE THAN JUST DOLLARS AND CENTS; FARMERS CARE ABOUT AND SAFEGUARD THE LAND...

Here at CVFT, we are busy protecting farmland. With new staff and a big farewell to Susan, we have kept Bill around to help manage many farmland conservation easement projects we are currently working. I am grateful for the many years of dedicated service by both Bill and Susan and very thankful to have Bill remain as project manager to teach me and continue the excellent work of farmland conservation.

You can help protect the farms that feed your family by donating just \$20 per month. With your \$20 every month, we can send school children to farms, provide inner-city schools with agriculture education materials, and leverage those dollars to protect our threatened working landscape. Make your commitment today to act so that the next generation has the opportunity to be a FARMER. Visit us at www.valleyfarmland.org or use the enclosed envelope.

I wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer!



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A FOND FAREWELL TO SUSAN HOOPER

Its the end of an era - after more than a decade of service, including being part of our founding team, Susan Hooper is retiring to enjoy a new home and her next chapter in Oregon.

Susan's foundational work, jump starting the newly formed Central Valley Farmland Trust in 2004, and stewarding it over time will be treasured and serve as the foundation for continued growth. "The kind of passion Susan exuded in the work she did at CVFT is very difficult to find," said Bill Martin, our former executive director. He went on, "she constantly pushed the envelope to make CVFT a better organization. And guess what, it worked. Thank you, Susan!"

"Susan was known and appreciated by every CVFT member, committee member, landowner, donor, and consultant," said Barbara Smith, board president. "We all wish her the best in a very well earned retirement."

A fond farewell, congratulations, and deep gratitude for all you have done for Central Valley Farmland Trust and farms in the Central Valley. You will forever be part of the valley's legacy.



SUSAN HOOPER AND HER HUSBAND, TIM, AT HER GOING AWAY LUNCHEON

SPONSOR SHOWCASE

Thank you to our generous sponsors! Support the businesses that help us protect the farms that feed your family:

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Mid Valley Agricultural Services, Inc.
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Bokisch Ranches, Inc.	Ripon Manufacturing Company
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BIG DAY OF GIVING

The fourth was with us on the Big Day of Giving, May 4! Thanks to the generous gifts made by donors like you on the BIG Day of Giving we will be able to leverage nearly \$76,000 dollars for the most precious lands we have left here in the central valley of California. Don't fret if you missed the Big Day – you can still donate just \$20 per month to help protect the farms that feed your family.

Thanks to you farmland wins, this is our legacy.



DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT

We appreciate our donors! On June 11, Central Valley Farmland Trust partnered with LangeTwins Winery to host a special appreciation event for those who gave \$300 or more on the BIG Day of Giving. Guests were treated to an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour lead by Randy Lange, then enjoyed perfectly paired wines with lunch. The meal was finished with a welcome surprise – wine-infused chocolate ice cream! A heartfelt thank you to LangeTwins, a model for sustainable winegrowing and supporter of local agriculture in California, and to all our friends who contribute so generously to make farmland a forever part of California's future. You are protecting the farms that feed our families.



RANDY LANGE AND FRIENDS @ LANGETWINS WINERY TASTING ROOM

CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST: 2020 VISION

CALIFORNIA FARMLAND IS SHRINKING BY 50,000+ ACRES EVERY YEAR. WITHOUT FARMLAND, LOCAL FOOD CHOICES MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AN OPTION. HELP US PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE LEFT.

It's your contributions of dollars and time that create a powerful voice for farmland. It's the collective voice that raises awareness, leads to action and propels us on our mission to protect the farms that feed your family.

Right now, you can help us reach our vision of conserving 20,000 acres by 2020. Add your voice, make an impact!



JOIN OUR VISION FOR 2020 BY CONTRIBUTING \$20/MONTH
EVERY HOUR, EVERY DOLLAR, EVERY LIKE, SHARE, AND TWEET MAKES AN IMPACT!



BECOME A VOLUNTEER



GIVE \$20 A MONTH



MAKE A YEAR END FINANCIAL GIFT



RAISE SOCIAL AWARENESS

CVFT IS SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTEERS, AWARENESS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ALLOW US TO LEVERAGE YOUR IMPACT TO FULFILL OUR MISSION.

VISIT WWW.VALLEYFARMLAND.ORG TO JOIN US!



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

This June, our staff, board members, and volunteers headed out of the office and into the field for monitoring training. Defying the blasting sun, our dedicated team spent the day learning the ins-and-outs of monitoring, including how to read a map, recreate a photo (not an easy task in a field that has changed from trees to row crops!), and identify changes in roads and buildings.

**MONITORING IS THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO
- HELP FARMLAND STAY FARMLAND.**

Are you wondering why we were in the field instead of our air-conditioned offices? Without regular monitoring by a qualified, trained volunteer, it is easy for farmers, their staff, and their neighbors to unintentionally encroach on protected lands. Regular monitoring ensures compliance with easements, helps us keep our accreditation, and most importantly protects our precious farmland.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

BOKISCH VINEYARDS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION

The Lodi wine region is growing and gaining recognition, and our partner Bokisch Vineyards is leading the way. Bokisch recently received impressive recognition through the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. After receiving 7,000 entries from 28 states, the Competition, hailed as the largest showdown of American wines in the world, honored an exclusive few. Congratulations to all the Lodi wineries and grape growers that were recognized, especially Bokisch Vineyards which earned four prestigious awards: two best of class for its Albarino and Tempranillo, a Gold for its Garnacha, and a Silver for its Tizona. Attendees of our Friends of the Farmland event were treated to the Tempranillo and all agreed – it's worth a trip to Lodi! Head to the winery in Lodi to try these today.

Visit www.bokischvineyards.com to learn more.



2017 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

FRIENDS OF FARMLAND



Each year we show our gratitude to those special friends and donors who ensure farmland protection is possible. This year we held the first of two exclusive Friends of Farmland events at the San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum at Mickle Grove Park in Lodi, CA. We were honored to be the first group to use the museum's new Red Barn event space. Guests were treated to a guided tour by museum executive director David Stuart, who also spoke at the dinner with an update on the museum's activities. CVFT staff and board members served guests, tended bar, and were happy to host.

"This is a special opportunity for our organization to thank our donors individually and spend time together as a community," said executive director Charlotte Mitchell.

CVFT will be holding a second Friends of Farmland event later this Fall. Become a monthly donor to secure your place on the invitation list! To learn more about this exclusive opportunity, please contact Melanee Cottrill at mcottrill@valleyfarmland.org.

ALMOND ORCHARD VIDEO:

TAKE A WALK WITH JOHN FERRARI

It's summertime in the almond orchard! Join farmer John Ferrari for a walk through his orchard to see what his trees are up to. Discover the almond's journey as it unfolds from the country orchard to a convenient, healthy snack on shelves at your grocery store.

Follow along each month through harvest in September by visiting our website at www.valleyfarmland.org/videos or subscribe to our Central Valley Farmland Trust YouTube Channel. It's an amazing story you won't want to miss!

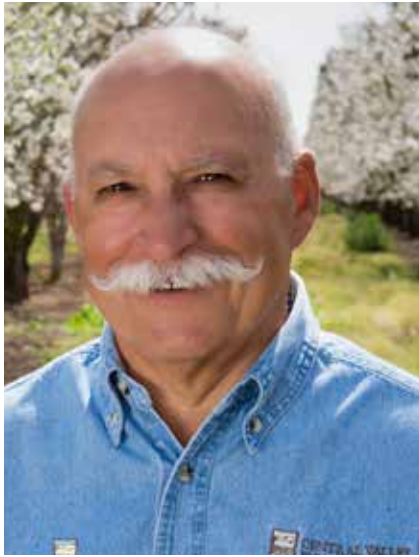


VOLUNTEER WITH US

Committees, Events and Monitoring properties – we need YOU! Is local farmland important to you? Can you give 15-20 hours a year to protect farmland? If you said yes, then your extra time and good ideas may be the right fit for us.

Email Darcel Trapani and share your interest, dtrapani@valleyfarmland.org, we will get you plugged in!

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: RON FRIETAS



As a resident of the Central Valley, you may hear it said that we have nothing special here. This is not true. We are close to as many as seven world class destinations: San Francisco, Napa Valley wine region, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Sequoia, Monterey Bay, and the north coast redwoods – all within a day's drive. One must simply drive along the highways in the Central Valley to see tour buses stopped not only at local wineries, but also at roadside stands as the people they carry buy the farm fresh fruit and vegetables that are produced in abundance here. Many of these visitors have never tasted a peach, apricot, or any other fruit picked at peak ripeness before – something many of us who live here take for granted.

While they may be impressed by the diversity, quality, and abundant production of our agricultural lands, some are perplexed at the apparent lack of concern for protecting these farmlands for future generations. Too many of us who live here simply do not recognize, nor appreciate, what we have here in the Central Valley.

In my travels, I have observed agriculture here in the United States and abroad. While these places produce agricultural crops, none seem to be able to commercially produce the number and diversity of crops we have here in the Central Valley. Our valley is unique since we have the three essential ingredients for diverse agricultural production: deep rich soil (some of the best soil in the world), high quality water for irrigation, and a climate conducive to a very long growing season. This, in my opinion, qualifies us for a world class status.

Central Valley Farmland Trust is now in our thirteenth year and has a solid, proven track record of preserving some of the best farmland in the world. The board of CVFT recognizes the unique agricultural characteristics of the Central Valley and its importance in U.S. and world economies. Our goal is to protect its ability to supply food for future generations by continuing to preserve as much agricultural land as possible. We need your help because we are losing 50,000+ acres of this farmland every year. I encourage you to visit our website to view our short videos to become familiar with CVFT. Your financial support would be most appreciated as well as your political support. Inform your local, state and congressional representatives of the importance of preserving our world class agricultural land for future generations

WELCOME MELANEE COTTRILL

Central Valley Farmland Trust is pleased to announce that Melanee Cottrill has joined our team as the Associate Director. Melanee replaces Susan Hooper who retired on May 15, after spending more than a decade serving the organization. Melanee comes to us from a legal and non-profit consulting background. Her worldview has been shaped by the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Franklin Covey, especially the habit of beginning with the end in mind. "My work is my legacy and I want to contribute to humanity's sustainability," said Melanee. "I look forward to the hands-on nature of the work at CVFT and really doing something to make a change."

Focusing on systems and structure, Melanee intends to put her analytical mind to work. Her short-term goal is to immerse herself in all the dynamic work happening at CVFT. Her broader vision will be focused on growing the organization and surpassing the goal of protecting 20,000 acres by 2020. "Melanee's experience as an operations manager for a legal and consulting firm specializing in non-profit corporations will significantly contribute to our technical needs," said executive director, Charlotte Mitchell. "Melanee's true passion for protecting our working landscape will enable us to serve our farmers and supporters."



Welcome Melanee yourself by emailing her at mcottrill@valleyfarmland.org.



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