



Central Valley Farmland Trust

Legacy

Summer 2011

Prime Farmland Protected



Cherry trees grow on the most productive farmland in the world on Brandstad Farms in San Joaquin County.

The financial donations and hundreds of volunteer hours contributed to the Central Valley Farmland Trust have paid off huge dividends in 2011. Thanks to you and other farmland conservation supporters, an additional 1,200 acres have been protected in the Central Valley since the first of the year.

San Joaquin County

Sitting in the middle of what is arguably considered the best walnut and cherry orchard land in the world

is the Brandstad Farms. This highly productive farm is located five miles east of Stockton. Brandstad Farms is the third agricultural conservation easement placed on farmland in San Joaquin County. This beautiful 187 acres of prime farmland has been in the Brandstad family for over 80 years.

Also protected in San Joaquin County are the Brazil/Van Ryn Farm on Mariposa Road southeast of Stockton, and the Machado/Borges Farm on Lorenzen Road, five miles south of Lathrop. These farms collectively total 460 acres of prime field crop land.

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Bill Martin

Executive Director Message

I believe there are times in our lives when we wonder if we'll ever have a chance to be part of something that makes a substantive difference. Then one day we wake up and realize, wow – look at that!

What is “that” you ask? As I was preparing for our next board meeting, I completed the project update report – a routine report I summarily update every month. But this time was different. We – our board members, volunteers, funding partners, outside consultants, landowners and CVFT staff – have diligently been working on numerous ACE projects over that last several years, which for a myriad of reasons were painfully slow in coming to fruition. With no intended disrespect to any of the respective “we,” the process can sometimes be like herding cats. You are never sure which way something or someone will go...or if it/they will ever come back!

But where there is a will there is a way. Through the monumental efforts of the collective “we,” seven (yes, seven!) ACE projects were consummated by CVFT from September 2010 through July 2011. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and those in the know have to be impressed. I know I am!

With the economy in the doldrums and little sign of recovering any time soon, how did we do that? If you asked the board they would probably say, “It’s simply what we do.” The truth be known, it was not only the “shoulder to the plow” mentality of all those involved, but their overwhelming willingness to practice extraordinary patience, exemplary creativity, and touch of guerilla warfare to ultimately push over the goal line.

I take tremendous pride knowing that I was part of something that made a substantive difference. Thank you!

CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST

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Bill Martin,
Executive Director

Susan Hooper,
Associate Director



The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.



The Brazil/Van Ryn Farm in San Joaquin County produces corn that will be used as silage for their organic dairy operation.



PRIME FARMLAND PROTECTED continued from page 1



Merced County

The Alvernaz and Bear Creek Ranch farms, totaling 455 acres in Merced County, have also been protected. The Alvernaz Farm, located one mile southwest of Livingston, has been in the family for 50 years and consists of prime sweet potato land. The Bear Creek Ranch is located five miles east of Merced on historic Hwy. 140. These 244 acres of prime farmland produce almonds.

Funding for these projects was provided by a combination of state and federal agencies, farmland mitigation funding from several different jurisdictions within San Joaquin County, and private donations.

Stanislaus County

Strategically located five miles west of Modesto on Maze Blvd., the Ulm Farm is the second agricultural conservation easement in Stanislaus County. This picturesque farm is 155 acres of highly productive almond and walnut trees and has been in the Ulm family for three generations.



Almonds are the second most produced farm commodity in Stanislaus County and the third most produced in Merced County. At Ulm Farm in Stanislaus County (top left photograph) and Bear Creek Ranch in Merced County (bottom left photograph), almond production contributes to these numbers.

The Alvernaz Farm produces sweet potatoes (center photograph) contributing to one of the most produced commodities in Merced County.



An Evening at the Carnegie



Ansel Adams, *Barn at Napa*
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A CELEBRATION OF FARMS, FOOD AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday, October 8, 2011
Carnegie Arts Center
Turlock, California

Private Viewing of
Ansel Adams CALIFORNIA
and dinner in *The Loft*.

An Evening at the Carnegie

AN EVENING AT THE CARNEGIE will be a night to remember! Please join us on October 8, 2011 at the new Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock for a private viewing of *Ansel Adams CALIFORNIA*, a never before seen exhibition featuring Adams' California images, including several never shown photographs of the Central Valley.

The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a Gallery Tour. Following the viewing of 120 iconic images plus memorabilia from Ansel Adams' life, dinner, featuring local foods, will be served in The Loft. The Central Valley Farmland Trust is honored that Paul Wenger will be the keynote speaker. Paul is a third generation farmer in Stanislaus County and president of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Our partners for this special evening are American AgCredit, E. & J. Gallo Winery and Mid Valley Agricultural Services, Inc. These organizations are renowned for their support of California agriculture and farmland conservation. CVFT is honored to have their support for this important event!

To reserve your tickets, use the ticket order form in this issue of *Legacy* or call Susan at (916) 687-3178.

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to our
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E.&J. Gallo Winery

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President's Message



Ken Oneto

Whoa, what a spring! Sunshine, rain, rain, sunshine, cool, hot – a little of everything. Best of all, we worked very hard to preserve almost 1,200 acres of irreplaceable farmland. This was an outstanding achievement. We extend a very special thanks to those land owners who were patient enough to see the process through.

The most time consuming process is funding. We are very lucky to have been collecting mitigation fees from some of our counties, which allowed us to expedite the process. This past spring we used three different funding sources. The Natural Resource Conservation Service was responsible for funding 42% of these projects, the California Department of Conservation helped with 28% of the funds, and we used local mitigation funds collected from counties and cities to fund 30% of the projects.

Funding ag easements with local mitigation

funds is a great funding mechanism. If you have any connection with your local officials, please take the time to see where they stand on farmland mitigation. It is a very touchy subject, but it allows local monies to be used locally to preserve local agriculture. Funding from the state will probably slow down with the current budget concerns. The federal government is also looking at the new Farm Bill, which will include funding for farmland protection.

Now is the time to work locally so that when development starts heating up, we will be ready to work with dedicated farmers to help protect the most precious resource we have: the land.

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