



# CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST LEGACY

## Galeazzi Farm Forever Conserved

Under the cool canopy of a grove of mature walnut trees, one can visualize the past and future generations of farmers and families playing and tending to these trees, their branches heavy with bounty. This picture is no truer than on the 250-acre walnut farm owned by the Galeazzi family located near Lockeford, recently conserved with an agricultural conservation easement between the family and Central Valley Farmland Trust.

"This property is a beautiful example of farming, family, conservation, and a legacy realized," said Bill Martin, executive director for Central Valley Farmland Trust. "We are proud to see this farm protected for future generations and know that the Galeazzi family will remain there as stewards of the land."

### It's All in the Family

Farm owners, John Galeazzi and his wife of 50 years, Carolyn, have been farming all their lives. John's family emigrated from Italy to the United States in 1894, settling in Modesto where they began farming a variety of crops. John and Carolyn followed suit and raised their three children on



Generations of Galeazzi Family

the farm. Their son Tom, and his wife Tawnya, are part owners in the family farm today, and two daughters, Lisa and Julia, are involved as well. Julia and her husband, John Vink, also farm adjacent to the family property.

There are two grandchildren to carry on the legacy to date – Bella, "four and a half" as she says, and little 16-month-old Johnny. "This conservation easement preserves our life-long dedication to farming," said John Galeazzi. "All my children could see the connection between farming and conservation and we wanted to integrate the conservation part into our business. This easement allowed us to do that."

"Our future is more certain – we know what we will be doing and we can work toward the best management with that knowledge," continued Tom Galeazzi.

### The Operation

On the Galeazzi Farm they focus on efficient and economic practices for managing and harvesting their walnuts. They do a multiple shake on the trees and several sweeps to capture nuts and reduce litter on the ground that could become a management challenge later in the year. From soil amending in November after harvest is done, to pruning, grinding brush, managing for pests, and then leaf analysis in June and July, it's all for August when the nut sizes and the kernel fills.

They begin harvest in late September when they are hauling up to five truck loads at a time. The nuts are hauled to local processors that contract with local and overseas buyers. "The farm is nearly all in walnuts," said John. "We do our complete harvest and trucking – we are proud of our full-time staff and a return crew for pruning each year. Worker safety is taken very seriously and is of the utmost importance to us. Our staff is like our family too."

*story continued on page 3 >>>*

## SUMMER 2013

### Save the Dates

**Evening at the Carnegie**  
October 26, 2013, Carnegie Arts Center, Turlock

**Crab Feed for Conservation**  
February 1, 2014 Waterloo Gun and Bocce Club, Stockton

### Give Us Your Feedback!

We are developing a new website that will be easy to navigate, include useful information on ag conservation easements, interactive tools, show the beauty and bounty of the Central Valley's farmland, and MORE.

If there is something you really want to see on the new site or you want to send us suggestions - message us on Facebook or send an email to:  
[susan@valleyfarmland.org](mailto:susan@valleyfarmland.org)



### Follow us on Facebook & Twitter:

Connect and join the conversations! Be the first to hear about what we are doing, how it affects you, and tell us what you think!







## Director's Message

Our food - If not here, then where?

Summer is here and harvest will start soon. It is looking like another banner year for California agriculture. Projected farm gate value is likely to exceed the prior year's \$35+- billion, which equates to \$140+ billion in rippling economic activity for the state.

But is that all there is to California agriculture? What about those kids and grandkids of farm families who desire to grow up on the farm and some day take over from mom and dad or grandma and grandpa? What about the young entrepreneur who invented a new California table fruit harvester and wishes to capitalize on his hard work and financial investment? What about all of those food processing facilities that rely on a steady supply of fresh agricultural commodities to survive?

All of these are important, but there is something of much greater significance looming in the shadows. There is an inherent lack of understanding and/or appreciation for why California agriculture is important to our state and to the world. This lack of understanding is manifested in decision makers within California and around the world.

Why? Many people believe that because we operate within an unmistakable world economy there is very little concern for what goes on in California agriculture. We run out of farmland here in California...no big deal! Just get our (not so fresh) fruits and vegetables from China, Spain, Australia or Chile. Doesn't seem to matter how much energy is required to ship commodities around the world, whether or not proper food safety or security protocols are in place, or that some of California's commodities are only grown here in California.

Let's be honest and admit we are all spoiled. Every time we walk into a super market or our local farmer's market we are treated with an abundance of fresh (and safe) fruits and vegetables. Is it too much to ask for our kids and grandchildren to have the same luxury?

Most of you are supportive of the message I am trying to impart. But are you motivated to do something? Try this: Find a decision maker you know and ask him/her how they perceive the value of California agriculture. If you get the "deer in the headlights" look, share all of the above and ask them to become proactive supporters for California agriculture. Good luck and let me know how I can help! ☺

Bill Martin,  
Executive Director

## Our Vision:

Preservation of the Central Valley's agricultural lands is vital to protecting our agricultural economy, heritage, unique agricultural resources and quality of life. We envision a future in which the Central Valley can accommodate population growth and urban development while preserving the most productive agricultural lands, thus creating and maintaining our irreplaceable farmland and high-quality environment for future generations.

## Our Mission:

To work with landowners and conservation partners to preserve agricultural lands in the California Central Valley for future generations.

Website address:  
[www.valleyfarmland.org](http://www.valleyfarmland.org)



The spoils of California agriculture



# AN EVENING AT THE CARNEGIE

featuring *Picasso: the edition ceramics*

TO BENEFIT  
THE CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST

Our third annual **Evening at the Carnegie** will be held Saturday, Oct. 26 and you are cordially invited to attend. This signature event will benefit the Central Valley Farmland Trust and serves as our biggest fundraiser of the year.

To honor your support and offer you an amazing evening we will again mingle, dine, participate in our silent auction, and enjoy the Carnegie Arts Center. This year's featured artist is Pablo Picasso and his unique Edition Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection. As you explore Picasso's works you will enjoy your time surrounded by your partners in farmland conservation, bidding on auction items and extending your support of our mission to protect our precious Valley farmlands.

Seats are limited at this event so don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this special evening, a night to celebrate a cause close to all our hearts.

To reserve your tickets or learn more please call our office, 916-687-3178. Tickets go on sale Aug. 1.



## Beau Williamson Set to Keynote Signature Event!

Each year this signature event boasts appetizers and refreshments, a silent auction with exclusive and unique items, a delicious dinner and keynote address by an industry icon.

Our featured speaker will be Beau Williamson, Clovis, former National FFA president and agribusiness professional with his finger on the pulse of the young farmer and the industry today. His presentation will give guests a view into what it takes to be a successful leader in agriculture today and give insight on overcoming the challenges facing the next generation of agribusiness professionals. ♪

## Galeazzi Farm Forever Conserved *Continued from Cover >>>*

### The Resources are Right

Lockeford is in the heart of a prime walnut growing region in California. "The climate, our deep fertile soils, and water make this nearly the best place on earth to grow them," said John. In addition to the perfect environment, the Galeazzi's have other vital resources at their fingertips. Their farm advisor and relationships with UC Davis personnel keep farm management on the cutting edge and improve production practices. The easement also preserves the family's water rights along the river adjacent to the property.

Farming, while not in a building, is a business and must be run in a fashion to sustain itself. But in a business where the land cost is so high protecting what you have could be essential, John Vink said, "This conservation easement offers us security for the family at large, we have built a nice economic block of property with resources that will serve us well into the future."

### A Legacy

While grandkids kiss and love their grandpa who has ensured their future, you can see the pride in his eyes as he takes his family in. "This property carries economic value and peace of mind for our family, our workers, and our future," said John. His wife echoed his sentiments saying, "We are very happy to know this property will be in our grandchildren's hands."

"We are lucky enough to work every day to ensure families like the Galeazzi's stay on the land producing food close to home," said Bill Martin. "Their legacy becomes everyone's legacy when our precious farmlands become a permanent part of the future of California." ♪



1



12,765

TOTAL # OF ACRES CONSERVED

THAT'S ENOUGH ACREAGE TO LINE UP OVER 2000 GOLDEN GATE BRIDGES!

2

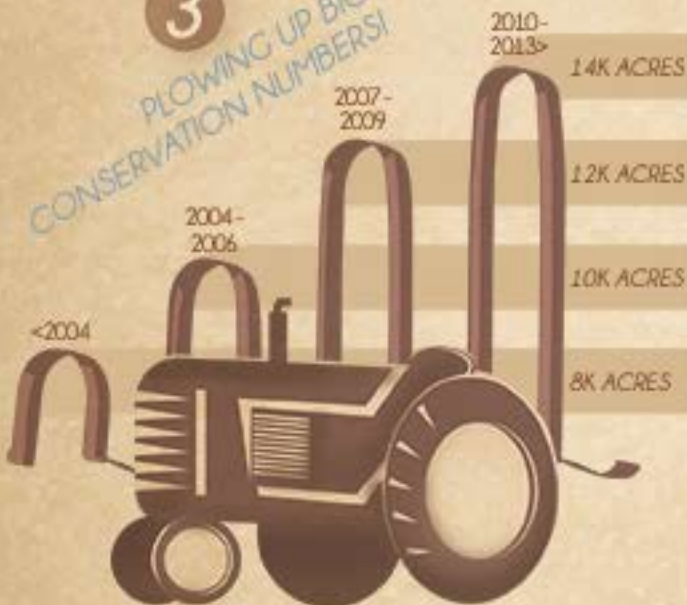
AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACRES CONSERVED EACH YEAR

600



3

PLOWING UP BIG CONSERVATION NUMBERS!



4

BY THE NUMBERS!



30

FAMILY FARMS CONSERVED

9 YEARS IN BUSINESS

TYPES OF CROPS GROWN ON OUR CONSERVED LAND

20



5

OUR TEAM IS GROWING!

2008 WAS THE YEAR WE EARNED ACCREDITATION FROM THE LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION, ENSURING CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST MEETS NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PROTECTING IMPORTANT NATURAL PLACES AND WORKING LANDS FOREVER





# ENSURING PERPETUITY

HOW DO WE MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN?

# TRUE TO OUR HEART

MISSION: TO WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



RESPECT & INTEGRITY  
 —  
 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
 —  
 GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO AND WHY!

TYPES OF ACE  
 - FUNDED  
 - MITIGATION  
 - COMBO  
 - DONATED



FUNDERS  
 - FEDERAL AGENCIES  
 - STATE AGENCIES  
 - MITIGATION FEES  
 - PRIVATE DONATIONS

# A.C.C.E.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A.C.E.'S ARE VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN A LANDOWNER AND A QUALIFIED LAND TRUST, LIKE CVFT, REGARDING THE FUTURE USES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. IT'S PROTECTING THEIR PROPERTY TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS HAVE CONTINUED OPPORTUNITIES TO FARM.

# TOOLS OF THE TRADE

## STEWARDSHIP

1. **LANDOWNERS**- THEY STEWARD THE LAND, WE PROVIDE THEM SUPPORT AND EDUCATION BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THEIR EASEMENT TRANSACTION.

2. **ANNUAL MONITORING**- WE VISIT ALL PROPERTIES ANNUALLY TO ENSURE THE TERMS OF THE EASEMENT ARE UPHOLD.

3. **ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**- ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL, DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FUNDING SOURCES, MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION WITH LAND TRUST ALLIANCE - ENSURING BEST CONSERVATION BUSINESS PRACTICES.



## IT'S ALL IN A DAY'S WORK!

FUNDRAISING  
 RELATIONSHIPS  
 EDUCATION  
 MONITORING  
 TRANSACTIONS  
 OUTREACH  
 LANDOWNER SUPPORT



*Editor's note: This is the final article in a three part series to appear in the Legacy on the loss of farmland and its effect on food production and our water and soil resources. Vance Kennedy, a retired hydrologist with the Department of the Interior is the primary contributor.*

## Mining Groundwater in the Foothills – a Valley Problem?

Conserving open space gives us as a society available farmland for food production in the future. But it also gives us the room to fine-tune best practices when it comes to water management and storage while our population explodes. Placing a conservation easement on a property restricts certain rights on a landowner's property to maintain the long-term beneficial use as a productive farm. Essentially, that farmer makes a sacrifice today for the betterment of tomorrow.

This concept of making choices while considering the future impacts on our children and grandchildren's environment is at the heart of a developing and dire issue in the foothills east of the Valley floor. In general, there are no groundwater laws that protect one neighbor's use from being a detriment to the others. And over use of ground water without necessary management and policies in place to replenish or safeguard it could mean disaster for farmers and the public in the not too distant future.



### Case in Point

Because almonds are as profitable as they are, and flood-irrigated farmland is so costly, there is an ongoing effort to plant almonds in the foothills east of the flood-irrigated farmland. That has the potential to cause major problems for ranchers, who have long used such land for grazing. In order to understand the potential problems, one needs to understand the water situation in the foothills.

### Almond Trees Need Water

Almonds need about 30 inches of water, or more, to survive well. Average rainfall is in the range of 12 to 16 inches per year, of which perhaps half penetrates to ground water. That means that about two feet of water is needed from some source to supplement the rainfall. That source is increasingly provided by pumping groundwater. That groundwater has accumulated over many thousands of years, and cannot be rapidly replaced.

That means that old groundwater is literally being "mined." As the water is pumped out, the water table drops. How rapidly it drops is related to how much open space there is in the rocks involved. That open space can be as little as 10 percent. Hence, when one foot of irrigation water is removed, the water table will drop 10 feet. Since about two feet of water, in addition to rain, is needed for almonds, that means the water table will drop about 20 feet each year.

So, in 10 years, the water table will be at perhaps 200 feet. It's becoming more common that large wells are already at 400 feet. At some point, the cost of pumping will be so high that it will no longer be economically feasible to continue watering the trees and the trees will die. That land will be useless for anything else because water for grazing animals will be too costly to provide.

### Public Punch Line

From society's standpoint, it will be an environmental disaster. The question arises as to what happens to the water table at a distance from the wells being used to water these trees. As the water level drops at the well, water surrounding the well will flow toward the well, drawing water from increasing distances. Neighboring properties will contribute to that well, causing water tables there to drop, and hence, hurt the neighbor.

### The Lack of Laws – Can it be?

Unfortunately, California is one of the few states that has no realistic laws to control groundwater use. There is a question that needs to be asked, as to what counties can do locally to forestall such problems. That is a question that affected ranchers can organize about and bring to the supervisors—the sooner, the better. Many other states have groundwater laws related to the type of situation described here. A summary of how other states have handled such problems exists and could be used as a reference guide for California.

### Conservation Connection

This water issue in the foothills will make its way toward the valley floor. Couple this with a changing climate and our water resources are in serious peril – no water, no food. It could become a triple threat as more farmers move to drip irrigation that doesn't replenish ground water and does not flush salts from the soil. But if the mindset that a landowner uses when choosing to conserve his property for farming in perpetuity can be transferred to our elected leaders, other farmers and the public at large – focusing on the choices that need to be made today to achieve a sustainable tomorrow, then our next generations can thank us for ensuring their local food and water... rather than wondering where it will come from. ♫



Vance Kennedy





## Support the Conservation of Our Precious Farmland Resources

By Barbara Smith, Treasurer, Board of Directors

Please help us as we prepare to celebrate our 10th anniversary and preserve for perpetuity! Farmland conservation involves two vital components:

- 1. The acquisition and placement of a conservation easement with a willing farmland owner.**
- 2. Stewardship, monitoring and defense of that easement forever after to ensure that the land continues to be available for farming in accordance with the terms of the easement agreement.**

Central Valley Farmland Trust (CVFT) has successfully achieved the first component in our first nine operational years and momentum for easement placement is growing. As we approach our 10-year anniversary, we are keenly focused on building operational sustainability to assure our capacity to fulfill the second objective - in perpetuity. After all, our hard work and your support would be for naught if we do not complete necessary follow through to ensure that the land preserved truly remains agriculturally productive.

Our operational requirements have been met to date through variable funding sources. As we grow, we need recurring and sustainable funding for these vital operations. Last year we launched a successful business sponsor program. This year we will expand that program to attract individual donor members from among local supporters like you and from urban friends who understand the critical importance of our mission or who are seeking ways to support food sustainability, prevent world hunger, improve nutrition, sequester carbon, clean our air, and drive economic prosperity.

Central Valley farmland is unique, irreplaceable, and vital to our collective well-being and prosperous future. There is no other land in the world with its combination of exceptional soil quality, temperate climate, water supply and infrastructure. This farmland produces hundreds of diverse crops and vital societal benefits referenced above. If you are passionate about the urgent need to preserve this resource as I am, I challenge you to pick an issue of the day and consider how farmland preservation is part of its solution. Engage in discussion with us on Twitter... Follow us on Facebook... Join our membership... Volunteer for one of our committees... Come to one of our events. ...

I hope to see you at the Carnegie in October where we can admire the works of Picasso while discussing the importance of Central Valley Farmland Trust. You see, in my world view, Central Valley farmland is foundational to the arts as well. Daniel Webster eloquently observed,

*"When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization." 1*



Barbara & her family

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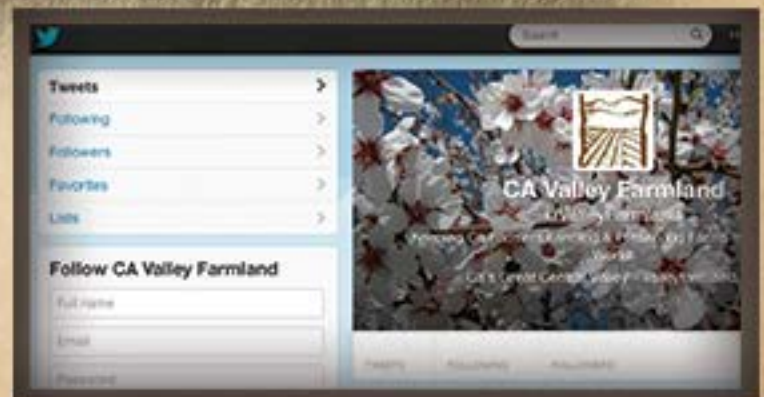
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RESPONSIBILITY | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE



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