



WINTER 2019

# LEGACY



## CALIFORNIA FARMLAND

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PROTECTING THE FARMS THAT FEED YOUR FAMILY

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Charlotte Mitchell

As 2018 came to a close, I sat back to reflect on the biggest year the California Farmland Trust has had in meeting its goal of protecting the best farmland for future generations. It signals the evolution of how, as farmers, we continue to plan for the future, making those investments that are practical, economically sensible, and durable.

Making the decision to protect farmland, permanently protecting its agricultural use, can be difficult. It comes with ensuring that we have clearly forecasted what the future may bring and committed to this generation and the next that a legacy will be protected. But at the end of the day, the decision to protect the land is easy. Farming is a way of life that is not easily replaceable. As our farm continues to face the threat of urban development, I suppose it could be easy to succumb to the forces of those who think our land is better suited for shopping malls and gas stations. But that won't happen, not in this generation or the next. Our boys are the sixth generation to be raised on the land, and that commitment to carry on the legacy will remain.



those who want to farm after them can do so without the threat of conversion.

Our work must continue. The State continues to wrestle with the balance of providing homes, jobs, amenities, and protecting the environment while ensuring the public's interest in a food supply that is safe, affordable, and abundant. The need to protect vital farmland that is producing our world's food supply and contributes to the State's economy with over \$50 billion annually in farm gate sales of agricultural goods is paramount. Our work in 2019 remains promising as we continue to work with family farmers who are protecting the best farmland in the world. We are thankful to our supporters and donors who continue to help us protect the land so we can farm for generations to come. Together we can make a difference.

**"I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE EASY TO SUCCEED TO THE FORCES OF THOSE WHO THINK OUR LAND IS BETTER SUITED FOR SHOPPING MALLS AND GAS STATIONS. BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN, NOT IN THIS GENERATION OR THE NEXT."**

I applaud the farmers with whom we worked in 2018 who have forever protected their farming legacy. They committed so



## OUR MISSION

Help Farmers Protect the Best Farmland in the World

## CURRENTLY SERVING

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



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### Contributors:

- Melanee Cottrill
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## A GRANDMOTHER'S GRIT

### Jorgensen and Hooper Families



LATE 1940S PICTURE OF MARIE JORGENSEN ANDERSEN'S FAMILY. TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): EARL HOOPER, JACK HOOPER, JOSEPH (EARL'S FATHER), BILL JORGENSEN, AND ANDY ANDERSEN (MARIE'S SECOND HUSBAND). BOTTOM ROW: JIM JORGENSEN, DAN HOOPER, JOANNE (JORGENSEN) MILLS, MARIE (HANSEN) JORGENSEN ANDERSEN (MATRIARCH AND BENEFACTOR), JANICE JORGENSEN, AND ELINOR JORGENSEN (BILL'S WIFE).

County: Merced

Funding: USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service, ACEP

One woman's toughness lives on after more than 100 years. Following her husband's passing in 1922, Marie Jorgensen Andersen, an immigrant from Denmark, was left with 600 acres, her kids, and the Great Depression soon to come. With help from her neighbors and an immigrant's determination, she inspired her kids and grandkids to stay with the land that had provided so much. Now, after all this time, her grandchildren, including the Jorgensen Family and the Hooper Family, have ensured her legacy of caring for the land will live forever.

**"SHE WAS THE STALWART, IT WAS HER GRIT AND DETERMINATION TO LEARN FROM HER NEIGHBORS ABOUT FARMING THIS LAND THAT KEPT IT FROM BEING PAVED OVER OR SOLD OFF. WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL."**

The Hooper Family's 275 acres of farmland near the City of Gustine are now permanently protected from development with an easement through CFT. Their conserved property completes the process by the family to protect all 600 acres, including the

adjacent Jorgensen Ranch protected in 2008, of the original family farmstead started in 1908 by Marie and her husband.

"I used to think it was just my dad who loved this land, but as my siblings and cousins began to look back we realized it was our grandmother who really set this all in motion," said Jim Jorgensen, CFT board member and Jorgensen Ranch owner. "She was the stalwart, it was her grit and determination to learn from her neighbors about farming this land that kept it from being paved over or sold off. We are eternally grateful."



"It is no small matter that four generations claim this farmland as the seedbed of our distinctive American narrative and tradition," shared De-Anne Hooper, a family spokesperson. "My cousins and I are committed to showing our gratitude by upholding our forbearers' farming legacy; keenly mindful of this opportunity to persevere in our family's efforts to sustain the environment, improve and enrich our lives, and positively impact posterity."

The Hooper land sits approximately two miles from the City of Gustine. The property is managed under a rotational field crop farming operation that includes processing tomatoes, green peppers, string beans, lima bean seeds, alfalfa, and safflower. Like all CFT easements, this easement frees the land from the possibility of development so it can continue to grow our food and inspire future generations who may want to farm here someday.

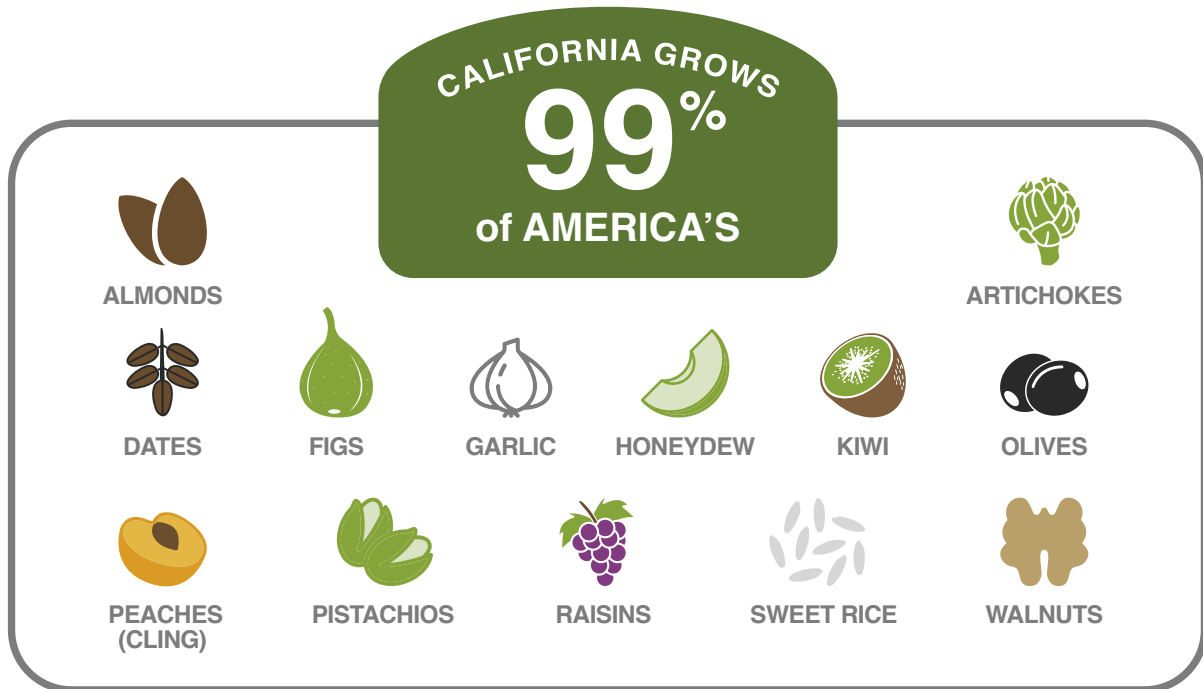
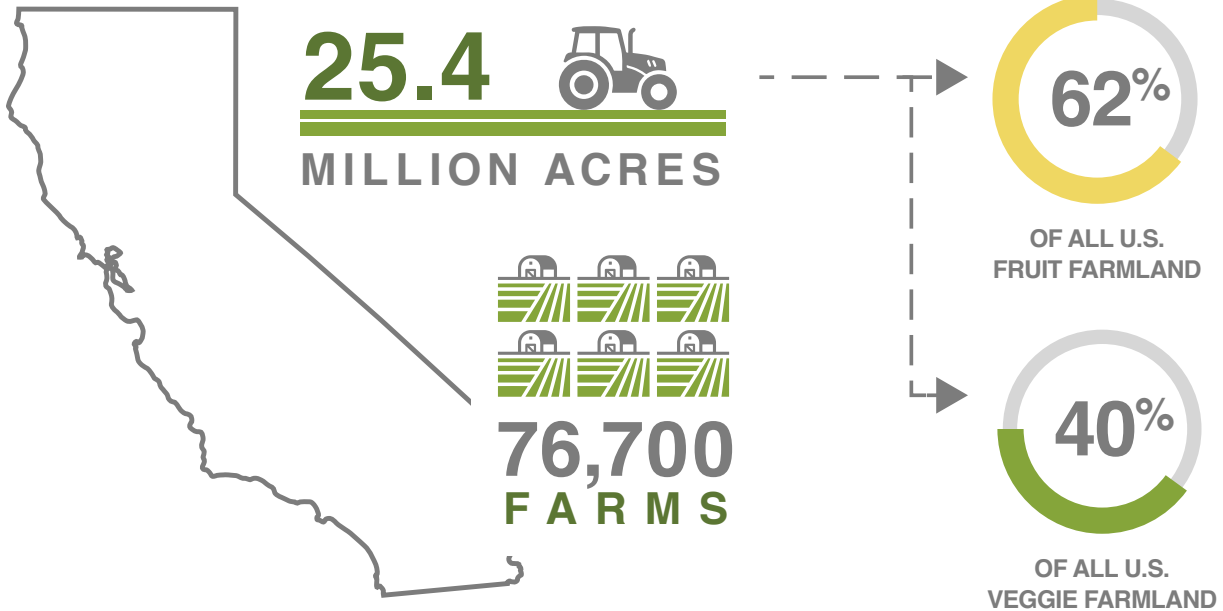
**To read more on the farms you help protect, visit [www.cafarmtrust.org/our-farms](http://www.cafarmtrust.org/our-farms).**

# California

- F A R M L A N D -

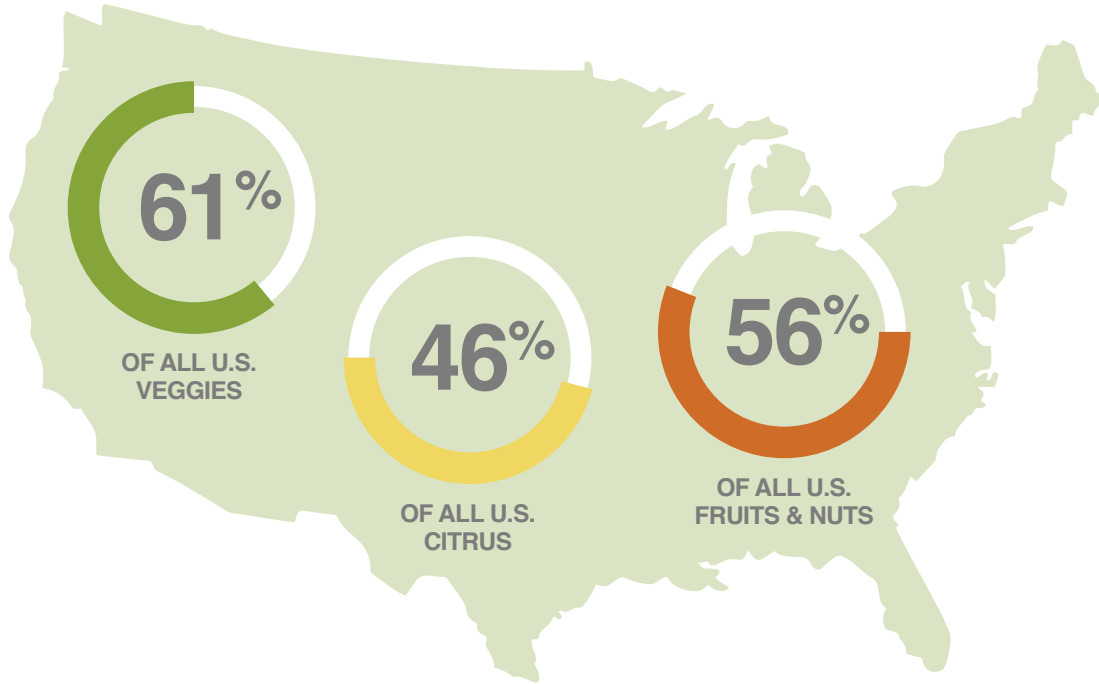
California is covered in farmland!  
Our unique combination of water, soil, and climate enables us to feed the nation, and even the world.

## California Farmlands Represent:





## California-Grown Produce is...



But we can't keep feeding the nation if we pave over our farmland. Conservation does more than simply protect farms, it protects our future.

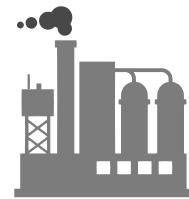
## Conserving Farmland Helps...



PROTECT  
FOOD DIVERSITY



IMPROVE CARBON  
SEQUESTRATION



REDUCE GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS



PROVIDE  
WILDLIFE HABITAT



ENSURE  
FOOD SECURITY

## A NEW WAY TO GIVE

### Making the Most of Your Traditional IRA



Food is for consumption. Fiber is for consumption. But land... not so much.

When Ron Dolinsek saw that California's agricultural land was being consumed at a rapid pace, he knew he had to take action. An FFA kid who in college majored in agribusiness and went on to a successful career in the Farm Credit System, Ron has a unique perspective on farmland. Couple that perspective with a drive to give back, and you get an incredibly dedicated board member.

From humble beginnings, Ron and his wife Getta are always looking for greater ways to give back – and they recently found a new one. Having reached the age of 70 ½, Ron is now able to make Qualified Charitable Distributions from his Traditional IRA. Ron says the QCD provided “an opportunity for us to not only continue our giving, but to continue in an increased fashion.” The QCD counts as part of Ron's Required Minimum Distribution, and “those QCD distributions are done tax free. That is on top of the standard deduction that we're already able to claim.” In essence, now that he has reached the required age of 70 ½, Ron is able to make a gift to CFT directly from his Traditional IRA, and the amount of that gift does not count as taxable income. Because the QCD reduces Ron's taxable income, even though the Dolinseks are no longer itemizing their taxes, they have been able to give more by passing along the QCD's tax savings.

It sounds complicated, but Ron found the process as simple as making a phone call to his advisor and filling out a form. To learn more about Qualified Charitable Distributions – or other alternate ways to make a gift to protect farmland – visit [www.cafarmtrust.org/giving](http://www.cafarmtrust.org/giving).

## SAVE THE DATE



Please join us on May 2 for the Big Day of Giving! On the B-DOG, our Big DOGS will be out in full force, helping the world understand why farmland should be protected. That's Tucker the farm mutt, and he hopes you'll help him save some farms – because he sure enjoys running around on them with his hu-mom Aundriea! You can help by making a gift at [www.bigdayofgiving.org/savecaliforniafarmland](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org/savecaliforniafarmland) on May 2!

## THANK YOU BERRY MUCH!



With new tax laws, wildfire relief taking center stage, and the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it would have been easy to overlook making a gift to protect farmland in 2018. But you didn't. Instead, you made 2018 a resounding success for farmland protection by giving over \$20,000. The nine farmers whose farmland your gifts will help protect are grateful. The generations of people who will enjoy the fruits of the land are grateful. We are grateful. If the land could speak, it would give you a deep, booming thank you – but it can't, so we'll say it the best way we can instead... THANK YOU!

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Farm Credit Alliance



# FARM CREDIT

American AgCredit | Farm Credit West  
CoBank | Golden State Farm Credit

Farm Credit has been a proud Farmland Heritage Sponsor for the California Farmland Trust since 2014, and we look forward to continuing to support CFT in its vital mission of protecting prime farmland forever.

For more than a century, Farm Credit has provided agriculture and rural communities with a dependable source of credit. Farm Credit members American AgCredit, CoBank, Farm Credit West

and Golden State Farm Credit are cooperatively-owned lending institutions that specialize in financing farmers, ranchers, farmer-owned cooperatives, rural utilities and agribusinesses.

By offering a broad range of loan products and financial services – including long-term real estate loans, operating lines of credit, equipment and facility loans, cash management and appraisal and leasing services – we offer everything a “growing” business needs.

We are proud to have played a role in helping CFT and its predecessor organizations protect nearly 70 family farms covering almost 16,000 acres. We firmly believe the state’s prime farmland should be appreciated, and we salute CFT for its efforts in making that vision a reality.

## SPONSORS

Legacy

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**20,000 ACRES BY 2020**

20K  
15K  
10K  
5K



**15,826 ACRES  
CONSERVED**

92% of every dollar donated goes directly to farmland conservation.  
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