



California Farm Bureau's government affairs team is at the Capitol, advocating for farmers, ranchers and agriculture's future. Here are some key issues Farm Bureau is focused on this week.

**October 21, 2022**

## Announcements

### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES A VACANCY ON THE CALIFORNIA FRUIT TREE, NUT TREE AND GRAPEVINE IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Pest Exclusion Branch is announcing a vacancy on the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board. The board is composed of 11 voting members that represent all areas of the state involved in the production of pome and stone fruit trees, nut trees, olive trees and grapevines. The current board vacancy is a midterm vacancy for one representative of the pome fruit industry, which expires on December 31, 2023. Members serve for fixed terms of up to two years with the possibility of reappointment for three consecutive terms. Members meet at least twice per year but can meet more frequently if needed. The members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources.

The mission of the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree, and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board is to enable production of the highest-possible quality grapevine, deciduous fruit, and ornamental nursery stock and to help develop and promote consumer education. Individuals interested in being considered for this board appointment are encouraged to attend the Advisory Board meeting scheduled for 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Monday, November 7, 2022, at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 N Street, Auditorium -- Room 131, Sacramento, CA 95814. The board will nominate and elect new board members at that meeting, and those interested in being considered will be asked to provide a brief statement of qualifications. Meeting Agenda and Notice: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/Meetings/>

If individuals interested in being considered for this appointment are not able to attend the meeting, they may provide a statement of qualifications to Katherine Filippini, Board Manager, prior to November 2, 2022. The statement of qualification can be emailed to [IAB@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:IAB@cdfa.ca.gov) or mailed to: California Department of Food and Agriculture, Pest Exclusion Branch, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attention: Katherine Filippini

### **CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON SHELL EGG ADVISORY BOARD**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) is announcing two vacancies on the Egg Safety and Quality Management's (ESQM), Shell Egg Advisory Committee Board. The ESQM monitors egg quality at production, wholesale, and retail levels. The goal is to provide California consumers with eggs that are wholesome, refrigerated, properly labeled, and of established quality; while maintaining fair and equitable marketing standards in the California egg industry.

These vacancies are due to upcoming term expirations. The membership terms for these positions will be 36 months. Applicants must be registered egg handlers or representatives of registered egg handlers in the

state of California. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for transportation to and from meetings and for per diem expenses for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Applicants interested in being considered for the appointments should submit resumes by November 11, 2022, to: Mrs. Penny Arana, Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch 1220 N Street Sacramento, California 95814 [penny.arana@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:penny.arana@cdfa.ca.gov).

Readers may recall, The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) held a public listening session on October 10 to accept farmer, rancher, and stakeholder feedback on a new block grant framework to third-party organizations for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). The Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) is exploring a block grant pilot program, rather than the current process of direct applications to CDFA, which the Department believes will allow flexibility, technical assistance, and capacity building at the regional level. OEFI presented this proposal to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel ([EFA SAP](#)) on Thursday, October 20. During the meeting, the public was able to comment on the pilot program. Several farmers and ranchers testified in opposition of the proposal, citing their own success in applying for these climate smart programs. After a discussion amongst the panelists, they voted to move the proposal forward – despite farmer and rancher opposition. The proposed pilot program will allocate up to 50% of the HSP and SWEEP funds to the pilot block grant structure. The remaining funds will be dedicated to direct farmer and rancher applications. The proposal further allows the block grants to be administered first, with direct grants to follow. The Department will release guidance on next steps, one of which will be a formal public comment period. CAFB will notify membership on this crucial next step and remain engaged on this matter.

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