



## 4-H Program Participation at California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting - December 2019

### Portola Hotel, Monterey California

Sunday Dec 8, 2019 – DeAnza Ballroom 4 – 8 PM

Monterey County 4-H is inviting 4-H members from around the state to be volunteer representatives of the Program at the California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting Trade Show. 4-H members are encouraged to attend in full white clothing, 4-H hat, tie or scarf.

4-6 pm Greet guests at door and tables

*Welcome guests as they enter the event center, interact with Farm Bureau members, industry leaders and general public. Spread the 'We love 4-H' message – talking points will be made available to help stimulate conversations.*

4-5 pm YF&R Discussion Meet Finals - optional for 4-H participation

*Watch the final contestants compete in an exchange of ideas and information on some of the most pressing issues facing agriculture today. The winner will take home cash prizes and a trip to Austin to compete in the American Farm Bureau competition.*

5-7 pm Take Welcome Reception dinner tickets from guests

*Held on the Trade Show floor, the Welcome Reception will feature refreshments, appetizers and fun! Tickets are required for food and beverage.*

**4-H parents are welcome! This Trade Show is free to attend.**

*Features many booths showcasing industry leaders and provides the opportunity for Farm Bureau members from around the state of California to network, exchange ideas and do business.*

Please RVSP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050448adae2ea7f58-4hvolunteer> or use the QR code.

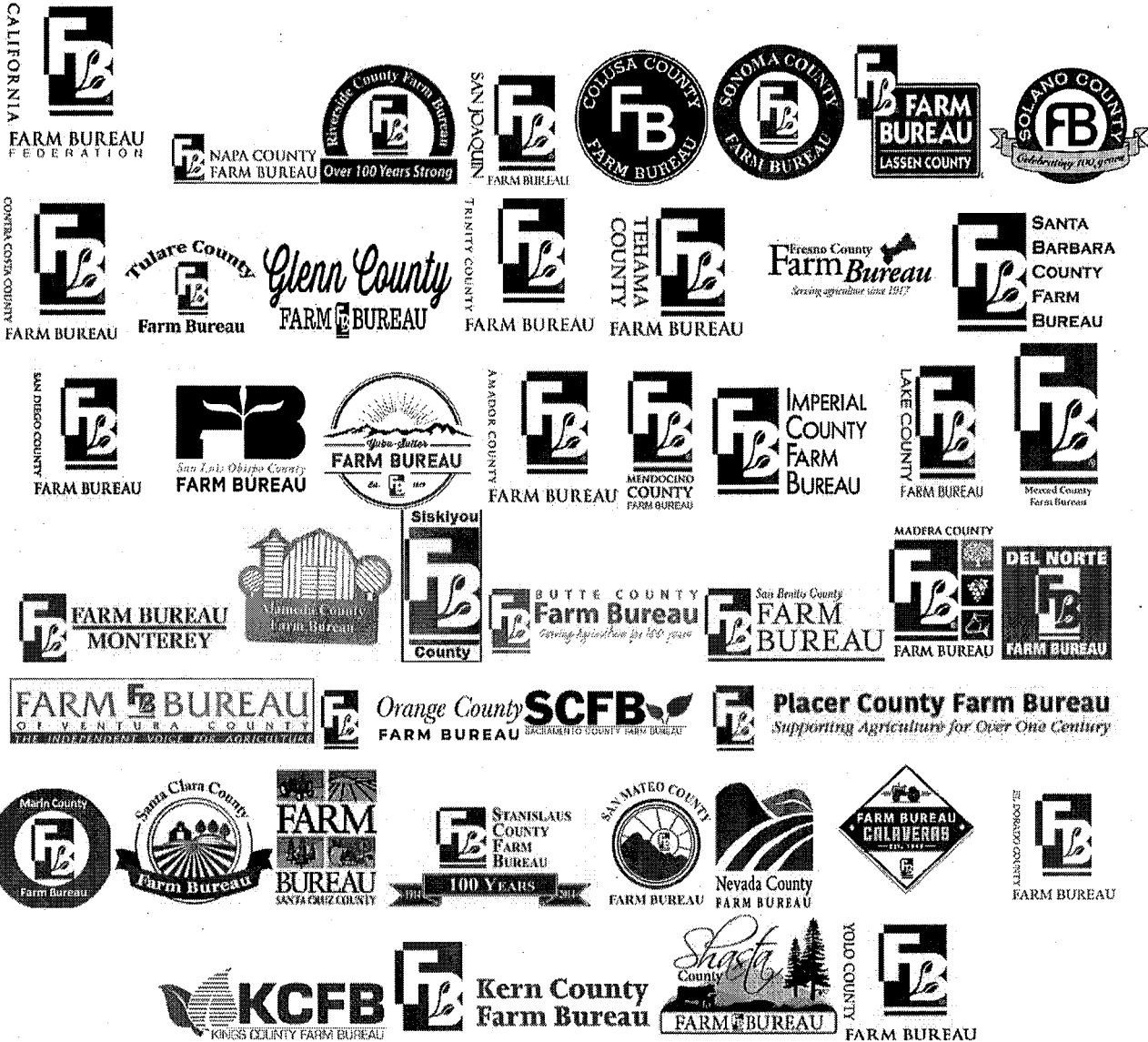


4-H Parent Leadership, Ag Advisors, CFBF Subcommittee Members, Delegates and Managers are also invited to take part in a **Roundtable Discussion** RE: 4-H & UC Extension, budget, progress updates & strategic planning.

**Tuesday Dec 10, 2019, 4:00pm - Colton meeting room (second floor near Steinbeck ballroom)**

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/176836.doc>). Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1318.





October 24, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
 Governor, State of California  
 State Capitol, First Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: University of California  
 Cooperative Extension Funding**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary organization representing nearly 30,000 members from 56 counties, who strive to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources on-farm. For over 100

years, Farm Bureau, along with our 53 County Farm Bureaus, support a network of agricultural leaders who help California maintain its position as the most prosperous, and diverse agricultural state in the Nation.

Since its inception, Farm Bureau has developed and maintained a strong relationship with the University of California's (UC) Cooperative Extension, and as our histories have intertwined, we have matured as mutually-beneficial partners. Established in 1914, Cooperative Extension operated through the Nation's land grant colleges, including the UC system in California. Before Cooperative Extension staff could bring education programs to a particular county, there must first have been a farm organization to guarantee advisors and specialists could reach individual farmers and their families—thus County Farm Bureaus were borne.

To this day, Farm Bureau retains a close association with the UC Cooperative Extension, serving as partners in agricultural research related to pest management, crop modeling, soil health, biodiversity, resource use and efficiency, among other things. Traditionally, this valuable communication has been provided through researchers and specialists, but most notably, Farm Advisors, who work in the field with growers to implement more efficient growing models, solve pest management issues, ensure food safety, and promote resource efficiencies that lead to higher yields with lower inputs.

While the UC Cooperative Extensions' presence has been invaluable to California's agricultural communities and each State Administration has acknowledged its worth, there has been a long-standing decline in funding dedicated to it, and specifically, to Farm Advisors. As a subset of the Office of the President's budget, UC Cooperative Extension and associated agricultural programs have unfortunately been collateral damage, as the President's budget has seen reductions resulting from issues unrelated to these programs (such as retirement liabilities, maintenance costs, and administrative overhead). As such, funding for the UC Cooperative Extension has remained in prolonged decline.

These year-over-year budgetary deductions have real life consequences on the farm. Farm Advisor positions, when filled, aid local farmers to identify harmful pests and diseases, specialize in water use efficient technologies, help farmers select more efficient growing methods or crops, and adapt to climate change. These positions have now become increasingly vacant, and farmers are left to meet the challenges of changing technology, growing safety standards and important environmental and resource management, alone. Without assistance, these challenges are felt most abruptly by new, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, whom are desperately needed with the industry's aging population and the growing global demand for food. If we expect our State to remain on the cutting edge, we must provide our citizenry with the tools to be successful.

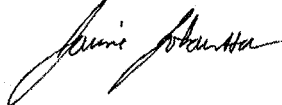
Cooperative Extension's budget reductions also have implications beyond the Farm Advisors, including the 4-H Program, which develops citizenship, leadership and responsibility through agriculturally-focused experiential learning and youth development. 4-H has been the prevailing program to introduce new agricultural technologies to students, prepare them for college through STEM pathways, promote civic engagement, and, ultimately, inspire the next generation of California's farmers and ranchers. 4-H reaches nearly six million students from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities, all through Cooperative Extension. The successes of the 4-H Program are self-evident, but it's worth noting, 4-H graduates are 4 times more likely to contribute to their communities and 2 times more likely to participate in science, engineering and computer science. Young girls in 4-H are nearly 3 times more likely to peruse additional courses and experiences in science, engineering and computer science outside of the classroom, helping young students meet college-readiness standards and achieve higher than average graduation rates. Without funding for this critical program through the State Budget,

positions will be lost and County 4-H programs, some of which are the only exposure to agriculture students will ever have, will dwindle and dissolve.

Farm Bureau has long advocated for the redirection of funding from the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to the UC Cooperative Extension and 4-H specifically, to no avail. Therefore, we humbly request you propose a \$92.6 million ongoing line-item in the release of the January Budget, directed to backfill necessary funding for the UC Cooperative Extension and the 4-H Program. For what is the benefit of investing in agricultural science and technology to improve our communities if there is no functional delivery system to communicate those breakthroughs and no succession planning for our future.

Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity to provide our input and we respectfully requests your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jamie Johansson, President  
California Farm Bureau Federation



Jim Houston, Administrator  
California Farm Bureau Federation

Dan Escobar, Alameda County Farm Bureau  
Jim Spinetta, Amador County Farm Bureau  
Darren Rice, Butte County Farm Bureau  
Mindy Rasmussen, Calaveras County Farm Bureau  
Chris Torres, Colusa County Farm Bureau  
John Viano, Contra Costa County Farm Bureau  
Rob Miller, Del Norte County Farm Bureau  
Gordon Helm, El Dorado County Farm Bureau  
Matthew Efrid, Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Adam Boles, Glenn County Farm Bureau  
Johanna Rodoni, Humboldt County Farm Bureau  
Tom Brundy, Imperial County Farm Bureau  
Howard Arcularius, Inyo-Mono County Farm Bureau  
Tito Martinez, Kern County Farm Bureau  
Monty Hoggard, Kings County Farm Bureau Keith  
Brandt, Lake County Farm Bureau  
Taylor Hagata, Lassen County Farm Bureau  
Nick Davis, Madera County Farm Bureau  
Brian Dolcini, Marin County Farm Bureau  
Kelly Williams, Mariposa County Farm Bureau  
George Hollister, Mendocino County Farm Bureau  
Gino Pedretti, Merced County Farm Bureau  
Cassie Oyarzun, Modoc County Farm Bureau  
Colby Pereira, Monterey County Farm Bureau  
Johnnie White, Napa County Farm Bureau  
Brad Fowler, Nevada County Farm Bureau

Mark Lopez, Orange County Farm Bureau  
Shannon Spears, Placer County Farm Bureau  
Dave Roberti, Plumas-Sierra County Farm Bureau  
Richard Schmid, Riverside County Farm Bureau  
Ken Oneto, Sacramento County Farm Bureau  
Pat Wirz, San Benito County Farm Bureau  
Enrico Ferro, San Diego County Farm Bureau  
David Strecker, San Joaquin County Farm Bureau  
Anna Negranti, San Luis Obispo County Farm  
Bureau  
BJ Burns, San Mateo County Farm Bureau  
Russell Doty, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau  
Paul Mirassou, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau  
Thomas Broz, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
Garrett Wallis, Shasta County Farm Bureau Jim  
Morris, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau  
John Pierson, Solano County Farm Bureau  
Jeff Carlton, Sonoma County Farm Bureau  
Darrell Cordova, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau  
Tyler Christensen, Tehama County Farm Bureau  
Dan Dresselhaus, Trinity County Farm Bureau  
Joe Russell, Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Ken Fleming, Tuolumne County Farm Bureau  
Danny Pererira, Ventura County Farm Bureau  
Joe Martinez, Yolo County Farm Bureau  
Christine Ivory, Yuba-Sutter County Farm Bureau

cc: The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, State of California  
Glenda Humiston, Vice President, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

John Perez, Chair, University of California Board of Regents  
William Lyons, Agricultural Liaison, Office of the Governor  
The Honorable Richard Roth, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance  
The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani, Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Susan Eggman, Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee  
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance