

WILDFIRE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE INFORMATIONAL HEARING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

PANELIST BIOS

Panel 1:

Nick Schuler is the Acting Deputy Director of Communications for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Previous to his current assignment, Chief Schuler spent the past 20 years working for CAL FIRE in San Diego County where he worked in several disciplines within CAL FIRE including nearly 16 years as a member of one of CAL FIRE's 6 Incident Management Teams as the Deputy Incident Commander. Chief Schuler holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership, and Associates Degrees in Fire Science and Emergency Management.

Daniel A. Sumner is the Frank H. Buck, Jr. Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis and the Director of the University of California Agricultural Issues Center.

Sumner teaches an innovative course on the Economics of Agricultural Sustainability and directs an extensive outreach and applied research program on public issues related to agriculture. He has published broadly in academic journals, books, and industry outlets.. He has served as Chair of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium, a consultant for farm organizations, government agencies and companies and is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences and symposia. In 1998, he was named a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association for his career achievements.

Dan was raised on a fruit farm in Suisun Valley, California where he was active in 4-H and FFA. He received a bachelor's degree in agricultural management from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in 1971, a master's degree from Michigan State in 1973, a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago in 1978 and did his Post-doc at RAND.

Kevin Masuhara was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Administration and Finance for CDFA in 2014 and has been with the Department since 2006. Past roles at CDFA have included Director of Marketing Services, Interim Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, County/State Liaison and Program Supervisor over Standardization and Certified Farmers Markets. He has also held various managerial and technical analytical positions at the Department of Justice, CalPERS and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Prior to entering state service, Kevin was the managing general partner in a family farming operation that raised fresh market vegetable crops as well as vine and other seed crops. He also was an area manager for a tomato processing cooperative.

Panel 2:

James D. "Jamie" Johansson was elected president of the California Farm Bureau Federation in December 2017. Johansson previously served as first vice president for two years. He became a statewide officer in 2009, when he was elected second vice president.

Johansson is a former chairman of the CFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee and former vice president of the Butte County Farm Bureau. His service in Farm Bureau has included membership on a half-dozen other statewide advisory and policy recommendation committees. He grows olives and

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citrus fruit in Oroville and operates an olive oil company, Lodestar Farms. He is a co-founder of the Sierra Oro Farm Trail Association and a former board member of the California Olive Oil Council.

Johansson served four years on the Oroville City Council, which selected him to serve as vice mayor. His community involvement also includes service on the Oroville Chamber of Commerce board. He received the Business Advocate of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce and his farm was named Butte County Specialty Farm of the Year by the Economic Planning Corp. Johansson attended the University of Alabama and Colorado State University, where he studied political science.

Eddie Campos, along with Blake Campos and Brooke Campos, owns and runs No boundary Farms. No boundary Farms a 40 acre farm in based in Jamul, CA specifically Lawson Valley. In October 2019, The Campos Family obtained their Industrial Hemp Cultivation License with San Diego County. They have 6 acres of Hemp cultivation on the farm. Eddie Campos is a first generation farmer.

On September 5th, 2020, the Valley Fire sweep through No boundary Farms. Much of the farming operation was destroyed and the Campos family is working to rebuild.

Dr. Dave Daley is a fifth-generation commercial cattle producer from Butte County, running the family ranch near Oroville alongside his son Kyle. Daley is also a leader in California's beef industry, holding leadership positions on the local, state, and national levels.

Daley's family has had cattle on US Forest Service grazing permits in the Plumas National Forest for generations, making him well versed in the issues facing public lands ranchers. He is passionate about preserving public lands grazing, leading him to serve in multiple leadership positions. He is currently chair of the California Public Lands Council, chair of the Washington, DC based Public Lands Council Forest Service Committee, and Chair of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Federal Lands Committee.

For more than 30 years, through is involvement with the College of Agriculture at California State University, Chico, Daley has also been influential in the lives of other current and up-and-coming young cattlemen throughout the state. He recently served as the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture at California State University, and was an animal science professor at the University for many years. Today, Daley, as an emeritus faculty, is still involved with the University through his role as farm administrator for the Paul L. Byrne University Farm.

Daley's experiences as a cow-calf producer and an educator make him invaluable to California's beef producers and the state's cattle industry. In addition to his public land-related leadership roles, he currently serves as chairmen of the California Cattle Council. Daley is also the immediate past president of the California Cattlemen's Association, a past-president of the Butte County Cattlemen's Association, and a member of the animal care committee and the animal identification working group for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

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Karissa Kruse is President of the Sonoma County Winegrowers, a marketing and educational organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Sonoma County as one of the world's premier grape growing regions.

In January of 2017, Kruse launched the Sonoma County Center for Ag Sustainability, a think tank in partnership with the Wharton School of Business, that is focused on bringing subject matter experts from around the United States to Sonoma County to work on issues and opportunities affecting the long-term preservation of agriculture.

She is a partner in a small winery, Argot Wines, and the owner of a 25-acre parcel on Sonoma Mountain, with five acres planted to wine grapes.

Cole Mazariegos-Anastassiou is one of 3 owner-operators of Brisa de Año Ranch in Pescadero, CA along with Cristóbal Cruz Hernández and Verónica Mazariegos-Anastassiou. Brisa is an 8-acre organic farm that grows over 50 different crops of vegetables, fruits, and flowers sold to local businesses and direct-to-consumer through a CSA program. Cole studied agriculture at UC Davis and worked at several different farms before he, Cristóbal, and Verónica founded Brisa in January 2018.

Arnulfo "Nufo" Solorio has been working in the farming business in the Napa Valley since the age of 14. Looking back over almost 40 years, he has come a long ways. Before joining Silverado Farming in 2002, his career in farming included vineyard management positions at Robert Mondavi, Charles Krug, Domaine Chandon and Franciscan Estates.

His work with Silverado has given him the flexibility to find balance between family and work. Additionally, he has managed to fit in his studies which he believes has been the key to his success. He currently holds two Associate degrees with emphasis on agriculture management. He is currently working on his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Nufo strongly believes in supporting the farm labor through education. He has participated in several community events, workshops, and conferences throughout the valley in efforts to help farm workers. He is a leader of the annual Farmworker Foundation Pruning Contest and serves on the board of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers.

Panel 3:

Dan Macon is the UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties and county director for Placer and Nevada Counties. His research and extension priorities focus on climate resilience in rangeland agricultural production systems, livestock-predator coexistence, targeted grazing management, and ranch business viability. Dan also provides administrative oversight for the 4-H Youth Development Program in Placer and Nevada Counties. Prior to accepting this position, he was an associate specialist in rangeland science and management at UC

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Davis. He was also the founding executive director of the California Rangeland Trust (a land trust established by the California Cattlemen's Association).

Dan is also a partner in Flying Mule Sheep Company, a small-scale commercial sheep operation in Auburn, California. He holds a master's degree in integrated resource management from Colorado State University and a bachelor's degree in agricultural and managerial economics from UC Davis. He is a past president of the California Wool Growers Association and the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management. He and his wife Samia have two daughters – Lara (22) and Emma (17).

Kara Heckert, California Regional Director for American Farmland Trust (AFT) directs AFT's programs in California. During a long career working on agricultural sustainability and natural resource conservation in California, she has led the strategy and development of programs that provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, nutrient management, and ecosystem services. Before joining AFT, she was the executive director of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District where she worked with a diverse cross-section of the community on landscape-scale conservation planning, agricultural sustainability, and education. She has planned and implemented watershed-scale conservation planning and farm-scale restoration projects with the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, California State Parks, and local nonprofits. Kara is also a former soil conservationist for NRCS. She is the author and co-author of a variety of stewardship guides, outreach guides, and watershed plans focused on the balance of agricultural sustainability and natural resource management. Kara is a native Californian and the grand-daughter of a Nebraskan dairy and corn farmer. She is an alumna of Sonoma State University where she studied both biology and environmental studies and planning.