

# DRIVING

**Future Leaders to  
Commit, Connect, Conserve**

CALIFORNIA



FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

LEADERSHIP  
FARM BUREAU

2011



COMMIT

CONNECT

CONSERVE

# Table of Contents



Foreword.....	5
Class of 2011.....	6
February.....	8
March.....	10
April.....	12
May.....	14
August.....	16
November.....	18
Impact.....	20

## Foreword

### The Constitution of a Leader

By Brad Goehring, LFB Alumni Council Chair

The word “lead” as defined by Webster’s Dictionary is: to guide on a way especially by going in advance; to direct on a course or in a direction; and to serve as a channel. A leader is one who mobilizes others toward a goal shared by all, while leadership consists of a passion for purpose while understanding people and involving them to help you do a job.

If you think about it, the primary asset of any business or organization is its people or leaders. Simply put, the better the people, the better the organization. Farm Bureau isn’t just another organization; it is an organization comprised of farmers and ranchers committed to protecting our family farms and livelihood. California Farm Bureau values this concept so highly, it has actively worked since 2000 to develop future and upcoming leaders through its Leadership Farm Bureau program (LFB).

LFB is a prestigious and competitive leadership development program designed to develop future leaders, with an emphasis on team building and teamwork. Personal and group exercises allow each participant to hone their leadership and relational skills through media training, public speaking, business etiquette and negotiation skills.

The class of 2011 spent countless hours at our state and national capitals lobbying for our rights to farm. They traveled many miles across California learning local agricultural issues before traveling to Missouri and Illinois to learn the issues there.

This year, the California Farm Bureau Federation celebrates the graduation of its 12th LFB class! The 11 members of this class represent a diverse cross section of California’s agriculture, from Mendocino County in the north to Tulare County in the south. Each of the members sacrificed hundreds of hours away from their families and ranches this past year in order to become some of the best leaders possible in the fight for farming advocacy.

It seems as if each year additional burdens and concerns are being added to our workload, in many cases by legislators farming with a pen some 3,000 miles away. Simply tending to normal, daily routines on the farm is no longer enough to keep us in business. Let us take a moment to celebrate the local hands that feed us and embrace the notion that we have 11 new leaders driven, committed and connecting to conserve the viability of agriculture in our great state!

# Leadership Farm Bureau Class of 2011

## Peter Bauer, Mendocino County



Peter received his associate degree in agriculture business from Reedley College and continued his education by receiving his bachelor's degree in agricultural business with a concentration in farm and ranch management from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 2001. He is a fifth-generation owner and operator of a commercial cattle ranch out of Covelo. In 2009 he was elected to the local school board and served as president. He serves on the Mendocino County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and is the representative for the CFBF Commodity Advisory Committee for Public Lands. He is a member of the Covelo Lions Club and the Covelo FFA Ag Advisory Committee. In 2010 he joined Mendocino County Resource Advisory Committee as the public lands representative.

## Amanda Carvajal, Merced County



Amanda received her bachelor's degree in political science from Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., in 2005 and is currently the executive director of the Merced County Farm Bureau. Previously Amanda worked in a variety of capacities within the political arena, including serving as a member of the research team on the "Texans for Kay" campaign and as a field research analyst for the National Republican Congressional Committee. Additionally, she served as a legislative assistant for Chaney & Associates, a state and local lobbying firm in Washington, D.C.

## Bruce Fry, San Joaquin County



Bruce received his bachelor's degree in agricultural business from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 1995 and currently serves as the president of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation. He is the fifth generation to carry on his family's business, Mohr-Fry Ranches, which farms 12 varieties of winegrapes, two varieties of cherries and more than 20 varieties of heirloom dry beans. He currently is the vice president of operations for Mohr-Fry Ranches. He has served on the board and as vice president and then president of the Lodi District Grape Growers Association from 1999 to 2010. From 2001 to 2010 he served on the board and as treasurer and then vice chairman of the California Association of Winegrape Growers. From 2004 to 2009 he served as vice president and then president of the Winegrape Growers of America.

## Sara Hansen, San Joaquin County



Sara received her bachelor's degree in agricultural studies from California State University, Stanislaus, in 2007. She currently works for San Joaquin Valley Crop Management as field support and also works for NAU Country Insurance as a crop insurance claims adjuster. Throughout the 1990s she served as an officer for 4-H and from 1998 to 2001 she served as chapter and sectional officer for FFA. She also received her State and American FFA degrees.

## Marc Hooper, Lake County



Marc received his associate degree from Northwestern Michigan College in 1972, his bachelor's degree in fruit science (pomology) from Michigan State University in 1977 and his master of business administration in integrative management from Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, MSU, in 1996. He is a pest control advisor and certified crop advisor and works as a consultant for Ag Unlimited, a division of the Lyman Group Inc. In 2008 he joined the Rotary Club of Kelseyville Sunrise where he is president-elect (2012-2013). In 2009 he became chairman of the Genetically Engineered Crops Advisory Committee, advising the Lake County Board of Supervisors. He currently serves as Lake County Farm Bureau's first vice president and director at large.

## Mary Junqueiro, San Joaquin County



Mary received her bachelor's degree in agricultural studies from California State University, Stanislaus, in 2008. She recently joined the Western Plant Health Association as its program director, after having served as Central Valley regional coordinator for California FarmLink and executive assistant for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation. She joined the San Joaquin Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers in 2009 and serves on the board of directors for the SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education.

## Luke Reimers, Glenn County



Luke received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Saint Mary's College of California in 2001. He continued his education by receiving his master's degree in business administration from California State University, Chico, in 2005. He is currently employed by Umpqua Bank as a commercial relationship manager. He has cattle and walnuts.

## Nick Short, Stanislaus County



Nick received his associate degree from Cuesta College in 2001 and his bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Monterey Bay, in 2003. He currently is ranch manager of Short Ranch, where he grows almonds and walnuts. He was elected to serve on the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 2010. He is also a member of the Stanislaus County Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

## Lyndi Smith, Tulare County



Lyndi received her associate degree in agriculture from College of the Sequoias in 1999 and her bachelor's degree in agronomy from California State University, Fresno, in 2002. She is now employed by Innovative Ag Services LLC as an account manager, where she assists dairy producers in complying with environmental regulations. In addition to attending seminars and conferences to stay current on dairy regulations, she also maintains pest control advisor and certified crop advisor licenses. Since 1995 she has been a member and held several positions with the Tulare County Young Farmers & Ranchers. She is a current/founding member of the Visalia Farmers Market Volunteer Committee and volunteers with FoodLink for Tulare County, Habitat for Humanity and as a run mentor with Team in Training.

## Darin Titus, Glenn County



Darin majored in plant science at California State University, Chico. He was an active member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, serving as chaplain and chairman of membership development. In 1999 he was hired by Peterson Ranch/Chico Nut Co. as a field manager. In 2005 he accepted the job of general manager of farming operations for Hart Farms. In 2006 he was elected to the Glenn County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and now serves on the executive board, holding the office of second vice president. In 2008 he became a school board member for Plaza School District. He maintains active roles on both boards.

## Jordan Whaley, Tulare County



Jordan received his bachelor's degree in agricultural business with a concentration in agricultural policy from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in 2006. He also attended Allan Hancock College and received Basic P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) in 2006. He is currently employed by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department as an agriculture crime detective. From 1998 to 2002 he held several positions within FFA, including regional vice president and sentinel, sectional president and several chapter positions. From 2003 to 2006 he was involved with Collegiate Agriculture Ambassadors, holding the positions of president, vice president and conference chairman. He has been a member of the Young Farmers & Ranchers Executive Committee since 2008.



## First Impressions and a Whirlwind First Session

By Jordan Whaley, Tulare County, and Sara Hansen, San Joaquin County

Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, was our first meeting as LFB class of 2011! We all hit it off from the start. Our first session was a busy one. We began with introductions of our class members and then heard from California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger. He explained to us his role in CFBF and how the organization helps California farmers and ranchers. We heard from a variety of people within CFBF as our session progressed and learned what division they worked in and why each division is an important component of CFBF.

Members of the National Affairs and Research Division informed us about issues they are working on and how those issues can and will impact our farmers and ranchers. They are working on numerous bills and propositions in Washington, D.C. We participated in a policy review exercise in which we analyzed multiple propositions and bills, determined if CFBF would support or oppose the issue, and then presented our findings to the class. Learning about the policy review process made us all very excited about our trip to D.C. in May.

We had a fabulous time with the ladies from the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom! They informed us about the program and how they educate and familiarize elementary school students with agriculture. It was a hands-on presentation and very informative. They gave us great handouts that California teachers receive to help them educate children about



*Class member Bruce Fry models during the dress for success workshop.*

agriculture. Ag in the Classroom is definitely an essential part of CFBF.

Not only did we learn about CFBF, but we also learned about etiquette. This was just as fun as it was informative. We got a lot of help on how to greet people in an appropriate manner and also learned proper dining etiquette. Shirley Willey, founder of Etiquette & Company, kept us on our toes the whole time she was with our class.

After we perfected our etiquette skills, we had a visit for the men! Olie Lyke from Patrick James Clothiers showed the men in our class how to dress appropriately for casual, business casual and business professional situations. It was informative for the whole class.

On our last day, we all were assigned mentors. We broke up into groups, met with our mentors and visited with them about their time in Leadership Farm Bureau. We also set personal achievement goals for the program. All of us are very happy to have the help and support of our mentors.

We had a very busy first session with our LFB class of 2011. It was exciting learning all about CFBF, and we brought home a wealth of knowledge that will enable us to help CFBF and our local Farm Bureaus. We are excited about the upcoming sessions and challenge ourselves to become more effective leaders in our community. 🚗



## Strength in Numbers: The Power of Teamwork

By Nick Short, Stanislaus County, and Darin Titus, Glenn County

LFB class of 2011 has started our second session and, according to the stages of a relationship, we are transitioning out of the honeymoon phase—where we laugh at each others' corny jokes for the sake of being polite and bite our tongues to keep from offending anyone—to the storming phase of being openly critical of ideas and focusing on the class work in front of us without fear of awkwardness. In a nutshell, LFB class of 2011 is starting to come together and become efficient.

To start our first of three days, a team-building consultant had us each place ourselves on a personality chart based on characteristics identified by completing a self-evaluation. The class was evenly spread across the board in four specific categories: expressive, supportive, analytical and driver. Understanding the diversity of personalities in a group allows the group to function more efficiently by identifying those specific personalities.

Our next round of exercises included blindfolds, a large rope and lots of verbal direction giving. We walked the halls of CFBF and were led slowly and cautiously down the stairs out to the front of the building. Still blindfolded, we were confronted by the tedious and daunting task of stretching an elastic band around a small can and relocating this can without spilling the contents within. We are proud to say LFB class of 2011 accomplished our goal without any major mishaps.

Day 2 consisted of Commodity Advisory Committee meetings and the Leaders Conference. For those of us in the class who needed a little more clarification as to what exactly CFBF does to represent the voice of agriculture, this was the day. Our representation from the farms and ranches to our elected assemblymembers and senators is second to none. This was an opportunity to represent our industry through the relationships that Farm Bureau has forged in Sacramento. We visited numerous representatives' offices in the state Capitol building, voicing our concerns and opinions to our elected officials. It was a chance for all of us to be actively engaged and feel like our voices had been heard—very much an experience that all in the class will value for a long time to come.

Day 3 started off with the class engaged in a group discussion about our homework, which is pulled from John C. Maxwell's book, "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader." Each month the class is tasked with reviewing six or seven of the qualities so that we can discuss them as a group. These activities have been a great learning experience for all of us.

We then traveled to St. John's Shelter Program for Women and Children, where we got to experience what the center

does for the residents and how residents utilize its services. Part of the class helped the donation center staff organize the food pantry and arrange donated clothing by size and style. Others in the class unloaded boxes and helped reorganize the center's warehouse to make room for mattresses and other incoming dona-



*Class members participate in a team-building exercise focusing on the importance of clear communication.*

tions. We were also able to repair their roll-up door, so we had the opportunity to use some of our own experience to help them. The entire class was deeply moved by what the staff and volunteers at St. John's are doing to help women and children. It was a rewarding experience for all of us, and we all took away a sense of accomplishment at what we were able to do to assist the center. 🚗



## Communicating the Message

By Luke Reimers, Glenn County, and Marc Hooper, Lake County

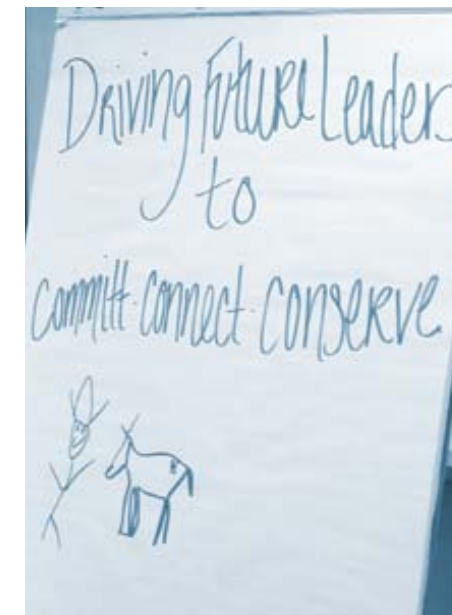
Challenged with delivering agriculture's message, the 2011 Leadership Farm Bureau class began a three-day study of communication and ways to more effectively define and deliver our message. We worked to fine-tune author John C. Maxwell's truths of good communication by defining, simplifying and clarifying our message, then carefully focusing on our audience and working toward developing a message that will elicit the desired response from our audience.

We worked together to develop a short phrase that defines our vision of how, as farmers, we would express our passion for agriculture and ag leadership. This call to action, our class theme, is tied to a strong commitment to sustainable farming practices and conservation of resources far into the future. The theme for LFB class of 2011 is: "Driving future leaders to commit, connect and conserve."

"Control your own destiny or someone else will," said General Electric's Jack Welch. Our challenge as leaders in agriculture will continue to be to define and redefine our future as the world changes around us. California Farm Bureau's objectives in public policy are to: support agriculture and business-friendly candidates; empower farmers and ranchers to share their story; and educate policymakers.

Serving on county Farm Bureau boards—what's it all about? We learned from CFBF General Counsel Nancy Mc-

Donough that it must be about representing farming interests locally in agriculture policy developed at the grassroots level and then speaking with one voice when you walk out the boardroom door.



Following a lengthy brainstorming session, the final mission statement is sketched.

Lights, camera, action! Yikes! Communications/News Division Manager Dave Kranz's even tone, prodding questions and professional reporter demeanor showed us that time in front of the camera needs to be simplified, personable, the truth and meant to deliver our message clearly and seek a response.

Rancher Jeff Fowle of KK Ranch in Sis-

kiyou County led us in a discussion of the "fit" for social media in our lives and businesses. AgChat Foundation is one of Jeff's routes of communicating from his ranch to the world beyond his operation, including those who don't understand our passion, lifestyle, honesty, fairness and environment. Jeff communicates by presenting simple and direct messages, followed by longer-winded blogs, expressed through words and pictures and broadcast to the Internet world. Jeff is online in one form or another daily. His message to us was, "Find your theme, your story and then get about telling it."

Leo McElroy from Bouchard Communications Group coached us through the thought process of preparing for an interview. He challenged us to connect and exchange ideas with our audience; think about standing when possible, not sitting; consider our posture and how it affects control of our speech; dress to fit the situation; and finally, perfect our microphone technique.

Our take-away for this session: No matter what avenue you choose to communicate through, or that is chosen for you, make sure your message fits your audience and focus on them. Then communicate that message succinctly and without hesitation, repeating it when necessary. Leave your audience with a message that calls for action on behalf of the ideas you are promoting. 🚗



During a break between agency visits, the entire CFBF delegation and staff pose for a group photo.

## Farmers and Ranchers Become Lobbyists: It's an Exciting New Experience!

By Peter Bauer, Mendocino County; Nick Short, Stanislaus County; and Mary Junqueiro, San Joaquin County

The 2011 Leadership Farm Bureau group took our Washington, D.C., trip in concert with the CFBF National Affairs and Research Division's D.C. trip in late May.

Our group gathered together on Sunday, May 22, and went to Arlington National Cemetery. We saw John F. Kennedy's gravesite and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where we were able to witness the changing of the guard. Some in the group went on to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for the full tour there. At the end of the day, the LFB group met up with the National Affairs group to have dinner at Old Glory BBQ in Georgetown. The CFBF officer team of Paul Wenger, Kenny Watkins and Jamie Johansson joined us as well.

On Monday, May 23, we got to work with introductions to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the staff and the vital roles they play in the organization. That afternoon our group took a tour of the nation's Capitol and had the privilege of sitting in on a Senate session. We later met with staff from the House Agriculture Committee, listening to their take on the next farm bill. It's amazing how easily governmental employees and officials throw around terms such as "millions" and "billions" like it's change for the vending machine.

That evening our LFB group dined

at the legendary Fogo de Chao, where some of us did our best to eat them out of house and home.

The second day we met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We heard from representatives of various arms of the organization, including National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Each of them spoke on different issues or obstacles they face. Following this visit, some of the class went to the Mexican Embassy and some went to the Pentagon.

At the Mexican Embassy, the group received a description of America's relationship with Mexico. We learned much about the trading situation and the amount of exports sent to Mexico. The Pentagon trip involved meeting with and speaking to the Army Corps of Engineers about wetlands mitigation and local water storage projects. The group later united and met with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who was kind enough to sit down and talk with us for a few minutes. Again, we listened and later had an opportunity to discuss some of our concerns. We had different vantage points of the same issue that we were able to speak about. Our final engagement was a visit with staff members of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The third day, Tuesday, May 24, we had

breakfast at AFBF, met with AFBF President Bob Stallman and then broke out into our groups to meet with congressional representatives. Cumulatively, we walked into 53 offices, possibly more. During our meetings, we shared our concerns with government officials about E-Verify and how it had the potential to harm a \$38 billion industry at a time when damaging any paying job would create further economic constraints. A more workable alternative would include an agricultural worker program that would allow for foreign workers to enter the country legally, and provide agriculture a more stable and reliable work force.

We also discussed the trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea, as well as the budget, farm bill and the effects that funding, or the lack thereof, could have on the USDA, specifically APHIS. Our group did a great job of telling personal stories. We felt like much of what we said was well received by the legislators and their staff. Whether or not they will be able to act on it is another question.

Our group did a fantastic job of communicating with the various arms of government while we were in Washington, D.C. We were able to be not just names on paper or emails, but we were faces in their offices. We were able to look them in the eye and get our message across. 🚗



Biologist René Reyes, second from right, shows fish caught during the afternoon count at the Tracy Fish Collection Facility.



Leadership Farm Bureau class of 2011 gathered Aug. 10 at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation to prepare for our upcoming trip and meet our first speaker, CFBF Director of Water Resources Danny Merkley. He and Katie Patterson, LFB alum and San Joaquin Farm Bureau program director, provided an overview of the complex water issues facing the entire state, current legislation and the longstanding controversy over control of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Our first stop of the day was the Jones Pumping Plant in Tracy, which is part of the Central Valley Project run by the Bureau of Reclamation. The pumps in Tracy push water along the Delta-Mendota Canal, one of the major conveyances of water from the delta to the San Joaquin Valley. Pat Bell, operations manager for the San Luis-Delta Mendota Authority, provided background on all facets of the operation and allowed us to see the entire site including the pumps, the advanced technology used to activate those pumps and the extensive electrical source used to power the pumps.

Afterwards, we headed out to the federal Tracy Fish Collection Facility, which has been the center of the delta smelt controversy in prior years. Our guide, René Reyes, provided us with a unique opportunity to view the collection and fish-counting process, which was a first for the LFB organization. We

## Broadening Our Knowledge of Agriculture in California

By Amanda Carvajal, Merced County; Sara Hansen, San Joaquin County; and Darin Titus, Glenn County

were able to view the stages of screening and have a candid conversation with René on his perspective on impacts from farmers and ranchers in the Central Valley. He ended the tour by giving us each a fish poster.

From Tracy we traveled to Sonoma, where we met up with LFB alum Steve Kafka, a forester in Calaveras County. He led us to our dinner destination—La Bella Rosa Vineyards—with host Tuolumne County Farm Bureau. Owner Ron Peterson and the TCFB created a wonderful dinner and homemade ice cream that could only be topped by the excellent scenery that the winery provided.

Day two was stacked with several tours, compliments of tour guide Steve. Our first stop was at Sierra Pacific Industries, where we saw the processing of logs into a variety of commercial fence posts and boards. Steve and Registered Forester Tim Tate then took us to an actual logging operation with Crook Logging, where we learned firsthand how the company's 80-year business plan and re-growth process has shown to be quite efficient and beneficial for the environment. We also viewed the sizing and bark-removal processing, which captivated the entire group.

Lunch was hosted by the Brennan family, public grazing permittees in the Stanislaus National Forest. Sherri Brennan reiterated the general frustrations expressed by leaders at Sierra Pacific Indus-



Class members pose for a group picture at Camp Sylvester.

tries regarding over-regulation by federal and state agencies. Next, we traveled to Cover's Apple Ranch to see their family-owned business, which they have made into a popular agritourism spot. Tuolumne County Sheriff James Mele also facilitated a group discussion about the recent trend of rural crimes in the county. We were lucky enough to leave with our own homemade apple pie for dessert.

Pine Crest was our final destination for the day, where we met with representatives from TuCare, a water-education program in the county. We also met Tuolumne County Public Works Director Pete Kampa, who provided insight into his county's plight as a region where all the spring water run-off from the snowpack begins. That night, we had the opportunity to stay at Stanislaus County Farm Bureau's own Camp Sylvester.

After a rousing evening at Camp Sylvester, we wrangled our belongings, loaded the bus and headed west to Oakdale. Our first stop of the day was at the Hoekstra Dairy.

Part owner and LFB alum Kurt Hoekstra pointed out that the dairy is unique because the family specializes in their breeding program. Specifically, they have crossed breeds and developed a cow that has a stronger frame and provides large quantities of milk. We were allowed to walk the entire dairy, starting in the milk barn, working our way to the feed storage area and finishing in the free stall barns.

Not only did we learn about the dairy's breeding program, but we also learned about their feeding program and the nutritionist that helps them develop a program specific to their herds' needs—which at times even includes almond hulls!

On Aug. 12, we ended our three-day tour back at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau office. The trip was an amazing experience that all enjoyed. We learned a lot about different sectors that most of us do not directly come in contact with. Each of us now has a better understanding and appreciation for California agriculture and its many facets. 🚗



*Monsanto's soybean display, right, offers class members an opportunity for a group photo. Below, members listen to an explanation of the ag mechanics pathway at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.*



## From Seeds to Futures: A Midwest Perspective of Agriculture

By Lyndi Smith, Tulare County, and Bruce Fry, San Joaquin County

Our whirlwind trip covered 500 miles and two states—Missouri and Illinois—all in five short days. To start things off, the Monsanto Co. hosted the group for dinner on our first evening in Missouri, and we headed to the Monsanto research headquarters in Chesterfield the next morning. During our time with key researchers and through a facilities tour, we focused on the issues facing the organization and what they are working on in plant breeding and biotechnology. Interestingly, Monsanto began in 1901 selling sweetener to Coca-Cola, entered the agriculture industry in 1945 and today is a leading agribusiness and a world leader in agriculture science.

Our next stop was Scott Farm, where third-generation corn and soybean grower Mark Scott shared the ins and outs of his 1,600-acre farming operation in Wentzville and how 35 inches of annual rainfall allow him to forego irrigation.

At Chandler Hill Vineyards in Defiance, Director and CEO Chuck Gillentine gave us a wonderful tour that included a full tasting of their wine portfolio on a deck overlooking 40 acres of open space and vineyards. Chuck spoke about their business model of marketing events and agritourism. A noteworthy part of their business plan is that of the 24 wines they bottle, only seven are from Missouri; half are from California, with a few each from Washington and Oregon.

After a stay in Springfield, Ill., we headed to one of four Caterpillar plants in Peoria,

the "SS" Caterpillar Plant. This plant builds only seven models of Caterpillar track layers, from a 229-horsepower D6 to an 850-horsepower D11, with people—not robots—doing the work. This American company is shipping "Made in the USA" products around the world.


At the Illinois Farm Bureau Federation in Bloomington, President Phillip Nelson and several members of his staff treated us to a delicious lunch. We had a thorough discussion of Illinois agriculture, the No. 1 horse-radish and No. 2 corn and soybean state, and the pressing issues facing the Midwest. Many similarities were noted, including a state government spending deficit of \$13 billion and farmers and ranchers that are overburdened by state regulations.

Next, California native Wes Lujan gave us a tour of the Joliet Intermodal Terminal of Union Pacific, where this state-of-the-art terminal sits on 550 acres in Joliet. Utilizing the latest technologies such as fingerprint recognition, the facility is able to get trucks checked in in less than four minutes. Running 24/7, this centrally located terminal's main focus is moving international containers to and from the West Coast. To tie in transportation of corn and soybeans, we made a short stop at Prairie Creek Grain Elevator before calling it a day.

As the last working farm within the city limits of Chicago and a member of the Chicago public school system, the 72-acre Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

is nothing less than amazing and started our last day of tours off right. The 600 students choose coursework in one of five pathways—food science, ag business, animal science, horticulture or ag mechanics—and receive hands-on training with livestock, an aviary, commercial kitchen, greenhouse, hydroponic greenhouse, tilapia grow tanks and a farm store, to name a few. The newest addition is a golf course designed by the ag mechanics students and maintained by the horticulture program during their turf management focus. Impressively, CHAS boasts a 90 percent graduation rate and 83 percent of those students go on to college.

To finish our trip from seeds to futures, we visited the Chicago Board of Trade. This is where buyers and sellers meet to buy options and futures on agricultural and financial products. We had the opportunity to see the Friday closing of both the commodity and financial markets. From the process of buying and selling of futures and options to how the traders communicate only by hand signals, this tour provided an intense look at how commodities are traded worldwide.

Our trip wrapped up on Saturday morning with a debriefing before we parted ways. What stood out the most is how much we in California agriculture set the standard for our counterparts. We have the ports and the crops that many depend on, along with being on the forefront in setting environmental standards. 



# Impact

## A Challenge to Make a Difference

Farmers and ranchers working their lands feed the world; however, fewer than 2 percent of Americans reside on a farm or ranch. With this disconnect, it is up to all of us to tell our story, advocate to preserve our agricultural heritage and communicate to society how fortunate Americans are to have access to the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world.

In order to do that effectively, we must have a broad perspective of agriculture and have an understanding of the issues facing farmers and ranchers throughout our respective counties, state and nation. Furthermore, as a successful leader in Farm Bureau, having a firsthand knowledge of the resources available through the organization is a must.

Since its inaugural class in 2000, Lead-

ership Farm Bureau has provided nearly 150 Farm Bureau members from every part of California a unique and exclusive opportunity to reach their leadership potential and experience agriculture from the hands-on, first-person perspective of fellow growers throughout California and the United States. During their program year, each class member receives more than 250 hours of instruction focusing on agricultural issues, experiencing the commonalities and differences of agriculture in various areas and honing the personal communication and advocacy skills that help us effectively tell our story about what takes place on our own farms and ranches. From Farm Bureau structure to governmental affairs and, of course, over eight days of farm tours throughout the

year, members have the opportunity to network with agricultural leaders and benefit from a specific combination of instruction and experience.

More than 80 percent of LFB alumni remaining active in leadership roles within all levels of Farm Bureau, and the depth and commitment of these individuals and their experience, speaks for itself.

LFB challenges participants to step outside their comfort zone, set goals and work toward achieving the common purpose of making a positive impact on their county, state and nation. Consider LFB and consider making a difference for the farming and ranching way of life.

For more information, visit  
[www.cfbf.com/lfb](http://www.cfbf.com/lfb)



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**Future Leaders to  
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