



Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program

Class XIX

Session 6 - California

September 7-12, 2025

“Employment, Emigration, Environment”



Sacramento, CA – Lodging for Sunday
Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown
300 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sunday, September 7, 2025

5:45 pm Check into Hotel
 Depart for dinner, suggest sharing Ubers
 2200 T Street | Sacramento, CA 95816

***Dinner & Social Sponsored by
American Pistachio Growers and OrCal***

6:00 pm Social hour
7:00 pm **Dinner & Speakers**
 Heath Flora – California State Assembly Minority Leader
 Other California State Assembly Members (TBD)
 Zachary Frasier - CEO of American Pistachio Growers
 Thomas Putzel – SW Territory Manager at OrCal

9:00 pm Depart for hotel

Monday, September 8, 2025

Presiders	Lindsay Baerwald & Ross Vinson
Attire	Business
Transportation	Charter Bus
Breakfast	On your own in hotel

7:30 am Check out of hotel and bring all luggage
8:30 am Depart by bus for California Department of Food and Agriculture
8:40 am Please sign in with security upon arrival
9:00 am **Challenges and Opportunities facing California Agriculture**
 Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
9:45 am Q&A
10:00 am Move from meeting room to the lobby for group picture
10:30 am Depart for California Farm Bureau Offices

Presiders	Cassidy Nemec & Kody Cox
------------------------	-------------------------------------

11:00 am **Welcome** **Dan Durham**, COO, California Farm Bureau
11:30 am **Energy** **Karen Mills**, Vice President - Legal Advocacy
 Kevin Johnston, Director and Counsel, Legal Advocacy

Lunch Sponsored by California Farm Bureau

12:00 pm **Water** **Kari Fisher**, Senior Director and Counsel, Legal Advocacy
 Alex Biering, Director, Policy Advocacy

1:00 pm	Break
1:15 pm	Immigration Bryan Little , COO, FELS Matthew Viohl , Director, Federal Policy
1:45 pm	Insurance Peter Ansel , Director, State Policy Advocacy
2:15 pm	Political Affairs & Predatory Issues Steven Fenaroli , Director, Policy Advocacy
3:00 pm	Depart for Nuss Farms

Presiders Rex Brandon & David Derry

4:00 pm	Nuss Farms Operations & Overview Tim Nuss, VP of Operations at Nuss Farms
5:30 pm	Depart for hotel -Holiday Inn Express - Lodi
6:00 pm	Arrive at hotel & Dinner on your own

Tuesday – September 9, 2025

Presiders Tim Akers & Michael Cochran
Attire Business
Transportation Charter Bus
Breakfast On your own in hotel

7:00 am	Check out of hotel and bring all luggage
7:30 am	Depart for Lodi Farms
8:00 am	Lodi Farming Overview & Tour Jeff Colombini President & CALP 28
10:00 am	Depart by bus for Pearl Crop

Presiders: Scotta Faulkenberry & Chase Hampton

10:30 am	Pearl Crop Overview & Tour	Ulash Turkhan , President & CALP 42
12:30 pm	Lunch on Bus	
1:00 pm	Depart for Mapes Ranch	

Presiders: Nicholas Slough & Liz Phillips

1:30 pm **Mapes Ranch Overview & Tour** **Bill Lyons**, Owner & CALP 12

Presiders: Darci Luensmann & Thomas Hicklen

3:30 pm	Depart for reception
4:00pm	Reception hosted & sponsored by Bill Lyons, Mapes Ranch & CALP 12
6:30pm	Depart for Hotel - Double Tree by Hilton Modesto

Wednesday – September 10, 2025

Presiders	Kody Cox & Mike Atkinson
Attire	Business
Transportation	Charter Bus
Breakfast	Provided at morning meeting

7:00 am Check out of hotel and load all luggage onto bus

7:15 am Meet at elevator for The Almond Board of California (in hotel)

7:30 am Elisa Keener will escort group and gain access to
The Almond Board of California offices

7:30 am **Breakfast Sponsored by: *The Almond Board of California***

**Almond Board of California: Responsibilities, Issues facing the
industry & Almond production in California**

Julie Adams, Vice President
Global Technical & Regulatory Affairs

CA Ag Leadership Update **Bryce Spycher**, Sr. Manager
Marketing Order Services

9:15 am Depart for **Hilmar Cheese**

Presiders:	Jaylen Wallace & David Cortez
-------------------------	--

9:30 am **Hilmar Cheese Overview & Tour**

10:45 am Stop By Café and pick up lunches
Lunch on the Bus

11:00 am Depart for **DeJager Farms**

12:00 pm **DeJager Farms: Dairy and Diversified farming**
Mr. Nate Ray, General Manager of farming operations

12:40 pm Depart for **Live Oak Farms**

Presiders:	McCrae McCormick & Ethan Westfall
-------------------------	--

1:00 pm **Live Oak Farms: Vegetable Farm and processing facility**
Ms. Briana Giampaoli, Family farmer/ Owner

2:00 pm Depart for **East Horizon Ranch**

3:00 pm **MyLand Overview** **Jonah Parker**, Investor Relations
TALL Alumnus XIV

East Horizon Ranch & Wylie Farms Overview **Justin Wylie**

Presiders	Briscoe Cain & Cassidy Nemec
------------------------	---

5:30 pm Depart for Reception in Fresno

Reception & Dinner Hosted & Sponsored by:

*Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, California Fresh Fruit Association, and
Fresno County Farm Bureau*

6:30 pm Reception

7:00 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Program

- **Roger A. Isom** – President/CEO, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA)
- **Priscilla Rodriguez** – Assistant Vice President, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA)
- **Christopher McGlothlin** – Assistant Vice President of Technical Services, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) and Western Tree Nut Association (WTNA)
- **Daniel Hartwig** – President, California Fresh Fruit Association
- **Don Cameron** - Terranova Ranches and current Chairman of the Board of the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
- **Mandy Critchley** – Owner, Critchley Family Farms

9:00 pm Depart for Hotel - **The Doubletree by Hilton Fresno Convention Center**

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Presiders:	Rex Brandon & Liz Phillips
Attire:	Business
Transportation	Charter Bus
Breakfast:	On your own in hotel

7:30 am Depart hotel for J.D. Heiskell & Co. - Pixley Mill

8:30 am **J.D. Heiskell & Co. - Pixley Mill Overview & Tour**

Matt Creighton, California Fibers Trader
JDH Strategist & CGFA Past President

9:30 am **Depart for Hansen Ranches**

10:00 am Hansen Ranches Tour & Overview

12:00 pm Depart for Big Stump
Lunch on the bus Sponsored by MyLand

Presiders	Kody Cox & Ross Vinson
------------------------	-----------------------------------

2:00 pm Arrive at the gate of Big Stump for the Sequoias Tour

Kelly Kucharski, District Manager,
Sierra Resource Conservation District

4:30 pm Depart for **Denham Forest**

Presiders	Tim Akers & Lindsay Baerwald
------------------------	---

5:30 pm **Denham Forest**

Tour, overview, and dinner Joe Denham, President & Board Director
Sierra Resource Conservation District

8:30 pm Depart for the Hotel

The Doubletree by Hilton Fresno Convention Center

9:00 pm Arrive at Hotel, Free Evening

Friday, September 12, 2025

ADJOURNED! CHECK OUT OF HOTEL