

# SAN JOAQUIN SOUNDING

*California Women for Agriculture*



SJ CWA MEMBER, SUSIE CALHOUN HAS BEEN BUSY LEARNING AND ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE. SHE SAW AN EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE SOUNDING, A PANDEMIC CANCELLED HER BELOVED ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR, AND A LAND USE/SUCCESSION ISSUE LED TO SUSIE EXPLORING AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST AND ALL THAT IT OFFERED TO WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. SEE PG. 4 & 5 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT SUSIE HAS BEEN DOING IN HER SPARE TIME!

ARTWORK: MADDY TRAYNOR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Authority

There are so many definitions and applications of this word. We all have authority. We also all have someone of authority over us. The struggle is what makes our history. These are very troubling times that we are living in. I am a positive and optimistic person by nature. I choose to ignore bad behavior and negative stimulation. I think I am not alone. Putting our heads in the sand and hoping someone else will figure out how to fix a problem, is unrealistic.

We have figures of authority in our existence. They are in charge of our lives, livelihood, children, religion, food, water, everything. We have more information and the ability to share it, than any other time in existence. We need to make sure that we are taking advantage of that opportunity to educate ourselves to both sides of a problem. Whether it's in your own family, business, school district, community, state, you get the picture. When we give others our power, we have no one to blame but ourselves. There are always going to be those who abuse their authority or take advantage of being given blind trust.

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APRIL 2022

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Table Setting Update  
Scholarship applications due soon  
American Farmland Trust and Susie



## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

- 14 - AgVenture in Tracy (see pg. 6)
- 15 - Scholarship applications are due (see pg. 3 for contact information)
- 20 - SJ CWA meeting at 6:00 at San Joaquin Farm Bureau office in Stockton

### MAY

- 6-7 - SJ CWA 25th Annual Table Setting Event, Roberts-Union Farm Center
- 16-17 - SWM in Sacramento
- 18 - SJ CWA meeting, time/place TBD, suggestions requested!
- 21 - Linden Cherry Festival

### JUNE

- 9-18 - San Joaquin AgFest
- 15 - SJ CWA meeting, time/place TBD

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT.

We cannot allow others to misrepresent our words or wishes. We must communicate and keep dialogue open to find solutions to issues. When I say communicate, I mean to talk to each other, and listen. You do not get to give your thoughts and expect someone else to feel the same. You must negotiate and debate the benefits and pitfalls of all ideas. That is growth and education for all involved.

It is a very scary world we live in. My kids are scared. I am scared. I get up every morning with new hope in my heart. My list of to-do's always involve giving my kids hope for the day. The news is not on in our household in the mornings, I found it upset the kids before school. I tell them to be kind and have a good day and always, that I love them. I go to work and try to solve problems there. I come home and work on some of my volunteer obligations, and I watch the news, social media, and wonder what can I do better tomorrow.

Education and Communication go hand in hand to solve the world's problems. Do not give someone the authority to guide your life without participating in the narrative of the decisions. Take part in solutions, communications, actions, education and collaboration.

Stay Safe, Healthy and Communicate.

Leslie Avansino

## 25TH ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

Celebrations in the Country, SJ CWA's 25th Annual Table Setting Luncheon is **Saturday, May 7** at the Roberts-Union Farm Center (Viewing is Friday, May 6, see more details below). Details are being buttoned down and we have some updates.

Roxann Fugazi (209.471.7699) would appreciate notification if you are contacting a business for a sponsorship in order to avoid duplications. You will also receive a form letter with all the needed information.

If you have an amazing set of dishes and an awesome theme, and would like to set a table, contact Edele Norman at [robedele@msn.com](mailto:robedele@msn.com) or 209.986.7641 to see if there is still a spot for you. Also, if you would like to attend the luncheon, call Edele to get tickets (or be placed on the wait list).

One of the ways for this to be a successful event is by selling opportunity drawing tickets. Contact Edele, get your tickets and then sell some to your friends and family. First prize is \$500 worth of gift cards! A quilt and \$50 cash round out the prizes.

Busy on Saturday? **Friday night, May 6** viewing with sparkling wine and appetizers is a fun option. You will get to see all the tables at their finest for only \$10. Edele is your contact for tickets to the Friday evening festivities. Contact Karen Cultrera at 209.982.4945 if you are planning on bringing an appetizer for Friday evening's festivities. We would love to include your sweet or savory small bites.

## APRIL MEETING - APRIL 20

Our next meeting is April 20 at 6:00 at San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) office 3290 N Ad Art Way in Stockton. Business meeting so there will be no guest speaker. If you have (or are) someone you would like to have speak to our group, please contact Leslie Avansino for more information for a future date.

# CWA BOARD

## Executive Board

### President

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#### Lodi, Galt, Woodbridge, Lone,

#### French Camp, Lockeford

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#### Manteca, Ripon

#### (and all non-SJ county members)

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#### Linden

Candice Ghio 209.601.3714  
[candice@theghios.com](mailto:candice@theghios.com)

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

### CELEBRATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

Seriously, CALLING ALL MEMBERS! We do need your help with Opportunity Drawing tickets sales. Please contact Edele Norman. Also, go back and check out the article on page 2 for more information about the Sponsorship, the opportunity drawing, ticket availability, how you can help out for Friday evening festivities, etc.

### AGVENTURE - LAST ONE OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

We need your help at AgVenture! The final AgVenture of this school year is Thursday, April 14, in Tracy.

Please contact Krista McCoon at [sjcagventure@yahoo.com](mailto:sjcagventure@yahoo.com) or 209.402.5734.

If you can help with the hosted breakfast for volunteers, please contact Karen Cultrera at [cultrerar@aol.com](mailto:cultrerar@aol.com) or 209.982.4945.

You can learn about dried cherries by listening to a YouTube video at [AgVentureDriedCherries](#) from the convenience of your home computer. What a great resource for your friends and family.

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION REMINDER

High school seniors! Get your scholarship applications in to the Scholarship Committee ASAP! Karen Cultrera would like to remind members that know of any high school seniors that are heading to Junior College, State College or University to apply for one (or more) of several scholarships offered by our chapter or by friends of SJ CWA. There are some criteria that must be met to qualify for SJ CWA's scholarships, so please contact Karen at 209.982.4945 for more information but hurry, applications are **due April 15th**.

### SENDING SUNSHINE



Sending good wishes to Diana Muller, we hope you are feeling better every day.

Send Sunshine to Suzanne Longstreth

## Sounding Staff

### Newsletter Staff

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Leslie Avansino, Susie Calhoun

### Publishing

The San Joaquin Sounding is published monthly by the San Joaquin Chapter of California Women for Agriculture.

Memorial **Scholarships** are awarded to the children and grandchildren of SJ CWA members. This scholarship is funded through generous donations. Contact Karen Cultrera at 209.982.4945 for more information.

\*\*\* SJ CWA email \*\*\*

[SanJoaquinCWA@gmail.com](mailto:SanJoaquinCWA@gmail.com)

### WEBSITES

[sanjoaquincwa.com](http://sanjoaquincwa.com). (Check this out!)  
[cawomen4ag.com](http://cawomen4ag.com)  
[learnaboutag.org](http://learnaboutag.org)  
[agleaders.org](http://agleaders.org)  
[sjcagventure.com](http://sjcagventure.com) Field Trips  
[sjcagventure.com](http://sjcagventure.com) Presentations

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## AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

BY SUSIE CALHOUN, 3 CALHOUN SISTERS' RANCH

In my family, I am among the fourth generation of Livermore farmers and ranchers. Though I did not pursue a career in agriculture it has always been an important part of my life. I spent many days on my grandparents' farm and ranch, developed friendships within the local agricultural community in Alameda County. I pursued a career in elementary education. After college I returned to Alameda County and became involved in Young Farmers and Ranchers. Our chapter participated in Farm Bureau's first Farm Day in the City, an event to remember!

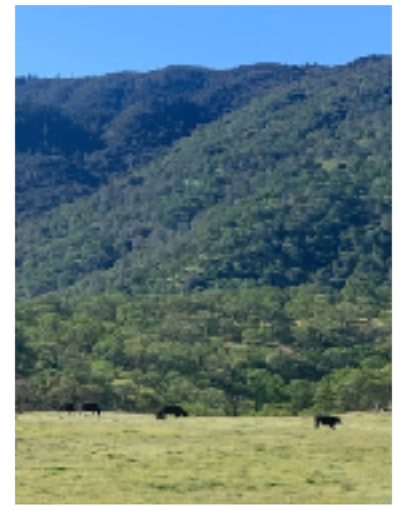
I was working for Livermore Unified School District and Fremont Unified School District. My involvement in the ag community led to a summer job at the Alameda County Fair working the exhibit side of Commercial and Amateur Wine, Landscape Design, Homebrew, Agricultural Exhibits, some Livestock and whatever else was needed in the Exhibits department. To supplement my teaching income I also worked for Stony Ridge Winery and Concannon Vineyards in their tasting rooms and special events.



RANCH POND ON 3 CALHOUN SISTERS' RANCH IN ALAMEDA COUNTY.

In 1999 I married Troy Bowers and moved to Lodi. My first job in San Joaquin County was working at Phillips Farms Pumpkin

Patch. I was hired midyear by Lodi Unified School District. I had seen flyers for the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Tours, and couldn't wait to participate. Troy was a Deputy Manager at the San Joaquin County Fair at the time and needed some help clerking some of the Junior Exhibits. I was paired with Jean Cabral and told her how excited I was to be able to participate in the program. Come to find out, I would be seeing her the following Monday for the Ag in the Classroom tour. It was on this tour that I was introduced to CA Women for Agriculture. I picked up a flyer, I liked the mission, dues were very reasonable, so I joined!



CATTLE GRAZING ON 3 CALHOUN SISTERS' RANCH IN ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Fast forward to 2018. My parents had both passed away. My sisters and I inherited their property, as well as a percentage of my grandparent's ranch in the Diablo Range of Livermore. My parents had leased the property for rangeland and left it mostly undeveloped, with a barn and a residence. Before my father's passing, work had begun with Alameda County Resource Conservation District to develop a Conservation Plan. It is here I must encourage all families to begin succession planning as early as possible. My parents chose not to include us on many decisions or their wishes. With the guidance of the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD), we have a conservation plan in place. We have been fortunate to be granted some funding for infrastructure improvements to my parent's property to help the sustainability of the rangeland.



CAITLIN JOSEPH,  
WOMEN FOR THE LAND  
PROGRAM AND POLICY  
MANAGER

The connections I have made through California Women for Agriculture have been so valuable, which led me to American Farmland Trust (AFT). My relationship with AFT began with an email from our SJ CWA's The Sounding advertising a Women for the Land Learning Circle. It was summer during the pandemic, the Alameda County Fair was cancelled, I had time. I also needed to gain knowledge quickly to help with the newly inherited property. AFT was offering a virtual workshop, Climate Stressors and Solutions: Your Land, Your Leadership. I appreciated the information shared and the opportunity to reflect on my family's land. Caitlin Joseph, Program and Policy Manager for American – Women for the Land AFT, coordinated this and other workshops. I seized this opportunity and also participated in Farmland Succession Planning, Agriculture Conservation Easements, Negotiation Skills for *Womxn* Farmers. AFT's mission of saving the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land; offers many opportunities to connect with farmers nationally through a variety of programing. Caitlin was a presenter at our Virtual CWA Convention in 2021.

## AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

BY SUSIE CALHOUN, 3 CALHOUN SISTERS' RANCH

I was finally able to participate in a live Learning Circle, *Womxn\** Farmer Field Day, at the Sunol Ag Park in August of 2021. The Ag Park is a joint venture by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) and individual farmers. In



ALYSON AQUINO (L) AND COLLEEN HOTCHKISS (C) TALK ABOUT SUNOL AG PARK. ALYSON IS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST FOR ALAMEDA CO., USDA-NRCS; COLLEEN IS A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST, ACRCD.

Alameda County there are a lot of women-run urban farms that have a powerful impact on their communities. Many are very small scale due to the urban environment, but are doing very innovative work and provide fresh produce in a food desert. I appreciated the opportunity to meet these women and hear about the variety of urban farming. What struck me most was that many urban farmers are paying urban rental and water rates, not agricultural rates. Those at the Sunol Ag Park, with the help of ACRCD, are able to negotiate a lower rate for the water and land while protecting a valuable watershed in Alameda County. The Ag Park was one of the places I had hoped we could have toured had there been a live convention in 2021.



SUNOL AG PARK

It was through these opportunities that I was contacted about the California Women in Agriculture Resolution. American Farmland Trust California was championing this resolution. AFT-CA worked with Maddy Traynor, [www.madeleineinetraynor.com](http://www.madeleineinetraynor.com), to develop art work to portray a variety of women in CA agriculture. This caricature was part of their media campaign to rally support of the resolution.



STATE CWA PRESIDENT SHARON ZOLLER (R) STANDS WITH CAITLIN JOSEPH (L) AND ASSEMBLYMEMBER CECILIA AQUIAR-CURRY (C) UPON CALIFORNIA'S PASSAGE OF THE NATION'S FIRST WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION.

Sharon Zoller, CWA President, was at the Capitol with Caitlin Joseph to witness the passing vote for the resolution. Caitlin writes, "This resolution elevates awareness of the diverse and critical roles women play in California agriculture, as well as some of the disparities they experience. It specifically cites women's increasing leadership roles as land managers, farmland owners and advocates for sound agricultural policies, as well as the growing and critical presence of women as farm laborers, urban agriculture producers, and tribal producers. It further notes that formal participation of women in agriculture is historically high, with female enrollment numbers in agricultural programs at land-grant universities across the nation outpacing those of males since 2009.

AFT is grateful to the California Assembly and specifically Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry for bolstering women's representation in California agriculture and looks forward to seeing additional action taken to help close resource access gaps and realize the success of women as leaders on the land."

If you are interested in the many opportunities and resources American Farmland Trust offers, visit <https://farmland.org/project/women-for-the-land-california/>

(Editor's note: Please see pg. 6 for one more story that Susie shared. An experience that came about because she explored an opportunity for women in agriculture.)

Additional resources on Instagram: @farmlandcalifornia @WomenForTheLand @AmericanFarmlandTrust @StateCWA @asmaguiarcurry @sushicalhoun

\*Womxn is a term used since the 1970's as an alternative spelling of the English word woman.

2021



2022

Manteca (Manteca, Ripon, Escalon, & Tracy Unified) • Thurs., November 4, 2021 ✓

Stockton (Stockton & Lincoln Unified) • Wed., January 19, 2022 ✓

Lodi (Linden, Lodi, New Hope, Oak View & Stockton Unified) • Thurs., March 3, 2022 ✓

★ Tracy (Lammersville, Jefferson, Banta & New Jerusalem Unified) • Thurs., April 14, 2022 ✓

*Trips will run approx 9-1 p.m.*

San Joaquin County third graders will virtually attend a free, educational field trip to learn about agriculture in San Joaquin County and the benefits of making healthy eating choices.

### We are in need of

60+ plant, animal, machinery and other agricultural displays and 400 volunteers to accommodate 4,000 students

**BONUS\*\*** Two LIVE, virtual farm trips will be offered to students. You are welcome to view these as well. Please let me know if you'd like to host a virtual farm trip. Examples can be found [here](#).

#### AgVenture Partners

SJC Board of Supervisors  
SJC Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
SJC Office of Education • SJC Farm Bureau  
SJC California Women for Agriculture  
SJC Fairgrounds • Manteca Unified School District  
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
University of California Cooperative Extension

#### For more information

Krista McCoon  
SJC AgVenture Coordinator  
sjcagventure@yahoo.com  
(209) 402-5734

[www.sjcagventure.com](http://www.sjcagventure.com)



### Three down, one to go!

Call, text or email Krista McCoon if you can help out at the final AgVenture of the school year on Thursday, April 14 in Tracy.

#### Tracy area members:

This is right in your neighborhood, contact Krista to help out for about 5 hours, you get a complimentary breakfast hosted by SJ CWA and complimentary lunch hosted by SJFB!

### AN ATF HEALDSBURG EXPERIENCE

BY SUSIE CALHOUN, 3 CALHOUN SISTERS' RANCH

In March of 2021 I was invited to be a part of the AFT California Food for Thought programing, to share my personal experiences in agriculture and with the Women for the Land opportunities. This was via Zoom, with people from various parts of the United States. In October I was invited to join AFT President John Piotti, the AFT National Board of Directors and President's Council, friends and supporters throughout California at an evening celebration held at the MacMurray Ranch in Healdsburg.

The evening was hosted by Gina Gallo, Gallo's currently own the property. Kate MacMurray led a tour of the property, and together they shared with the guests, their families' common values and conservation of agricultural land. Also speaking at the event was Jenny Lester Moffitt, USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Jenny and her family are organic walnut farmers in northern California. A very inspirational evening.

### Table Setters Schedule

**Call Lynn** at 209.481.9247 to reserve a time and date to set a table:

M/W 9am - noon

T/Th 1pm - 4pm

F 9am - noon

OR

**Call Leslie** at 209.609.4789 to reserve a time and date to set a table:

Su noon - 4pm

T 4:30pm - 8pm

Th 4:30pm - 8pm (if needed)

All tables to be set by noon on Friday, May 6.

**Get Ready, Get Set, Create!**

# Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation

In the Name of: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you wish the card signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tribute/Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

A tribute gift is a special way to honor or remember a loved one. Upon receipt of your contribution, an acknowledgement card will be sent to the person designated stating that a donation has been received. When you honor the memory of a loved one, you help further the education of SJ CWA members' children and grandchildren. Please send to: SJ CWA  
PO Box 31334  
Stockton CA 95213

## DONOR MEMBERS

*CWA activities are made possible, in part, through the generous donations of our Donor Members.  
Donor Members as of March 28, 2022.*

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Editor's note: Please text, call or email me if you would like your listing changed. We appreciate your support, it's the least we can do! (Contact info on page 3)



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Current Resident or

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

- 14 - AgVenture in Tracy (see flyer on pg. 6)
- 15 - Scholarship applications are due (see pg. 3 for contact information)
- 20 - SJ CWA meeting at 6:00pm San Joaquin Farm Bureau, 3290 N Ad Art Way in Stockton

### MAY

- 6-7 - SJ CWA 25th Annual Table Setting Event "Celebrations in the Country" at Roberts-Union Farm Center
- 16-17 - Statewide Meeting in Sacramento, CA
- 18 - SJ CWA meeting, location and time TBD, ideas are welcomed.

### JUNE

- 9-18 - San Joaquin AgFest (check out [sanjoaquinagfest.org](http://sanjoaquinagfest.org))
- 15 - SJ CWA meeting, location and time TBD, ideas are welcomed.

**SAVE THE DATE: MAY 6-7, 2022**

SJ CWA Table Setting Event "Celebrations in the Country"