

**California Prune Summit  
2023**

Future-proofing the California Prune Industry



**Thursday  
March 23, 2023  
Orchard Creek Lodge**

**965 Orchard Creek Ln.  
Lincoln, CA 95648**

8:00 a.m.	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>
9:30 a.m.	<p><b>PRUNE POWER PAIRINGS</b> Experience the depth of flavor and versatility that California Prunes have when paired with other foods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chef Kat Turner</b>, <i>Chef &amp; Owner of Highly Likely Café in Los Angeles and recent Food Network "Chopped" Champion.</i></li> <li>• <b>Leslie Bonci, MPH, RD, CSSD, LDN</b>, <i>Owner of Active Eating Advice and Sports Dietitian to the 2023 Super Bowl Champions Kansas City Chiefs</i></li> </ul>
10:20 a.m.	<p><b>ECONOMIC OUTLOOK</b> <b>Robert Fox</b>, <i>Director, Knowledge Exchange, CoBank</i> Agricultural lender CoBank will present an outlook for California Prune growers and handlers amidst the head winds of inflation, a rising dollar and the looming threat of recession.</p>
11:05 a.m.	<b>ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLYMAN JAMES GALLAGHER</b>
11:30 a.m.	<p><b>A CONVERSATION WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS</b> Hear from executives leading the California Prune industry's three-largest prune handlers as they describe their vision for success in an increasingly competitive global prune market + Q&amp;A. <b>Moderator: Donn Zea</b>, <i>Executive Director, California Prune Board</i> <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>George Sousa, Jr.</b>, <i>President, Mariani Packing Co., California Prune Board Chairman</i></li> <li>• <b>Dane Lance</b>, <i>President &amp; CEO, Sunsweet Growers, Inc.</i></li> <li>• <b>Jaswant Bains</b>, <i>President/CEO, Sacramento Packing Co.</i></li> </ul>
12:35 p.m.	<b>BUFFET LUNCH</b>
1:40 p.m.	<p><b>ENERGIZING CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE</b> Decarbonization in California is on a fast track, at least theoretically. Can renewable electricity meet the unique requirements of food and agriculture? This panel will discuss the myriad legislative and regulatory requirements facing agriculture that could further compromise food supply chains + Q&amp;A. <b>Moderator: Trudi Hughes</b>, <i>President &amp; CEO, California League of Food Producers</i> <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Michael Boccadoro</b>, <i>President, West Coast Advisors</i></li> <li>• <b>Undersecretary Christine Birdsong</b>, <i>California Department of Food &amp; Agriculture</i></li> <li>• <b>Emily Rooney</b>, <i>President, Agricultural Council of California</i></li> </ul>
2:30 p.m.	<p><b>PASSING THE BATON IN THE PRUNE INDUSTRY</b> As the landscape of food and agriculture changes, a new generation of family business leaders must make decisions not only about what to grow, but if to grow at all. This panel of next-generation prune industry leaders will share their perspectives about the future of growing and processing prunes + Q&amp;A. <b>Moderator: Joe Turkovich</b>, <i>2nd Generation Prune Grower, Yolo County</i> <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matt Bozzo</b>, <i>4th Generation Prune Grower, Butte County</i></li> <li>• <b>Nick Cubre</b>, <i>4th Generation Prune Grower, Fresno County</i></li> <li>• <b>Dave Van Groningen</b>, <i>2nd Generation Prune Grower, Tulare County</i></li> <li>• <b>Natalie Mariani Kling</b>, <i>Marketing Strategist and 4th Generation Family Member, Mariani Packing Co.</i></li> </ul>
3:15 p.m.	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> <b>George Sousa, Jr.</b>, <i>President, Mariani Packing Co., California Prune Board Chairman</i></p>