



JULY 22, 2020

**Our Coalition:**

California Farm Bureau  
Western Growers  
Agricultural Council of California  
Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Kern County Farm Bureau  
Madera County Farm Bureau  
Merced County Farm Bureau  
Monterey County Farm Bureau  
Sacramento County Farm Bureau  
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau  
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau  
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau  
Sonoma County Farm Bureau  
Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Yolo County Farm Bureau

**CALIFORNIA FARMERS ANNOUNCE NEW AG COALITION AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROP 15**

*MEASURE HIKES TAXES ON WIDE RANGE OF AG PROPERTY – FRUIT TREES, NUT TREES, DAIRIES, GRAPE VINES, AND MORE*

*PROP 15: “BAD FOR FARMERS AND CONSUMERS”*

**SACRAMENTO** – California’s leading agricultural organizations, including **California Farm Bureau**, **Western Growers** and the **Agricultural Council of California**, representing farmers and ranchers of all types across the state, announced a new coalition and multi-million dollar campaign against Prop 15, the higher property tax measure.

“Prop 15 does not exempt agriculture – it hikes taxes on fruit trees, nut trees, grape vines, dairies, irrigation equipment, barns and much much more”, said **Jamie Johansson, President of California Farm Bureau**. “California’s family farmers were hit hard by the current COVID-19 crisis. Prop 15’s tax hike on our livelihoods is the last thing we need.”

“Prop 15’s tax hike on farmers will increase food prices in California”, said **Dave Puglia, President of Western Growers**. “A tax on an orange tree is a tax on oranges; a tax on an almond tree is a tax on almonds; a tax on dairies is a tax on milk and cheese. Prop 15’s taxes on agriculture property are going to land hard on California consumers, many of whom are already struggling with the cost of living in this state,”

Prop 15 proponents claim they exempted agriculture, but they included a fatal drafting error which exposes agricultural “fixtures and improvements” to higher taxes if the measure passes. The independent, nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst’s Office and the California Assessors’ Association have each independently confirmed this flaw will expose farmers to higher taxes.

“Prop 15 is bad for California farmers and bad for California consumers,” said **Emily Rooney, President of the Agricultural Council of California**. “It will drive up the price of food produced and grown in California, making our farmers less competitive and increasing food prices on consumers.”

The new coalition – Family Farmers Against Prop 15 – is growing rapidly as more people and organizations in the ag community hear about the fatal flaw in Prop 15’s language. The campaign has fundraising commitments for a multi-million campaign educating voters throughout the state about Prop 15’s impact on farmers and consumer food prices.

For more information, please visit <https://cafarmersagainstprop15.com/> or contact Ned Wigglesworth at [Ned@SpectrumCampaigns.com](mailto:Ned@SpectrumCampaigns.com) / 916.548.7245.