CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

Feeding & Leading the World

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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

- **$59 billion+** worth of agricultural production, more than the next two largest states' production combined (2022)

- **11% of all US production** - Nearly half of the country's fruits, nuts and vegetables are from California

- **400+ commodities** are produced here including 14 commodities that are solely produced in California such as almonds and raisins

- Lead the nation in growing almost **80 commodities**

CALIFORNIA VARIETY

North Coast
Coastal plain dairies, timber

Mountain
Livestock, pasture and rangeland

Wine Country
Wine grapes, dairy, pears, livestock

Sacramento Valley
Rice, row crops, fruits, nuts, seeds

San Joaquin Valley
Row crops, fruits, nuts, grapes, citrus, dairy, livestock, poultry
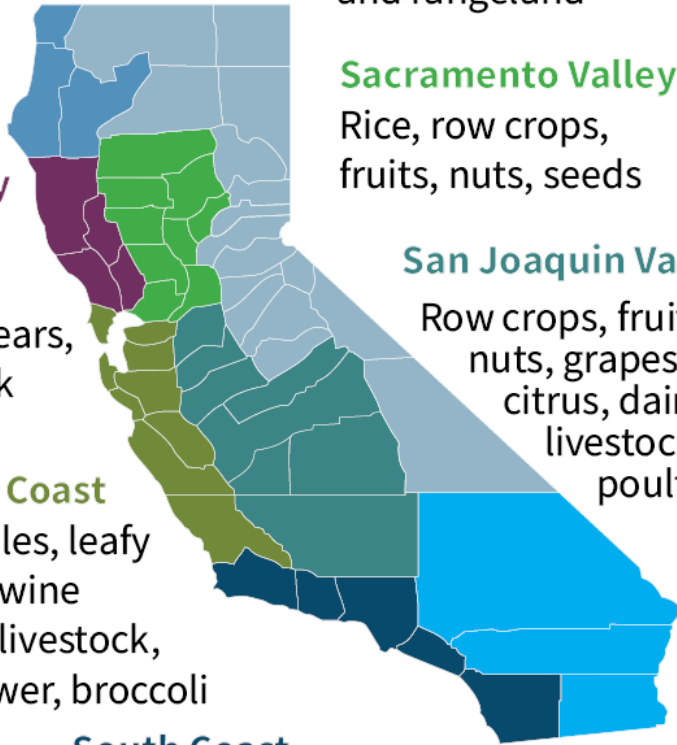
Central Coast
Vegetables, leafy greens, wine grapes, livestock, cauliflower, broccoli

South Coast
Citrus, avocados, berries, nursery, leafy greens, vegetables

Desert
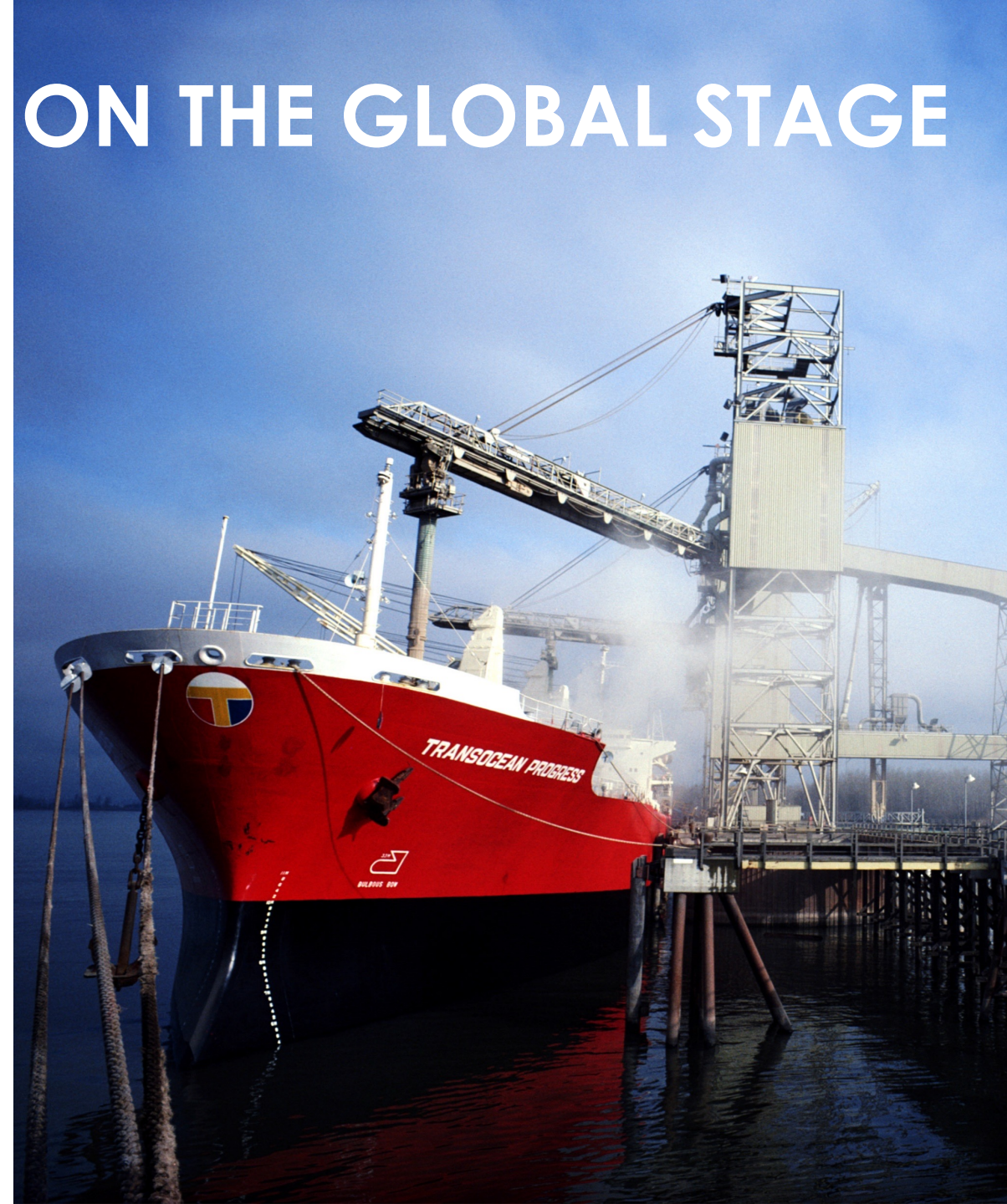Livestock, dairy, alfalfa, vegetables, leafy greens, eggs, onions, avocados

Top 20 Agricultural Commodities by value

Rank	Commodity	Value	Variety
1	Dairy	$10.4 billion	*The top 5 include dairy, fruit, leafy greens, livestock and nuts...*
2	Grapes	$5.6 billion	
3	Lettuce	$4.6 billion	
4	Cattle/Calves	$3.6 billion	
5	Almonds	$3.5 billion	
6	Strawberries	$2.8 billion	*the top 10 add berries, poultry, and vegetables...*
7	Pistachios	$1.9 billion	
8	Broilers	$1.6 billion	
9	Tomatoes	$1.5 billion	
10	Carrots	$1.2 billion	
11	Hay	$1.2 billion	*...and the top 20 add feed, grains, fiber and eggs.*
12	Rice	$1.1 billion	
13	Broccoli	$1.0 billion	
14	Floriculture	$958 million	
15	Oranges	$948 million	
16	Eggs	$857 million	
17	Tangerines	$682 million	*That's variety and nutrition on a scale that only California can do.*
18	Cauliflower	$555 million	
19	Lemons	$555 million	
20	Avocados	$488 million	

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

- Exports from California: **$21.6 billion,** leading the nation

- **Primary exporter:** California is nearly the sole exporter of many commodities, including almonds, table grapes and tomatoes for processing

- **Diversified customer base:** Export markets provide stability and opportunity for our growers.

- That market strength and stability translates directly to California's rural communities in the form of employment and investment.

THE WAY WE GROW

Responsible stewardship of agricultural land and the use of **climate smart ag practices** are steps toward a **circular bioeconomy.**

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon is sequestered in both the plants and soil

Soil contains 3x as much carbon as all plants on earth

Nutrient Cycling

Farmers promote local nutrient cycling by re-using waste as compost and inedible food as animal feed

Water Retention & Filtration

Management for soil health improves water holding capacity

Healthy soil can hold 20x its weight in water

Pollinator/ Wildlife Habitat

Farmers and ranchers provide habitat and forage for both pollinators and wildlife

Resilient Food System

Climate smart agriculture improves the land's resilience to the impacts of climate change so that we can feed the world no matter the conditions
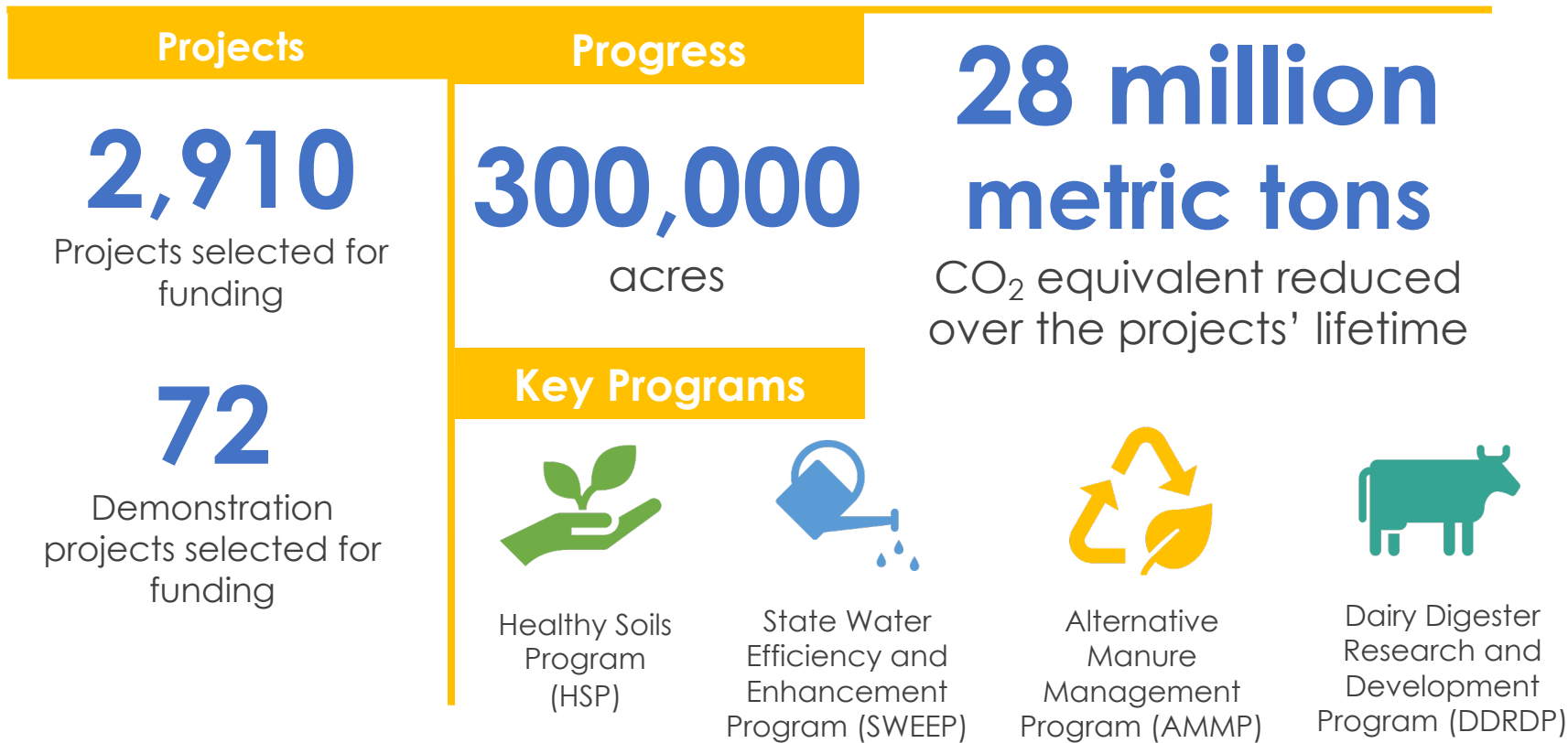
CHALLENGES

- **Climate, climate, climate.**

  - **Drought** is the obvious one, but it's not the only one.

  - Also **floods, freezes, fires**…

  - …and the complications that come from the **"whipsaw effect"** of successive, extreme weather events.

- **Regulatory** challenges

- **Workforce** shortage, innovation

- **Market access**

- **Ag Vision:** from challenges to opportunities

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

$246.3M invested in Climate Smart Agriculture from 2014-2024

- Financial incentives to implement healthy soils practices, efficient irrigation systems, alternative manure management practices, and dairy digesters across the state

- Promote farmer-to-farmer education by demonstrating practices on-farm

Projects

2,910
Projects selected for funding

72
Demonstration projects selected for funding

Progress

300,000
acres

28 million metric tons
CO_2 equivalent reduced over the projects' lifetime

Key Programs

Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)

Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Climate Smart Ag Technical Assistance Grant Program

- Annual Meeting for Technical Assistance Providers

- California Conservation Planning Partnership (C2P2): CDFA, University of California, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, USDA NRCS

- New Technical Assistance Programs for Conservation Agriculture Planning (CAPGP) and Water Efficiency (WETA)

"We are pleased to partner with so many different organizations and technical experts to help our agricultural community mitigate greenhouse gases and adapt to climate change."

- California Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross

- 75 technical assistance providers statewide

- $5.1 million in technical assistance grant funding to universities, conservation organizations and non-profits

- $1.2 million to fund 10 outreach community specialists at the University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension

- 3-year grant program to provide pre- and post-award assistance (AB2377, 2018)

PARTNERSHIP

	State Driven	Partner Driven
Direct Support	Decision-Support Tools Economic Analyses Farmer to Farmer Education Programs	Ecosystem Services Markets - Carbon Markets - Water Savings Payments
Indirect Support	Regulatory Alignment - Remove Disincentives - Reduce Reporting Costs	Green Lending Reduced Crop Insurance Premiums

WORKFORCE

- **Beginning Farmer and Farmworker Training Program:** Support farmers and farmworkers in accessing training required to obtain high road jobs of the future

- **Fresno-Merced Future of Food Innovation Corridor:** Attract innovation and investment to the Central Valley coupled with the required workforce training

- **Western Growers' Global Automation Initiative:** Automate 50% of specialty crop harvests within 10 years

- **University Investments and Partnerships**