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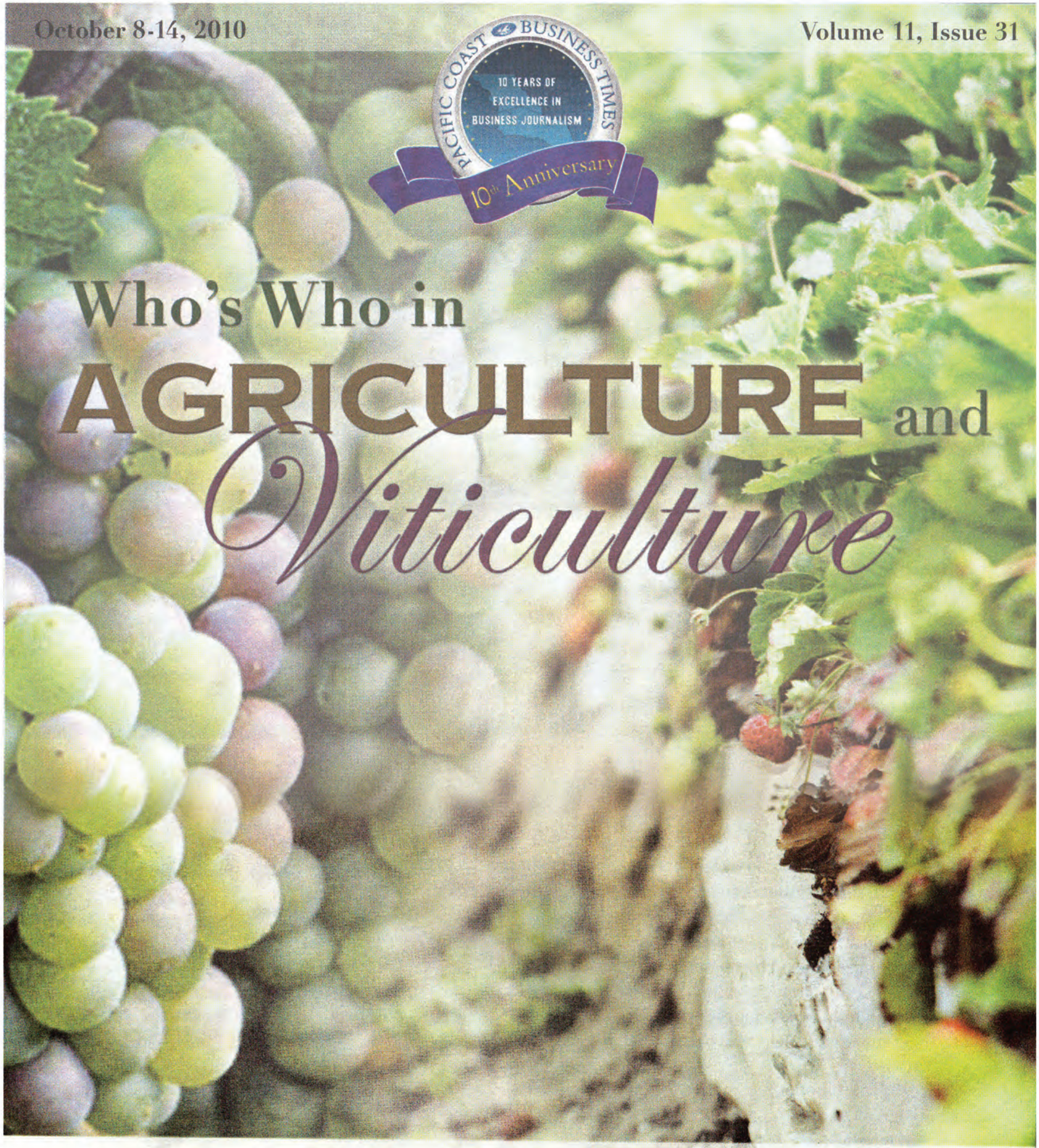
Who's Who in AGRICULTURE and *Viticulture*



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Who's Who in **AGRICULTURE** and *Viticulture*

Bill Camarillo

CEO
Agromin

Oxanrd

Bill Camarillo started with California Wood Recycling (the predecessor to Agromin) in 1992. In 1993, with a vision of a more sustainable future, he initiated the purchase of Agromin Corp., a 38-year-old horticultural/agricultural planting media supplies company.

In 13 years as CFO and the past five years as CEO/CFO, he has led Agromin's transformation into the state's largest organics recycler and eighth largest in the U.S.

During Camarillo's tenure, Agromin has diverted more than 3.5 million tons of organics from landfills, helping cities save more than $35 million in AB 939 compliance penalties — removing the annual CO^2e (equivalent) emissions of more than 1.9 million cars from the environment.

Camarillo served 10 years in the Marine Corps, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from the University of Redlands, and sits on several nonprofit boards, including the Ventura County Economic Development Association, Gold Coast Veterans Foundation and Oxnard Chamber of Commerce.

Brett Chandler

President, General Manager
Associates Insectary

Santa Paula

Brett Chandler is the president and general manager of Associates Insectary. The unique grower-owned cooperative has been producing a variety of beneficial insects at its facility in Santa Paula since 1928.

Chandler earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural biology from Cal Poly Pomona and learned to rear beneficial insects as a technician at UC Riverside. He began his career at Associates Insectary as a licensed crop adviser in 1989 and was tapped to lead the cooperative in the fall of 2001.

Since 2001, two other insectaries ceased due to shifting local crops, and Associates chose to use its expertise rearing "good bugs" to offer them to a broader national market.

The company is the largest producer of *Cryptolaemus* beetles in North America. These beetles are prized by many growers for their ability to naturally control mealybugs by being camouflaged to mimic its prey.

Jim Clendenen

Winemaker
Au Bon Climat

Los Olivos

Jim Clendenen, winemaker at Au Bon Climat, is one of the lions of the industry in the Tri-Counties. He began his career in 1978, two years after graduating from UC Santa Barbara, as an assistant winemaker at Zaca Mesa Winery. He founded Au Bon Climat in 1982 with former partner Adam Tolmach. Since then the winery's production has grown to more than 30,000 cases a year and Clendenen's wines have received numerous honors and accolades.

Clendenen is married to Morgan Clendenen, the owner and winemaker of Cold Heaven Cellars, which focuses on Viogniers.

Lee Cole

Chairman of the Board, President, CEO
Calavo Growers

Santa Paula

Born to Oklahoma cattle ranchers, Lee Cole decided early in life that he would follow his father's footsteps into ranching. At age 13, he moved with his parents to Santa Paula, and set his sights on owning his own ranch. After a stint in the U.S. Army, he went home to Santa Paula to put his plan into action.

After a successful 12-year career with Safeway Stores, Cole left the company to become a full-time rancher, avocado grower and entrepreneur. He had 80 acres of avocado and 100 head of cattle. The avocados eventually displaced the cattle.

He was quickly recruited to Calavo and in 1982 won a seat on the board of the growers' collective. He became chairman and CEO in 1998 and assumed the role of president in 1999.

In 2001 Cole spearheaded the co-op's conversion to a for-profit corporation in 2001 and its listing on the NASDAQ in 2002. He instituted a strategic grower recruitment plan that resulted in a record 38 to 40 percent of the domestic market share. In 2005, he piloted the company through an equity cross-investment with Limoneira Co. Calavo now packs and distributes the crops of the No. 1 and No. 2 domestic producers of avocados — Irvine Co. and Limoneira, respectively — and has forged alliances with growers in Mexico, Chile, New Zealand and the Dominican Republic.

In addition to his Santa Paula avocado ranch, where he resides with his wife, Jeannette, Cole owns a papaya farm and papaya processing plant on Hawaii's Big Island. His son, Guy, manages the avocado farm and his daughter, Suzanne, manages the papaya processing plant, which sells papaya purée worldwide.

Tom Deardorff II

President
Deardorff Family Farms

Oxnard

Tom Deardorff is president of Deardorff Family Farms, a fourth-generation business based in Oxnard that grows, packs, cools and ships fresh fruits and vegetables to customers in the U.S., Mexico, Canada and Japan.

Deardorff, who owns and operates the family business with his cousin Scott Deardorff, received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern California and a law degree from Southwestern Law School. He practiced law prior to joining the family business full-time in 1999. Since then he has ben involved in various industry boards, including the Ventura County Agricultural Association board of directors, the California Tomato Commission and the California State Board of Food and Agriculture.

In addition, he has served on the Country of Origin Labeling Task Force, is a member of the Western Growers Association board of directors, serves on United Fresh Grower-Shipper Board and on the Coastal Local Advisory Committee for Farm Credit West.

Gary Eberle

Owner
Eberle Winery

Paso Robles

Gary Eberle is a pioneer of Paso Robles winemaking. In the mid-1970s he led his family's Estrella River Winery (now Meridian Vineyards in Paso Robles) and produced 500,000 cases a year at its facility. In 1979 he produced the first vintage of his own Eberle wine.

In 1980, he co-founded the Paso Robles appellation, and in 1983 opened Eberle Winery. He is also credited as the first U.S. winemaker to produce a 100 percent Syrah. Today, Eberle produces 25,000 cases of wine each year from surrounding estate vineyards.

He received his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and graduated from the UC Davis winemaking doctoral program.

Harold Edwards

President, CEO
Limoneira Co.

Santa Paula

Harold Edwards has served as a director of lemon and avocado grower Limoneira Co. since 2009. He has been the president and CEO since November 2004.

Previously, Edwards was the president of Puritan Medical Products, a division of Airgas. Prior to that, he held management positions with Fisher Scientific International, Cargill, Agribrands International and the Ralston Purina Co.

Edwards is a member of the board of directors of Compass Group Diversified Holdings, a NASDAQ-listed company, and Calavo Growers, also a NASDAQ-listed company.

Edwards is a graduate of Lewis and Clark College and Thunderbird School of Global Management, where he earned an MBA.

Blair Fox

Head Winemaker
Fess Parker Winery

Santa Ynez

After graduating from UC Davis in 1999 with a combined degree in viticul-