

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-2

AGENDA DATE: November 1, 2016

SUBJECT:

Approval of Commendations for Lucas Dairy and Fiscalini Farms and Cheese Companies Upon Being Inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No.

2016-542

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

Urgent Routine

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BOARD AGENDA #: *A-2

AGENDA DATE: November 1, 2016

CEO CONCURRENCE: _____

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval of Commendations for Lucas Dairy and Fiscalini Farms and Cheese Companies Upon Being Inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Commend Lucas Dairy and Fiscalini Farms and Cheese Companies Upon Being Inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame.

CONTACT PERSON:

Elizabeth King, Clerk of the Board

Phone number: 209-525-4494

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT: Emily Lawrence
209-521-2902

NATIONAL AG SCIENCE CENTER INDUCTEE AG HALL OF FAME DINNER

Norman and Freda Lucas and Fiscalini Farms & Cheese Honored at
Annual Ag Hall of Fame Dinner in November

MODESTO, Calif. (September 22, 2016) – For nearly two decades the National Ag Science Center (NASC) has recognized the accomplishments of individuals, families and companies who have contributed to Stanislaus County's role as one of the nation's leading agricultural counties. These accomplishments are celebrated by the entire agricultural community at a gala dinner hosted by the National Ag Science Center, where the recipients are inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame. After the event, photographs of the Ag Hall of Fame honorees are hung alongside prior year's esteemed recipients in a gallery at the Stanislaus County Ag Center. Proceeds from this event support ag education in Stanislaus County.

On November 18, Norman and Freda Lucas, of Lucas Dairy, and Fiscalini Farms & Cheese will be honored at our dinner and enthusiastically inducted into the Hall of Fame. "The community support for Lucas Dairy and Fiscalini Farms & Cheese demonstrates the outstanding role the dairy industry plays in Stanislaus County agriculture. The two inductees represent generations of family farming and sustainability in this county," said Chris Lehtinen, President of the National Ag Science Center Board of Directors

Lucas Dairy was founded by Tony Lucas in 1938. Norman worked alongside his father learning to milk cows and farm the family land. In 1945, Norman met and married Freda DeHart and upon his return from serving in the military, he and Freda grew the business into what Lucas Dairy is today, truly a family owned and operated business with over 300 acres, approximately 800 Holstein cows in the milking herd and over 900 calves and young stock.

The greatest impact Norman and Freda have had upon agriculture is the example they have set for others. They ensured best practices were being utilized in their farm operations, implementing devices and machines to create an efficient operation. Norman and Freda milked and irrigated side-by-side, tirelessly working to build a successful dairy farm. Actively involved in the community, Norman and Freda played a key role in the Mountain View community, volunteering not only their time with the 4H and Little League, but also donating necessary equipment and funds to support the local elementary school and Grange Hall. The four Lucas children were so influenced by their parents that each, to this day, continue to be involved in farming and agriculture.

Fiscalini Dairy Farm was founded in 1914 by John B. Fiscalini. The farm started with 12 Holstein cows and some land for grazing. Mathew B. Fiscalini took over the farm upon his father's passing and grew the herd to 700 Holstein cows. Mathew was involved in protecting water rights for farms and was Director of the Modesto Irrigation District Board for many years. In 1993, John B. Fiscalini, Mathew's son, took over the business and grew the herd to 1500 milking cows, farmed 480 acres, and added a cheese plant and methane digester. Today,

John remains involved in the business while his son, Brian, and daughter Laura, continue the family tradition of dairy farming and cheese making.

“We are proud to continue our traditions in Modesto, CA, on the same property our forefathers purchased for a dairy site in 1914 and we are honored to be recognized for our history here in Stanislaus County,” says Brian Fiscalini, Dairy Farmer and Cheese Operations Manager. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors from Switzerland who began producing cheese in the 1700’s, Brian adds, “Our cheesemaker is a craftsman who believes all of our cheeses are works of art, they require great skill to create. We believe in making cheese by hand with the use of traditional methods. We use milk from our cows and are able to carefully provide attention to every detail from the care of our animals to the hand turning of our cheese wheels.”

Join us on this special evening, honoring the Fiscalini and Lucas families, and celebrating the importance of agriculture in Stanislaus County. Your attendance at the event provides vital support for the National Ag Science Center, a non-profit organization committed to providing students with unique programs in agriculture and science to promote positive educational experiences and an awareness of career connections and issues important to sustainable agriculture in California. Your generous support will ensure that NASC is able to bring innovative education programs to the students of Stanislaus County, inspiring students to become more involved with the agricultural community.

“I see many opportunities for National Ag Science Center to facilitate conversations, engage partners, create opportunities, and support students across their education to career pipeline,” says Dr. Emily Lawrence, National Ag Science Center Director as of January 2016. She added, “These relationships are only possible with the support of our donors at the Annual Ag Hall of Fame dinner who believe in what we want to accomplish and see the potential for us to impact students.”

This year’s dinner will be held on Friday, November 18, 2016, beginning at 5:30pm at the Assyrian American Civic Hall in Turlock, California. The evening features a cocktail hour, with cheeses donated by Fiscalini Farms & Cheese, buffet dinner by Surla’s, a premium silent auction and live auction with a variety of exciting local and regional items. To purchase your tickets or a table today, visit <http://agsciencecenter.org/hall-of-fame/dinner-information/>. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are also available online, visit <http://agsciencecenter.org/hall-of-fame/sponsorship-advertising/> to reserve your tickets! For questions on event attendance and sponsorship, please contact Lucy Jaska at lucy@agsciencecenter.org.

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Commending Lucas Dairy

WHEREAS, the National Ag Science Center will be honoring Norman and Freda Lucas of Lucas Dairy on November, 18th, 2016 at its annual Ag Hall of Fame Dinner; the Ag Hall of Fame Dinner is an event that recognizes the accomplishments of individuals, families, and companies who work daily to make California the nation's leading agricultural state; and,

WHEREAS, Lucas Dairy was founded in 1938 by Norman's father Tony Lucas in Turlock, CA. The dairy began with a herd of eighty Holstein and Jersey cows on nearly 60 acres; and,

WHEREAS, Norman worked with his father as a child, learning to milk cows and farm. After attending Mountain View Grammar School and Turlock High School, including receipt of his Future Farmers of America Green Hand Degree in 1942, Norman opted for the hands on education of dairy farming; and,

WHEREAS, Norman met and married Freda DeHart in 1945 and left for service in the U.S. Army, just ten days after their wedding. Upon his return in 1946, they made a down payment on his father's dairy with his brother as a partner; and,

WHEREAS, in 1948 the brothers' partnership was dissolved. Norman and Freda started over with seventeen Holsteins and his father and mother's land to farm. The business has grown and thrived and now operates with over 300 acres and nearly 800 cows in the milking herd and over 900 calves and young stock.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby congratulate and commend Norman and Freda Lucas of Lucas Dairy on being the recipient of the National Ag Science Center's 2016 Ag Hall of Fame Award and for their contributions to Stanislaus County's role as one of the nation's leading agricultural counties.

Commending Fiscalini Farms and Cheese

WHEREAS, the National Ag Science Center will be honoring Fiscalini Farms and Cheese on November 18th, 2016 at its annual Ag Hall of Fame Dinner; the Ag Hall of Fame Dinner is an event that recognizes the accomplishments of individuals, families, and companies who work daily to make California the nation's leading agricultural state; and,

WHEREAS, the Fiscalini family's cheese making roots go all the way back to their ancestors in Switzerland who made their living producing cheese in the 1700s; and,

WHEREAS, the land the Fiscalini family operates today is the same property their forefathers purchased for a dairy site in 1914; and,

WHEREAS, they believe in making their cheese by hand, using traditional methods. They use only milk from their cows and are able to carefully provide attention to every detail, from the care of their animals to the hand turning of the cheese wheels; and,

WHEREAS, Fiscalini Cheese Company remains family owned with the fourth generation managing the company today and creating a presence in the community with their generous donations to local events and their support of local ag partnerships.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby congratulate and commend Fiscalini Farms and Cheese on being the recipient of the National Ag Science Center's 2016 Ag Hall of Fame Award and for their contributions to Stanislaus County's role as one of the nation's leading agricultural counties.