



Gemperle
FAMILY FARMS

Sustainability Report

2022

April 2022



Dear Readers,

Welcome to Gemperle Family Farms' first comprehensive public sustainability report. We farm eggs and almonds, and sustainability has always been inherent in how we farm. However, in the past, we just didn't talk about it; we lived it. Now we believe that it's important for folks to know more about who we are and how we farm.

We are farmers who believe in "doing the right thing" for future generations. Our parents, Ernie and Annemarie Gemperle, instilled strong environmental values in their seven children. We hold deep respect and are deeply grateful for our agricultural land and environment, and the animals, customers, and employees that we interact with daily. Our generation is merely a temporary steward of our agricultural land, air, and water—they belong to future generations. Therefore, in each decision we make we ask ourselves, "How will this affect the Earth's children two generations from today?"

We are science-based farmers, constantly involved in research and development projects to improve our farming systems and processes. Curiosity, forward thinking, and the desire to be "the best farmers we can be" is at the heart of what we do every day.

This report is a baseline of where we are today and what we have achieved since the 1950s, along with a set of target goals. While this report is not part of an official certification, it is an effort to provide transparency to our customers and community. We look forward to keeping you informed of our sustainability goals, projects, initiatives, and achievements.

Sincerely,

The Gemperle Family





Contents

About Gemperle Family Farms: Our History, Our Eggs, Our Almonds 4

Our Core Mission 4

Highlights: Accomplishments of Past 5 Years 5

Goals for 2022+ 7

Environment: It Belongs to Future Generations 8

People: Employees and Workplace 17

Our Food Products: Eggs & Almonds 18

Community: Philanthropy and Involvement 22

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Our Commitment 25

Conclusion 27

About Gemperle Family Farms: Our History, Our Eggs, Our Almonds

Gemperle Family Farms is family owned and operated and has been farming eggs since 1950. It all began with Ernie Gemperle and his wife Annemarie emigrating from Switzerland and founding their first egg farm in the Central Valley of California. They started with 6000 hens and an egg retail store behind their home. The almond production side of our farm began in 1961, when Walter Gemperle, Ernie's brother, emigrated from Switzerland.

Gemperle Family Farms is now one of the leading producers of premium organic and cage-free eggs in Northern California and the Western US. Since the 1990s, Gemperle Family Farms has been converting barns to aviary systems for cage-free and organic production. In May 2021, Gemperle Family Farms completed the conversion and became 100% cage-free in California.

All hen houses are surrounded by sustainably farmed almond orchards, which are part of the Blue Diamond farmer's cooperative. We farm many different varieties including Nonpareil, Independence, Sweetheart, Butte, Padre, and others. We have both "conventional" and Certified Organic orchards and are continually working to increase our organic acreage. Our almond farms work in symbiosis with our poultry farms, and each benefits from the other.



Our Core Mission

To produce nutritious,
high-quality, safe food for today,
while preserving the environment
and land for the future, and
fostering thriving employees
and communities

Highlights: Accomplishments of Past 5 Years

- We completed our 100% cage-free egg production conversion in California in May 2021, seven months ahead of schedule.
- We've reduced CO₂ emissions by 25% in our organic division as measured through Cool Farm Initiative modeling tools.
- We have focused on animal behavior and improving equipment to meet the needs of our hens. Our leading-edge engineering team has made impactful changes to industry standards of operation.
- Our poultry division has used advanced ventilation engineering to dramatically reduce our PM 5 and PM 10 emissions to promote a healthier environment where our employees and hens can thrive.
- Through intensive research and development, our egg production uses 25% less feed and energy than our older egg barns. Our new barns are designed to use animal feed and energy very efficiently. This allows us to produce cage-free eggs with a much lower environmental footprint than the average egg farmer.
- We have made great strides at increasing worker safety. We have added robotics to our processing plants to eliminate repetitive motion injuries and modified our poultry equipment with a focus on ergonomic design to make the facility not only hen friendly but worker friendly as well.
- We eliminated the use of traditional rodenticide in our organic egg barns. In 2021, we started to beta test a new mechanical rodent control device. This new system could allow us to completely eliminate our dependence on rodenticides. This would also be greatly beneficial to our promotion of owls in our adjacent orchards.
- We converted more than 80 acres of almond orchards to Certified Organic production.



- All of our almond orchards have been assessed across nine aspects of sustainability through the California Almond Sustainability program.
- All of our almond orchards are enrolled in the Blue Diamond Orchard Stewardship Program at the highest level. The program encourages growers to use a set of best practices around orchard management, environmental issues, occupational health and safety, and community investment.
- Approximately 5550 metric tons of CO₂e are sequestered on our orchards annually using soil health practices (based on COMET-Planner calculations).
- We installed a 143 kWp solar photovoltaic system in our almond division, which produces approximately 228,514 KWh of electricity per year.
- Gemperle Family Farms actively took the initiative to deal with COVID-19. Early in the pandemic, custom face masks were made for our employees when there was a shortage of N95 masks. Temperature monitoring was conducted before it was required. We managed to maintain a safe environment for our employees while providing essential services for our community.
- We started the Gemperle Family Farms college scholarship program in conjunction with the Stanislaus Community Foundation.

Green Economy: It's How We Farm

Supporting the Green economy is at the heart of what we do every day. At Gemperle Family Farms, we know that our world's future is dependent on moving toward a Green economy. A Green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. We continue to focus our egg and almond farm improvements on assets and processes that reduce carbon emissions, use energy and resources efficiently, and prevent the loss of ecosystem biodiversity. We understand that natural capital is an economic asset that benefits the local community and the world community at large.





Goals for 2022+

- Transition 116 acres of almond orchards to organic production by 2025.
- Whole Orchard Recycling has been implemented on 500 acres, and an additional 150 acres is planned by 2025.
- Double our photovoltaic solar generation by 2025.
- Explore opportunities to further reduce waste and increase the use of recycled materials, and analyze market opportunities for by-product waste in both almond and egg farming.
- Employ regenerative farming practices to sequester 6100 metric tons of CO₂e annually on our land by 2025.
- Establish habitat on our land for endangered species, including monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Continue to donate 350,000 to 500,000 eggs per year to local nonprofits and those in need.
- Implement groundwater recharge projects on our land to help replenish our aquifers.
- Complete remodels of egg barns to enhance their environmental sustainability, reduce energy usage, and improve hen welfare.
- In egg production, reduce downtime and food waste from breakdowns by 75%. Improve our control systems to have greater resilience in system designs and allow a more predictive preventative maintenance program.
- Start planning our future free-range and pastured egg farm on a site we have currently identified. We will focus on sustainability with a look at the symbiotic relationship between the orchards and hens. Environmental sustainability will be the focus of the project.
- Continue to develop our modeling tool to accurately measure our carbon emissions and carbon sequestration, and monitor improvements over time.



Our generation is merely a temporary steward of our agricultural land, air, and water—they belong to future generations.

Environment: It Belongs to Future Generations

Gemperle Family Farms' values encompass strong environmental stewardship. Our family strongly believes that our generation is merely a temporary steward of our agricultural land, air, and water—they belong to future generations. We are in the process of fine-tuning our modeling tool to better measure our carbon emissions and carbon sequestration and to monitor improvements over time. Read about our progress, programs, and projects that tell our environmental story.

Water Conservation and Water Quality

An integral part of our farming practices includes the efficient use of water, avoiding water quality impacts, and helping achieve sustainability in our groundwater reservoirs. Highlighted below are some of our projects and processes:

- Our egg processing plant uses gray water to irrigate natural vegetative habitat (since 1989).
- Efficient nipple drinkers reduce water waste and minimize water leaks in our egg laying barns. This improves manure management by keeping the manure dry and therefore eliminating the potential for fly breeding (100% conversion since 2008).
- Many of our layer barns have attached covered manure storage sheds to prevent rainwater from leeching nitrates from the manure into the ground.
- Orchards are irrigated using micro-irrigation (since 1998), and irrigation amount is scheduled using soil-moisture sensors, soil neutron probes, and average and real-time evapotranspiration data.

- Distribution Uniformity (DU) tests are used to measure the efficiency of our irrigation systems.
- Piezometers are used to monitor the water leaching from our orchards, and annual monitoring has shown no nitrate leaching into groundwater.
- Groundwater recharge projects are in development on two sites to help replenish our groundwater reservoirs.
- We implement practices on our orchards that are known to increase the water-holding capacity of our soils and avoid negative effects on water quality.



Energy Efficiency/Reduction

Gemperle Family Farms is constantly evaluating farming methods to increase energy efficiency and to reduce energy usage in almond farming and egg processing and production. Some of our practices include the following:

- Our egg processing facilities are cooled by energy-efficient evaporative cooling instead of refrigeration, which saves energy (since 1980).
- We have upgraded 75% of our electrical systems since 2018 with a focus on reducing energy consumption per egg produced. We have gained 25% efficiency over the last 7 years.
- Our new construction uses LEED design concepts to improve ventilation design efficiency and reduce energy requirements.
- The energy we source for our egg and almond farms is 60.7% carbon-free.
- In 2016, we substantially reduced our carbon footprint by constructing our first solar panel array in our almond orchards. This array offsets the electrical power consumed for irrigation systems. The system produces approximately 228,514 kWh of electricity per year, avoiding 160 tons of CO₂ emissions per period.

- 100% of our lighting has been switched to LED in our egg barns and processing plants.
- We plan to install another photovoltaic solar system on our almond land, which will double our production capacity.
- Synthetic fertilizers are used sparingly in our orchards, thus avoiding the energy-intensive Haber-Bosch process needed to fabricate synthetic fertilizers. Using on-farm inputs for our nutrient management also eliminates the need to transport fertilizers to our orchards.
- Sixteen old tractors were replaced with lower-emission ones that have Tier 4 engines with the strictest EPA emissions standards.
- Electric utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) are used in the orchards.
- Orchards are managed to minimize the amount of tractor passes needed, saving energy and fuel.

Soil Health/Nutrient and Land Management

Nurturing our land and soils for future farmers is the core of our farming philosophy. Soil conservation is managed with long-term soil health and fertility as a primary goal. Our operation uses only minimal manufactured petrochemical-based fertilizers. Soil fertility is maintained using primarily composted and semi-composted poultry manures from our hens.



- Our almond production division works in conjunction with our poultry division to use a substantial percentage of our chicken manure in-house. Chicken manure is applied using precise nutrient management to protect groundwater and reduce greenhouse gas (since the 1960s).
- Manure management is an integral part of our land management. Manure is removed from egg farms in a timely manner. We either use the waste on our own almond operations according to our nutrient management plans or we sell to a responsible fertilizer broker.

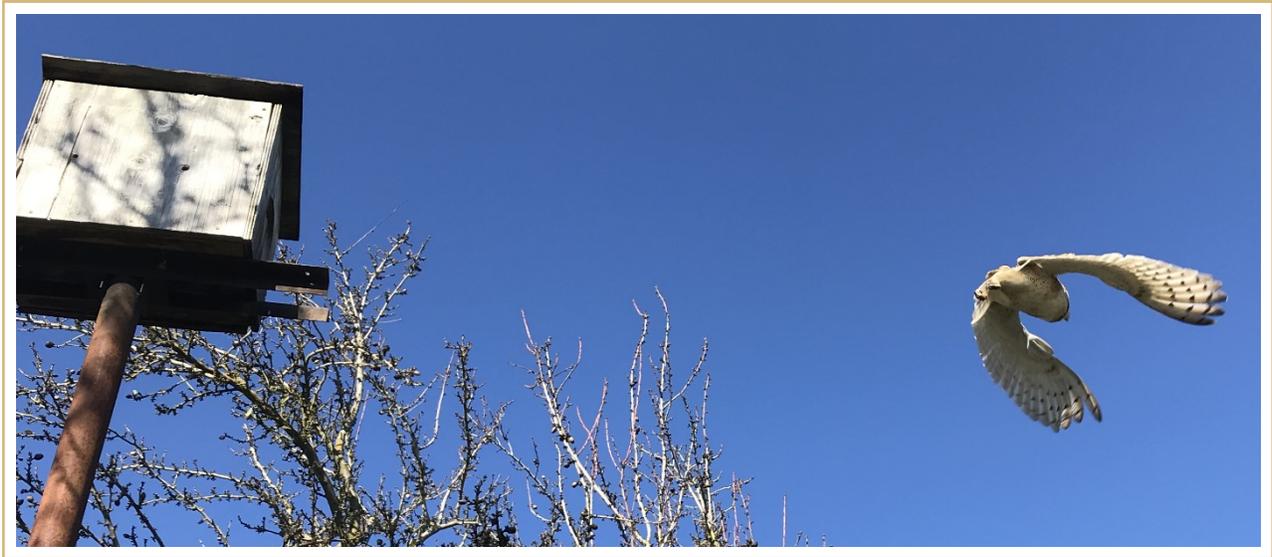
- Reduced tillage is used in all of our orchards. We till only 25% of an orchard in a year in order to incorporate the manure amendments for food safety and nutrient use efficiency, and to avoid losses to the atmosphere.
- Cover crops are planted on over 65% of our orchards. Orchards that do not have a planted cover crop have resident vegetation growing between the trees. Cover crops are a sustainable source of nutrients, and keeping the ground covered with plants has many soil health benefits.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a crucial part of our sustainable pest control. The philosophy of IPM is that chemicals are not the basis for pest control, but are instead used only as a last resort and used in ways to avoid potential problems of toxicity and resistance.

- Our manure management plan incorporates the use of beneficial insects to prey on flies and fly larvae. We have greatly reduced the need for insecticides in layer barns (since 1990).
- We eliminated the use of traditional rodenticide in our organic egg barns. In 2021, we started to beta test a new mechanical rodent control device, which may allow us to completely eliminate our need for the use of rodenticides in our barns. This also ensures the health of our resident owls.
- We incorporate minimal use of pesticides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers, and fungicides on our conventional almond orchards because of our strong integrated pest management program (since 1960s).
- Rodents are controlled by owl predators in both our almond fields and outside of our egg barns. Over 40 owl boxes have been installed in our ranches and orchards.
- We maintain hedgerows and habitat for natural predators to keep pest populations in balance and reduce the need for pesticides.
- We have started using pheromone mating disruption, which is a safe, chemical-free form of pest control.
- If chemicals are used, we use IPM Prime software to be aware of any potential unintended consequences. This innovative online tool ranks pesticide products for impacts on birds, earthworms, small mammals, aquatic ecosystems, and worker/bystander health and safety.



Recycling and Waste Reduction

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Questioning what we truly need to operate, what we can reuse, and what we can recycle is a core principle of our operational processes.

Our office is committed to furthering a path toward paperless business processes and transactions. We have reduced our office waste by 50% since 2000. Our office waste is also shredded and recycled. This program was started in the 1970s and fully implemented in 2006.

In our egg farming and processing, we have reduced our waste disposal by 95% since 2000 through increased bulk recycling. We recycle cardboard, paper, carton pulp, poly plastic, and PET plastic. All plastic containers used in our almond farming are recycled. Egg cartons are manufactured with recycled materials. We use both recycled plastic cartons and recycled molded pulp cartons.

In our almond farming, we implement progressive industry programs. The almond industry has set the goal to be zero waste by 2025. Almonds are already a very low-waste product, with hulls and shells being used as feed stocks, biochar, and animal bedding. The industry is also investing in research to find new uses for these co-products. Whole-orchard recycling at the end of an orchard's life also creates a positive use for the almond trees, avoiding waste and helping sequester carbon.



Regenerative/Carbon Farming

Agriculture is in a prime situation to help with climate change, especially through carbon sequestration. When carbon is stored in the soil, it results in many environmental benefits. On the other hand, most other places where carbon ends up, such as in the atmosphere or the oceans, leads to negative environmental consequences. Carbon sequestration is a natural process that uses plant photosynthesis and soil ecology to store carbon in the soil long-term, with many benefits to climate change, soil health, and the water-holding capacity of the soil.

- We have a Carbon Farm Plan in place on our largest orchard that is being implemented in order to maximize the amount of carbon we can sequester on our land.
- We received a grant from Zero Foodprint to implement practices identified as most beneficial to carbon sequestration in our Carbon Farm Plan.
- Whole Orchard Incorporation/Whole Orchard Recycling has been implemented on 500 acres of our orchards, sequestering potentially 50 metric tons of CO₂e per acre, with another 150 acres planned by 2025.
- Instead of burning orchard prunings, we shred them and incorporate the chips into the soil as a carbon source (since 2001).
- Reduced tillage is used. We till only 25% of an orchard in a year to incorporate the manure amendments for food safety and nutrient efficiency and to avoid losses to the atmosphere.
- Composted manure from our chickens makes up over 95% of our nutrient requirements. We use minimal synthetic fertilizers only when deficiency situations arise.
- Cover crops are planted on over 65% of our orchards. Orchards that do not have a planted cover crop have resident vegetation growing between the trees. Cover crops are used to increase the carbon sequestered in our soils.
- Hedge rows, trees, and other woody plantings have been incorporated around chicken barns and orchards to mitigate dust and to increase carbon sequestration on our land.

Distributing and Purchasing Locally

Gemperle Family Farms is a local family farm. This local focus enables our farm to reduce its carbon footprint unlike other egg brands that may truck their eggs as far as 2000 miles. We farm and distribute locally in California and source locally whenever possible. Our almonds are hulled and shelled at our grower-owned cooperative and then sent to Blue Diamond, another grower-owned cooperative. This cooperative supports many small family owned and operated almond farms. We have been a part of Blue Diamond since 1970, with multiple generations staying committed to the values of cooperative farming arrangements.

- The majority of Gemperle Farms Eggs, approximately 85%, are sold locally in Northern California and are shipped within a 100-mile radius. Our eggs can be purchased directly from the farm at our egg store in Turlock. The remainder of our eggs are sold locally in California.
- Feed is milled locally within 15 miles of our farms. Commodities are either sourced locally or shipped via rail directly to our cooperative feed mill, thus greatly reducing our carbon footprint for our grain usage. Rail transportation has one of the lowest carbon footprints of available transportation systems. According to the US Department of Transportation, rail has 1/7 the total emissions of truck transportation.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Our egg and almond production processes include strict management procedures to control and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Controlling these emissions from chicken barns and almond orchards are key operating principles. Our practices are some of the strongest in the egg and almond farming industries.

- Our poultry division has used advanced ventilation engineering to dramatically reduce our PM 5 and PM 10 emissions to promote a healthier environment where our employees and hens can thrive.
- Our eggs are produced with a much lower carbon footprint than they had 10 years ago. Much of the savings comes from a reduction in feed use, which reduces methane emissions from waste and reduces the CO₂ related to transport. We have also reduced energy consumption dramatically.

It is our responsibility to ensure that the species with which we share our planet are not only able to survive, but to thrive.

- We participated in the Cool Farm Tool CO₂ equivalent emission reduction study and made changes that reduced CO₂ equivalent emissions at our organic egg ranch by 25%. We have started on remodel plans to upgrade facilities and further reduce emissions.
- Our almond production division works in conjunction with our poultry division to use a substantial percentage of our poultry manure in-house, therefore reducing the need for chemical fertilizers, which are a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in global agriculture. All manure is applied using precise nutrient management to reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater and waterways (since 1960s).
- We planted wind breaks around our poultry barns to improve dust migration from our facilities.
- We shred all of our orchard pruning and incorporate the chips into the soil as a carbon source, instead of burning them (since 2001).
- Whole Orchard Incorporation/ Whole Orchard Recycling has been implemented on 500 acres with another 150 acres planned by 2025. This has been integral in our avoidance of burning orchards at the end of their life and has sequestered potentially 50 metric tons of CO₂e per acre.
- We have been able to reduce dust pollution during harvest by switching to low-dust harvest equipment as well as implementing many best-management practices.
- Unpaved roads are managed to avoid dust, and soil erosion is avoided on all orchards.
- Our almond farm's photovoltaic solar system has produced 1,257.948 MWh over its lifetime and avoids approximately 160 tons of CO₂ emissions per year.
- We converted 16 old tractors to new tractors with Tier 4 engines that are less polluting.
- Electric utility terrain vehicles are used in orchards to further reduce fossil fuel usage.
- Orchards are managed to minimize the amount of tractor passes needed, reducing emissions.





Biodiversity

It is our responsibility to ensure that the species with which we share our planet are not only able to survive, but to thrive. We work not only to minimize our impact on wildlife, but to provide habitat, food, and nesting sites as well. We know that working with nature is the way to have a successful farm.

- Our orchards have been certified as Bee Friendly Farms through the Pollinator Partnership, and we have participated in outreach to get more farms certified.
- We have planted monarch habitat on our land, including planting seed mixes and milkweed plants in collaboration with Monarch Joint Venture.
- Hedgerows have been planted along orchard boundaries to provide habitat and food sources for pollinators and other insects.
- Cover crops are planted on over 65% of our orchard. We source seeds from Project Apis m. through the Seeds for Bees program in order to plant species that provide healthy forage for bees.
- We have participated in the Seeds for Bees program and other cover crop programs since 2001.
- We have installed nesting perches for raptors and barn owl boxes for owls to nest in.
- Some of our land is maintained as habitat for wildlife.



People: Employees and Workplace

At Gemperle Family Farms we strive to create a work environment that is safe, secure, and able to provide a living wage for workers and their families. Over half (64%) of our employees have been with us for more than 5 years. Workers who show initiative have opportunities to advance to leadership positions. Additionally,

we encourage employees to be innovative with farming practices to create a more efficient and safe work environment. Our company currently follows international BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) guidelines related to worker social welfare.



Employee Health and Benefits

Employees receive medical healthcare benefits as well as dental benefits, vacation pay, and profit-sharing retirement accounts. Cost-of-living raises are given on a yearly basis. A portion of employees receive holiday pay or performance-based bonuses. In addition, each employee can receive up to two flats of highly subsidized eggs weekly.

Employee Safety and Training

Employee safety is an integral part of our management best practices. We are continually improving our occupational health and safety practices.

- Almond employees receive annual training related to equipment and pesticide safety.
- Egg-farming employees receive rigorous training in safety, ergonomics, biosecurity, animal welfare standards, and proper equipment use.
- Conversion of barns to cage-free egg production has improved worker ergonomics and safety.
- Our processing plants go through Costco's rigorous social welfare audits, which include a safety component.
- Our processing plants have also gone through extensive automation to reduce repetitive motion and twist injuries and trip hazards.

Our Food Products: Eggs & Almonds

Environmental stewardship is an integral part of how we farm our eggs and almonds. Our philosophy is to leave our land in better condition than we received it, so that the next generation can continue farming and caring for the land. A deep sense of respect for all living beings is embedded in our farming practices—from respecting the microorganisms in our soil to respecting our hens that produce nutritional and healthy eggs.

Our Animal Welfare Program

Our Gemperle Farms animal care program, along with our certifications, are among the strongest in the farming community. Our flocks are provided the highest quality care and nutrition. All our hens roam and fly free in modern aviary-style barns with enrichments.

Gemperle Farms became 100% cage-free in May 2021. All our hens live in aviaries and are free to fly, perch, dust bathe, and scratch and participate in healthy hen behavior.

Keeping our hens healthy and disease-free is a vital component of our animal care program.

We collaborate with veterinarians, consulting veterinarians, and poultry specialists and strive to have healthy, productive flocks. Our hens continuously have access to our custom formu-

lated high-quality feeds, as well as clean filtered water, appropriate lighting, and management practices designed for optimal animal well-being.

- Animal welfare certifications include Certified Humane (Humane Farm Animal Care), American Humane Certified (American Humane Association), UEP Certified (United Egg producers), and Certified Organic through QAI (Quality Assurance International).
- Gemperle Family Farms became 100% cage-free in May 2021, seven months ahead of schedule. All our hens roam and fly free in aviary barns with enrichments such as litter to dust bathe, perches, scratching pads, and nest boxes to lay eggs.





Integrative Almond and Egg Farming

We farm just over 1000 acres of almonds, including many different varieties, including Nonpareil, Independence, Sweetheart, Butte, Padre, and others. Our almond farms work in symbiosis with our chicken farms, and each benefits from the other. Although all of our almonds are produced using sustainable practices, some orchards have been Certified Organic and Certified Transitional Organic through CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers).

Research Collaboration & Science-Based Farming

We believe in science-based, sustainable farming. We collaborate as much as possible on research projects to improve farming to sustain a healthy environment for future generations. We have research orchards and have participated in poultry research.

The Gemperle Farms Almond division has ongoing proprietary science-based research and has participated in collaborative research with USDA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Merced, and CSU Stanislaus, as well as research and outreach projects with the following organizations:

	East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
	California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN)
	California Association for Family Farms (CAFF)
	Project Apis m.
	Monarch Joint Venture
	American Farmland Trust
	Carbon Cycle Institute
	Sustainable Stanislaus
	AQUA4D and Corigin (private companies)
	Researchers from USDA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Merced, and CSU Stanislaus UC Merced Capstone Ag Engineering

Our egg farms have ongoing proprietary science-based research as well as collaboration projects over the years with the following organizations:

- **Cool Farm Alliance:** Collaborative research to model CO₂ emissions from our organic facilities. Gemperle Family Farms helped Cool Farm Alliance refine their CO₂ emissions model to cover distribution and improve sequestration modeling for orchards.
- **Biogas Research:** Worked with multiple biogas companies researching the applicability of biogas generation from chicken manure.
- **UC Davis:** Participated in compost project research.
- **ONCE Lighting and Facco USA:** Low wattage lighting research that helped develop low wattage lights in collaboration with two light vendors.
- **Facco USA:** Worked with Facco USA in developing an energy-efficient, animal-friendly environment for hens. Also developed an ergonomically friendly environment for the workers to reduce workplace injuries.
- **San Joaquin Valley Air Board:** Collaborative research to reduce PM 5 & PM 10 dust emissions and improve energy efficiency.
- **Aqua 4 D Water Treatment Company:** Collaborative research to treat water without salt or chemicals, eliminating the environmental impact from water-softening salts. Additional benefits include sanitizing water lines and promoting hen health. Additional research includes studies to improve cool cell efficiency and useful life.
- **Collaborated with university researchers** in hen health and hen behavior from the following universities: UC Davis, Modesto Junior College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and California State Veterinary Labs.



Food Safety (Egg Production)

We implement a rigorous farm-to-fork food safety and quality certification that meets the highest possible global food safety standards. Our SQF (The Safe Quality Food Institute) certified program is the most comprehensive and science-based food safety management system in the industry. Our processing facility and warehouse are checked with a rigorous annual audit. We maintain a Level 3 certification, which is the highest level achievable.



Biosecurity (Egg Production)

Gemperle Family Farms was one of the first companies to apply under the Secure Food Supply Program, a new program of the CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture). It integrates all the regulatory biosecurity programs into one plan for FDA (salmonella), APHIS (avian influenza), SEFS (salmonella), and CEQAP (salmonella and other pathogens). The egg industry was the first industry regulated under the program.

Sustainable Packaging

Our egg packaging is made from recycled materials such as paper pulp and PET. For all private-label packaging, we promote recycled pulp packaging.



Community: Philanthropy and Involvement

The Central Valley of California is our home, and we believe in supporting our local community, in food security, education, arts, and youth opportunities. Philanthropy is a core family and business value that has always been at the heart of our operations. The farm founders, Annemarie and Ernie Gemperle, instilled these values into their daily lives and their seven children who now are partners in the farm.



Philanthropy is a core family and business value that has always been at the heart of our operations.

Supporting the Community with Food Security

The majority of our eggs are sold within 100 miles of our farm, thus providing food security for the local California population. Sometimes we farm at a loss and sometimes we make a profit. No matter the financial circumstances, our eggs flow to the local market weekly. Through our partnerships with local nonprofits, we also donate eggs to families and individuals facing food insecurity.

Philanthropy

Gemperle Family Farms donates between 350,000 to 500,000 eggs each year through free lunch programs, donations to food banks, Christmas baskets, and donations to service organizations to ensure that those in need have healthy eggs included in their family diets. The United Samaritans Foundation (USF) is the largest provider of emergency food to communities throughout Stanislaus County. Gemperle Farms donates over 250,000 eggs per year and makes a sizable financial contribution each year to USF to help with food insecurity in the Central Valley. This has been an ongoing donation since the 1990s. Ernie Gemperle was a founding member of the organization, and family members have served on the board.

Supporting the Community in Education

We believe that education is the core to a thriving community. Education is a key component of our philanthropic giving. Our educational support includes the following:

When you change someone's life with the gift of education, you not only change his or her circumstance, but you have an impact for generations to come. They will inspire their children, and then those children will inspire others.

- A significant contribution to the One Purpose endowment at California State University Stanislaus in 2015. This seed gift serves as an inspiration for investment in scholarships for student success through One Purpose. In the future, earnings from the endowment will add to the funds raised by volunteers, providing additional dollars that will be awarded as scholarships.
- Gemperle Family Farms College Scholarship fund in conjunction with the Stanislaus Community Foundation was established in 2015 to help fund higher education for children and grandchildren of Gemperle Farms employees. As of 2021, the fund has granted over \$35,000 in scholarships.
- Significant family involvement in the California State University Stanislaus Foundation over several decades, including a large donation during the construction of the Gemperle Lecture Hall. Many students have benefited from scholarships made by Gemperle Family Farms to the foundation.



Conserving the Environment for Future Generations

The Central Valley of California is our home and community. The United States of America is our home and community. In the heart of each decision we make, we acknowledge that our home and community belong to future generations as much or more than it belongs to us. The question, “How will this affect my children’s children?” guides us daily.

Supporting Local Youth

Support for youth programs is an important component of our philanthropic program. Some of the programs we have supported include:

- **Turlock Regional Sports Complex at Gemperle Fields.** This was created when a sizable portion of the land was gifted to the city of Turlock for use as a regional sports facility. Gemperle Family Farms employees and children volunteer and enjoy soccer at this world-class facility.
- **Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts.** Gemperle Family Farms has been a dedicated supporter of scouting, with donations and personal volunteer time. The Gemperle family hosted a yearly fundraiser dinner at the family home for over 40 years. Two family members served as president of our local council. Multiple generations are distinguished as Eagle scouts. Currently members are still active at the council and troop/crew level.
- **Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS).** We have worked with the SLEWS program to educate and provide mentorship to local youth interested in agriculture, conservation, and ecology.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Our Commitment

Gemperle Family Farms supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which recognize ending poverty, improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring economic growth is a global partnership. All of these must also take into consideration climate change and the preservation of our environment.

The egg and almond industries can support United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to create a positive impact in our local and world communities.

As farmers we can impact the following SDG goals:



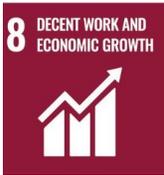
Eggs and almonds can help provide families with year-round nutrition. Eggs are a sustainable, affordable source of the highest quality protein. They contain the majority of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants required by the human body and have been proven to be associated with better growth, cognitive performance, and motor development among children, particularly in low-income communities. Almonds are a major source of protein, fiber, healthy fats, vitamin E, biotin, and many other vitamins and nutrients, and there are many health benefits associated with eating almonds. Almond farming also can help increase family farm productivity and income. The majority of almond farms are less than 50 acres, and 91% of California almond farms are family farms with multigenerational farmers.



Eggs and almonds can help people live healthy lives. Eggs are recognized as a high-quality protein and contain 13 vitamins and minerals. The bioavailability and density of their nutrients means eggs have the capacity to directly improve human health outcomes around the world. Almonds are shown to reduce the risk of heart disease, lower bad cholesterol, help with glucose regulation, and decrease inflammation.



Eggs and almonds can help growing children be successful in their education. Egg consumption supports brain development and concentration, particularly in young children. The egg industry is dedicated to educating the world about the value eggs provide in terms of nutrition, environment, and livelihoods. Almonds contain nutrients that benefit brain health, have neuroprotective benefits, and may boost memory function.



The egg industry provides a significant source of employment income for farming communities around the world. The California almond industry supports the communities of the Central Valley through employment and economic stability. More than 100,000 jobs are generated by the industry in these farming communities that have historically had high unemployment. These jobs in the US do not all require English proficiency, so they provide excellent work and benefits for new immigrants. At Gemperle Family Farms, each employee receives subsidized eggs each week for their family.



The egg and almond industries are committed to producing nutritious foods in environmentally sound and responsible ways. While eggs and nuts are officially recognized as a low impact protein source, our businesses are always looking for new ways to make production more environmentally sustainable.



Egg and almond businesses continually strive to reduce the resources they use while ensuring the same level of output. Thanks to new efficiencies and significant productivity gains, eggs have a low carbon footprint. In 2010, the environmental footprint of a kilogram of eggs produced in the US had reduced by 65% compared to 1960, with greenhouse gas emissions reducing by 71%. A Life Cycle Assessment of almond production shows that almond trees accumulate and store significant amounts of greenhouse gases over the course of their 25-year lifecycle. Research shows that current almond growing practices offset about 50% of their carbon emissions, with the potential to become carbon neutral or even carbon negative.



Almond farmers continue to improve practices that help to maintain pollinator insects and habitat. A core goal for the almond industry is protecting honeybee health and expanding on-farm pollinator habitat. By planting cover crops and forage to strengthen bee colonies and habitat for insects and native pollinators, farmers are helping to keep life on land healthy.

Conclusion

As a family farm, we have been producing eggs and almonds for over 70 years. We are farmers who believe in “doing the right thing” for future generations. At Gemperle Family Farms, we hold deep respect for our agricultural land and environment, and the animals, customers, and employees that we interact with daily. We believe our generation is merely a temporary steward of our agricultural land, air, and water—they belong to future generations. Therefore, in each decision we make, we ask ourselves, “How will this affect the Earth’s children two generations from today?” Bottom line, this is the way we farm and participate in the local economy.

We are innovative farmers who are always looking to improve our farming methods and processes. Please contact us if you have an idea for a collaborative project. Visit www.gemperle.com to learn more.

Sources

International Egg Commission www.internationalegg.com/our-work/sustainability/

US Sustainability Fact Sheets, U.S. Almonds <https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/u-s-almonds-fact-sheet/>

The Incredible Egg www.incredibleegg.org/nutrition/articles/

Kamil, Alison, and C. Y. Oliver Chen. 2012. “Health Benefits of Almonds beyond Cholesterol Reduction.” *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 60 (27), 6694-6702.

Shubrook, N., and K. Torrens. 2018. “The health benefits of almonds.” BBC good food. www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/health-benefits-almonds

This report was compiled and written by the Gemperle Family: Tanya Gemperle Goncalves, Susan Gemperle Abdo, Mike Gemperle, Rich Gemperle, and Steve Gemperle. We thank those organizations that conducted research, programs, and educational outreach that made our sustainability work included in this report possible.



