

Paul J. Wenger



Paul Wenger is a diversified farmer who lives and farms in Modesto, California. Wenger has been involved in agricultural advocacy since returning to the family farming operation in 1980. Paul's advocacy efforts were carried out through his involvement in the largest general agricultural organization in California, Farm Bureau. Wenger was elected president of the California Farm Bureau Federation in December 2009 and was re-elected to his fourth and final term as President in 2015, completing 20 years as a statewide elected officer in December 2017.

Wenger became a statewide officer in 1997 when he was elected Second Vice President. He was elected First Vice President in 2005. He also served as a member of the CFBF Board of Directors and chaired the CFBF Water Advisory Committee and the Board Water Development Task Force. He is a former President of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. In January 2011, he was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Board of Directors and was re-elected in 2013. He also served 5 years on the Executive Committee of the AFBF.

The third-generation farmer, farms almonds and walnuts, as well as various other crops on the family farm, which includes property purchased by his grandfather in 1910. His farming operations also include sharecropping, custom farm work and walnut hulling. He has expanded his operation to include marketing of almonds and walnuts through his Wood Colony Nut Export Company.

Wenger attended Modesto Junior College before transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he majored in Animal Science. At Cal Poly, Wenger was very involved in Student Government, serving as a ASI Senator from the College of agriculture, as well as President of the Ag Student Council. He also served as Noble Ruler for the Chi Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho. Wenger has often said the best take-away from his collegiate experience is the lifelong relationships that comes with Alpha Gamma Rho.

Over the years, Wenger has also been active in community affairs, serving on the Salida Volunteer Fire Department, the Hart-Ransom School Board of Trustees, and the Stanislaus Land Trust and Agricultural Pavilion Boards.

Wenger currently serves on an Advisory Council for the California Land Trust and in April 2020 was elected to the Board of nationwide Mutual Insurance company.

He and his wife, Deborah, have three sons and three grandchildren.