

Valerie Zentner Proclamation Expanded Information:

Valerie Zentner, Executive Director, Mount Aukum. Valerie joined the Farm Bureau in September 1999. A California native, she spent her teen and young adult years in the Bay Area studying Business Administration at De Anza College. She worked for nearly 20 years in Contract Administration for large defense contractors. She enjoys fishing and camping, which is what brought her family to the Sierra Foothills visiting friends and enjoying the natural beauty of our county. Valerie and husband John bought an old walnut orchard in Mount Aukum in 1996 and decided to convert it to a vineyard, planting five acres of premium wine grapes that are producing award-winning wines.

Over the past 15 years, Valerie has been a full-time advocate for the county's farmers, ranchers and foresters. She has become the "Voice of Agriculture" on local, regional, state and national issues affecting local agriculture. She has devoted many years to being at the table with local leaders in reviewing the county's General Plan and its implementation, including revisions to the zoning ordinance. Valerie participates in discussions concerning water supply, species protections and habitat planning that could affect local land use. She has, likewise, informed the Farm Bureau members of new regulatory requirements as they unfold with the hope of minimizing the affects to local agriculturists to ensure their future economic viability. An avid promoter of the health of agriculture in El Dorado County, she was instrumental in the formation of El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom, El Dorado Land Trust and El Dorado Agricultural Water Quality Coalition.