

## Tehama County exhibit wins silver

By **ASHLEY GEBB-DN Staff Writer**

August 21, 2008

Tehama County residents are a little nutty, much to the delight of judges at the California State Fair. The county's booth exhibit, "Nuts about Tehama County," won a silver medal at the fair, which runs Aug. 15 through Sept. 1 in Sacramento. Visitors can see the displays of all 58 counties in the California Building.

County Risk Analyst Sandra Lee thought up the theme just after last year's fair. The supervisors approved the design in April, and Gaffney Designs created an elaborate scene with celebratory almond, pistachio and walnut characters surrounded by the fruits of Tehama County's harvest.

"Everybody here thought the dancing nuts were cute," Lee said.

The exhibits are judged in a variety of areas, and each county earns a bronze, silver or gold, Lee said.

Tehama County has only placed gold twice since she started keeping records in 1990. Once was for a 1991 rodeo theme and the other, from two years ago, proclaimed "Tehama County: Experience 'olive' it."

To Lee's knowledge, never in the exhibit's history had the county focused on the nut industry.

The county has a \$5,000 budget to pay Gaffney Designs for the display creation, which is funded through contributions by the county, cities, chambers of commerce and 35th District Agricultural Association.

Lee heard some counties spend as much as \$150,000 for their exhibits, she said.

"We have such a limited budget for the exhibit, we just can't compete with some of the counties," she said.

She is grateful to all the local growers, producers and businesses that rallied to donate display items for the exhibit, especially Crain Walnut Shelling and Eco-Shell. Blue Diamond Growers, Tehama Angus Ranch, Pacific Farms, Indian Peak Vineyards, the Olive Pit, California Dried Plum Board and Goforth Pistachios were among others that helped fill the booth with county goodness.

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Thanks to the Red Bluff Daily News for the Article and Tehama County for the Photo

