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The Central Valley's farm economy is a vital one that needs protection as increasingly it is targeted by criminals who steal fuel, equipment, agricultural products and more. Security expert Lawrence Borgens, of Delta Protective Services, is available to speak as an authority about crime problems and professional security solutions for agricultural operations.

The overall value of San Joaquin County's farm output totaled \$3.1 billion in 2024, Agricultural Commissioner Kamal Bagri reported in the 2024 Crop Report. In 2024, California farms and ranches received \$61.2 billion in cash receipts and agricultural exports totaled \$23.8 billion. Nearly half of the country's vegetables and more than three quarters of its fruits and nuts are grown right here in California. That success depends on more than the field. It depends on steady processing, storage, distribution, and shipping.

"At Delta Protective Services, I work alongside Kimberley Borgens, our CEO. We help agriculture operations protect their people, property, and peace of mind," Lawrence Borgens, president of Delta Protective Services in Stockton, said. "The good news is that most agriculture businesses can lower their risk with a few consistent habits that do not slow the work."

Local farms are facing significant losses due to agricultural theft by organized crime rings targeting expensive equipment. In 2024, San Joaquin Valley authorities said evidence collected accounted for 24 pieces of missing ag equipment totaling more than \$2.25 million. More recently, in 2025, San Joaquin County Sheriff's deputies busted a cherry heist in Linden.

"When theft, vandalism, or sabotage happen, it often targets simple points of failure. A dock or gate left unsecured," Borgens said. "A trailer lock broken. A hole in the fence. The loss is not only what was taken, it is downtime for your crew, missed orders, and the stress that follows."

Cargo theft has estimated annual losses of up to \$35 billion, and food and beverage are frequent targets. Verify pickups, confirm driver identity, and set clear rules for after-hours deliveries and paperwork.

"Start with a quick walk of your property this week. If you find risks and gaps in security you're not willing to tolerate, then bring in support. Delta Protective Services provides uniformed officers, marked vehicle patrol, alarm response, and video monitoring so you have a clear plan and peace of mind," Borgens said.

Please reach out to schedule an interview if you are in need of a security specialist to provide professional insight and perspective on current crime problems and security solutions regarding agriculture, residential and commercial properties and more.