

**It is my pleasure to offer a few words regarding Anthony Silveira and his expertise in California Agriculture. I first met Anthony in the fall of 1989, when Met West Agribusiness was assigned the task of merging the H.P. Metzler Fruit Company into the Met West group of businesses. We met in Anthony's office at McFarland, California. I knew that day that Anthony was unlike any other manager that I had ever met.**

**For the next decade, Anthony and I worked together in a number of different circumstances and commodity mixes. Packing sheds, tree crops, vines, and new developments were all part of the relationship. From the Delta to the Central Coast to the Madera and Kerman areas we farmed . . . and prospered.**

**Although, our company, Met West Agribusiness, made money in all years of the decade except 1994, Mr. Silveira's growing grounds made money each year including that difficult year in California Ag.**

**If asked to assess what set Mr. Silveira apart from his colleagues, a first blush response would be his organization. He was meticulous. No corners were left uncovered and no edges were left untouched. From roads to pump maintenance, Anthony taught all around him, including me, the value of detail.**

**He also has a tremendous gift of getting the best out of people. His dedication to hierarchy was absolute. He would cover those above him and he would care for those below him. He would perform and his record of success was one of the reasons that Met West sold so quickly in 1998. We were profitable and we had properties that stood apart from those that surrounded them.**

**If I had to array those factors that made Mr. Silveira the best among his corporate colleagues, it would start with his work ethic, but more particularly, I think it continued with his water management skills. He relied on peer and trade review for factors such as fertility management, but his water management skills were all Anthony Silveira. He was a true master. His personal organization was the thing that elevated all other technical decision making.**

**If your needs and aims are aimed at a manager skilled in more commodities than the average farmer would ever encounter much less**

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wilmeth was a board member and COO of Met West Agribusiness. Today, he ranches in New Mexico. His writings can be found in a number of national publications including Range magazine.

**grow, Anthony brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience.  
He is unique, and I view my relationship with him as a lifetime gift.**

**STEPHEN L. WILMETH  
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