

Toso Named Partner in Edwards & Lien, Inc.
By Ashley Cahill
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After 8 years as Edwards & Lien, co-owners Randy Edwards and Jeff Lien have decided to turn their successful duo into a trio by adding Anthony “Tony” Toso to their business name. Recently, the former staff appraiser was promoted to Shareholder and Chief Operations Officer of the Hilmar-based agriculture appraisal firm.

According to Edwards and Lien, the decision to make Toso a partner in the business was an easy one. Not only are the three co-owners trusted friends, but they have also worked together since their days in the Farm Credit System through the 1980s and 90s.

“Tony has been with us a long time,” commented CEO and President, Randy Edwards. “He’s just an honest, hard working guy and he’s very good at what he does.”

Approximately 5 years ago, Toso was awarded the professional designation of Accredited Rural Appraiser (ARA)—the highest rank and only title conferred on rural appraisers by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Prior to his accreditation, Toso—a 1985 graduate of Fresno State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Business—had experience with credit analysis as a loan officer and assistant branch manager for Farm Credit. He also has 10 years of experience as a property appraiser and 7 years in agriculture real estate appraisals.

Despite that Toso has a long commute from Hornitos to Hilmar every day, he says that he enjoys working at Edwards & Lien where he specializes in appraising cattle ranches and doing conservation easement work.

“I really enjoy what I do,” explained Toso. “It may be official now, but Jeff and Randy have always treated me like a partner at this business.”

Outside of work, Toso is a family man who enjoys watching his two barrel racers—his daughters Alyssa and Gianna—as well as running the Cotton Creek Ranch with his wife of over 20 years, Danette, and his in-laws Dick and Donna Wilkey. He is also a former president of the Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen’s Association and he is the current president of the Mariposa County Farm Bureau, in addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Producers Livestock Marketing Association.

“Tony brings a lot of agriculture experience to our firm and he is very well connected,” said Jeff Lien. “He’s added so much to our business; bringing him on as a partner was the next natural step for us.”

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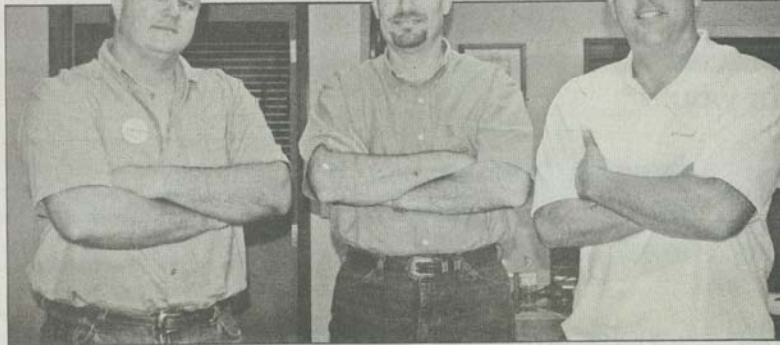


Photo by Ashley Cahill/Hilmar Times

Anthony "Tony" Toso (middle) stands beside his new partners Randy Edwards (L) and Jeff Lien (R) whom he has worked with since the early 1990s

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