## Sweet Home Ranch



**Operator:** Paul and Ruth Buxman

Acreage: 55

**Crops:** Peaches, Plums, Nectarines, Pluots, Apricots, Grapes, Kiwi, Persimmons **Sales:** Wholesale, CSA and Direct Sales

Organic Status: Organic since 2001



Farmer and artist Paul Buxman has been farming stone fruit in the San Joaquin Valley for over forty years. Paul has been "a mover and a shaker" in the ecological farming scene in the valley and around the world. The impetus behind his move to a more ecological method of farming was the discovery of leukemia in his young son, Wyeth, over 30 years

ago. That family crisis began a journey for the Buxman family of returning to a more holistic style of farming. What began as farmers, farm workers, the farming community, consumers and buyers; a dream to return neighborliness to the farming enterprise.

Paul and his wife Ruth have realized over the years that the quality of fruit that comes from their farm is directly related to the relationship between themselves and their workers. When compliments from buyers come about the fruit, the Buxmans are well aware that the men and women who pick and pack the fruit are key to that quality.

Ruth says, "If farming isn't about love, it isn't about anything: Love for our land, our workers, the wonderful fruit and each other. That is what Paul and I constantly need to come back to."