

# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.  
A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

Our 76th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVI, Number 12, December 2022.



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## Welcome New Members

We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part of the Farm Bureau Family.



## Meghan Manion

Grades Taught: K-5 Literacy Specialist/Transitioning to High School Agriculture  
School: Ysabel Barnett Elementary  
County: Riverside

Let's start with the basics: What is your favorite California commodity?

My favorite California commodity to eat is organic avocados! I am grateful to live in a community where avocados grow abundantly. My favorite commodity to grow is wine grapes. I work part-time for a local vineyard, and I love tending to the vines and learning regenerative vineyard management.

How and when did you first learn about Ag in the Classroom?

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom six years ago while searching for school garden resources online. I attended my first AITC Conference in 2018, and I look forward to future conferences. I enjoy networking with other passionate teachers and learning from them.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

For the past 17 years, I have incorporated agriculture education in elementary classrooms, gardens, and farms. I am passionate about educating students about where their food comes from and how it is grown. Students should understand the importance of eating healthy, nutrient-dense food, and the impacts of agriculture on our planet. I look forward to my next "agventure," teaching high school students regenerative agriculture!

What is your favorite AITC program, resource, or event and why?

My favorite AITC event is the conference. I love learning about programs, resources, and "what's growing on" at other schools, gardens, and farms in California. I especially enjoy the Make N' Take sessions at the conference. It's "agciting" to bring back creative activities and lessons to my students and garden club.

Describe an agriculture-based project you have been involved with lately.

Currently, I am writing and refining the curriculum for the first Agriculture CTE Pathway for Temecula Valley Unified School District. For the past four years, I have networked with the school district, local farmers, engineers, teachers, and community members to plan the development of a five-acre regenerative farm and vineyard located on the Temecula Valley High School campus.

Do you have any advice for other teachers on how to implement agriculture into their classrooms?

Find your people! Network with other teachers and community members who share your passion. Resources abound in your community. I highly recommend researching professional development opportunities hosted by Life Lab in Santa Cruz.

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom? Where agriculture came alive for your students?

Magic and joy are apparent when children work their hands in the soil and grow something they actually want to eat, like kale, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts!

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# Farm Bureau President Rejects Policy of Scarcity for Agriculture

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson opened the organization's 104th Annual Meeting in Monterey by calling on policymakers to build critical infrastructure to protect water resources and allow America's most important agricultural sector to continue to thrive.

"The management of scarcity is failing," Johansson told the gathering. "It's time now to reimplement the management of bounty, which made California great."

California's nearly 70,000 farms and ranches produce more than 400 commodities as the nation's leading food producer. But a recent University of California, Merced, study estimates that an additional 750,000 acres of farmland in the state were fallowed this year due a third year of drought and cuts in state and federal water deliveries to agriculture.

Johansson stressed that such an outcome may have been avoided had California delivered on the \$7.1 billion water infrastructure bond approved by state voters in 2014. He said the state has failed to update its water system to meet the needs of California farms and communities as well as the challenges of a drier climate.

The consequences for agriculture are aggravated, Johansson said, by policies that stem from a mindset of working within the limits of scarcity—of adapting to a changing environment by paring down California's agricultural potential.

Instead, Johansson said, new water storage and groundwater recharge projects can capture and store water in wet years for dry years and help protect and grow California's food production.

"Change is inevitable," Johansson said. "We understand change in agriculture. But what we struggle with is a state that doesn't have a plan of how we make those changes based on principles."

Johansson said, "We can continue in agriculture to make a difference, feed the world and more importantly prosper our communities."

*The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members.*

## 140 ACRES FOR LEASE!

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is pleased to offer approximately 140 acres of land for lease.

EMWD will consider various uses and terms including certain types of drought resistant/tolerant turf grass.

The current area is leased at a rate of \$80 per acre per year and will be available for up to five (5) years.

The property is located south of Ramona Expressway and west of Sanderson Avenue in San Jacinto, CA.

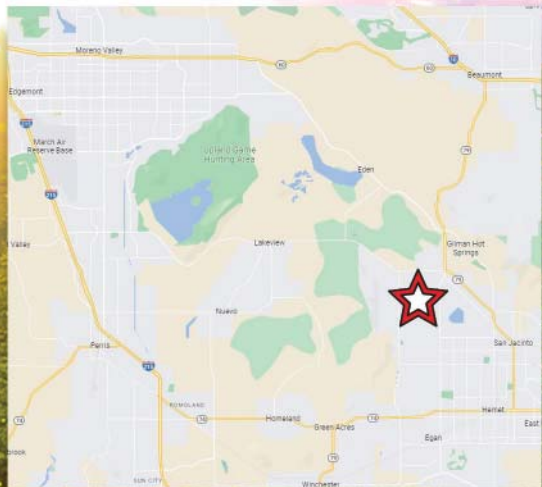
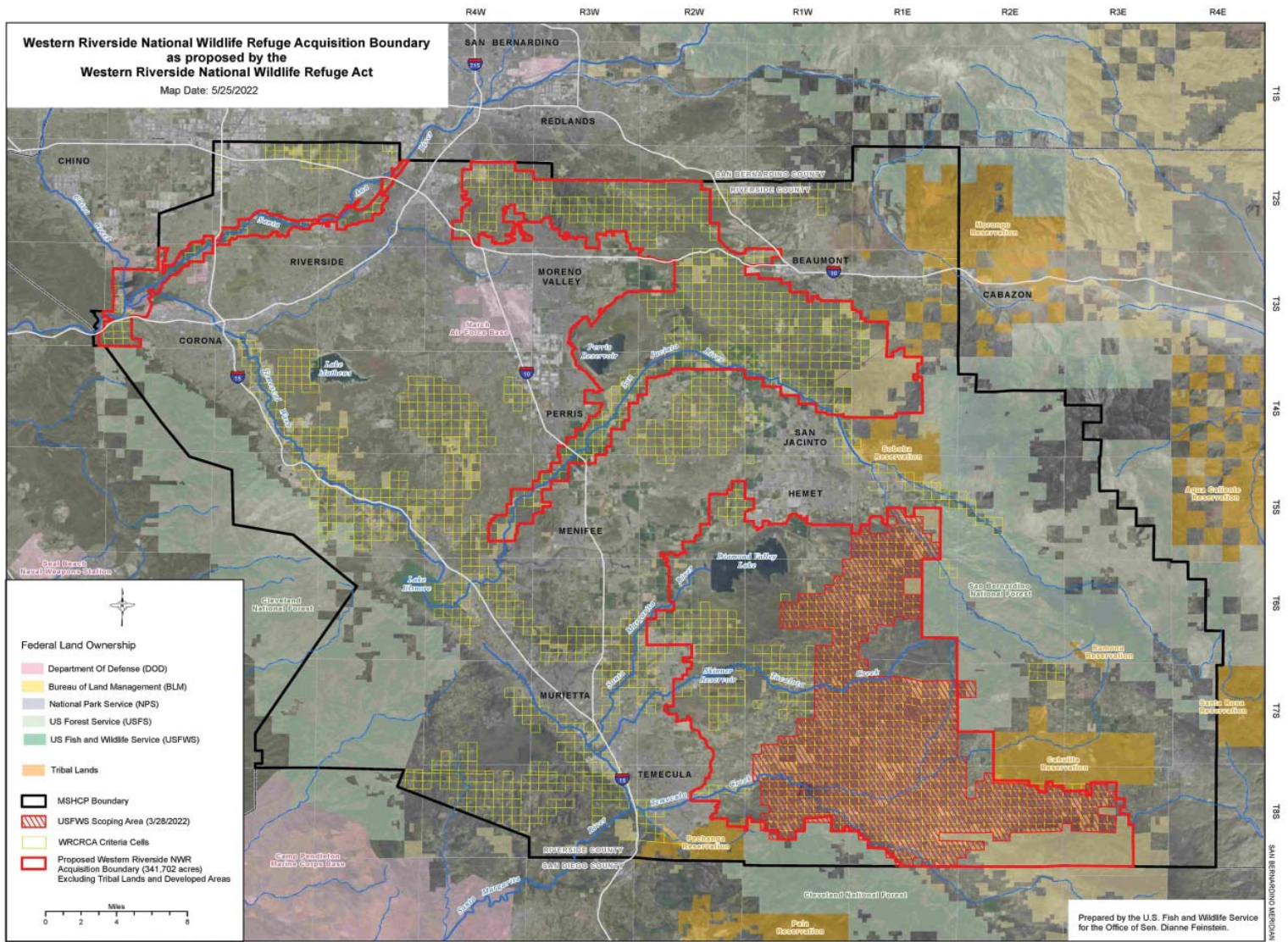


Photo L-R: President Richard Schmid (Delegate), Director Celeste Alonzo (Alternate) and, Vice President Ellen Way (Delegate) served as Riverside County Farm Bureau representatives at California Farm Bureau's 104th Annual Meeting, December 2 - 7, 2022.



### CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Federal Curtailment of Agricultural Operations

By Bruce Colbert, Executive Director, Property Owners Association of Riverside County

The “Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge Act,” S. 4669, would create the proposed Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge – a 341,702-acre conservation overlay area on both private and public lands in Western Riverside County, outlined in red on the inset map. The National Wildlife Refuge encompasses properties from Scott Bros. Dairy Farms to the north to Temecula Valley Wine Country to the south.

Land use regulations would apply to all land within the boundary of the proposed National Wildlife Refuge. Uses must be compatible with the National Wildlife Refuge System and the purposes of the Refuge – i.e., conservation of species and their habitats. The Refuge would likely eliminate agricultural operations on any land acquired. The Refuge boundary line around properties would put a cloud on these properties. Agricultural land values would be diminished to reflect the limited use of these properties.

The National Wildlife Refuge System only allows agriculture that is a “benefit to the wildlife management of the area.” According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: “Cooperative agriculture is used on refuges only in situations where the Fish and Wildlife Service cannot meet its resource management objectives.” Agriculture also may encounter difficulties at the renewal of cooperative agreements.

The provisions are the same in the Senate and House bills establishing the Refuge – S. 4669 and H.R. 972. The bills provide for the Refuge boundary to be expanded.

No funding is appropriated for acquisition of lands or water in the Refuge by these bills. Refuges compete for funding.

.....CONT. FROM PAGE 4. The Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge has received \$21.5 million over a 10-year period, which is about \$2 million per year. For funding commitments of the magnitude required for the Refuge, this level of funding is inadequate. For example, the land value of the 96,000 acres remaining to be acquired over 24 years as part of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is \$1.3 billion as of 2017, according to the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Nexus Fee Study, October 2020. Refuge funding would reduce the 24 years to acquire just the MSHCP lands for the Refuge by less than a year. Acquisitions by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lack transparency, such as in the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. The FWS may make strategic purchases to render certain properties undevelopable and devalued.

Refuges can acquire water rights needed for Refuge purposes. For example, the mandates of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Refuge Water Supply Program are to acquire or secure the water supply necessary to meet the delivery requirements of the refuges. The Refuge may begin to compete for water rights/use with Riverside County agriculture, which could lead to controversy during a drought. The Refuge may also compete with public water suppliers, such as Rancho California Water District, reducing water available for agriculture and urban uses. In the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, the FWS prevented property owners from continuing access to priority rights to water.

The FWS could regulate agriculture, development, and other private and public land uses near the Refuge on grounds such as potential adverse impacts to the Refuge from noise, light, dust, pesticides, fertilizers, human encroachment, etc. Poorly maintained refuges are detrimental to adjacent agriculture.

Any property within the 1.26-million-acre MSHCP Plan Area may be added to the Refuge, under H.R. 972.

Under S. 4669, the Refuge includes lands, both inside and outside of the 300,000-acre MSHCP Criteria Area. The Refuge would acquire lands outside of the 500,000-acre MSHCP Conservation Area – i.e., the Refuge would acquire lands in addition to the 153,000 acres of private Additional Reserve Lands and 347,000 acres of Public/Quasi-Public Lands. The bills state that the Refuge will give priority to acquiring Additional Reserve Lands when acquiring land for the Refuge.

S. 4669 was jointly introduced by Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla on July 28, 2022. Congressman Ken Calvert introduced H.R. 972 on February 11, 2021. H.R. 972 is currently making its way through the House committee review process.

For farmers and winegrowers who want to protect their livelihoods and avert curtailment of their operations and adverse impacts on their property values, it is imperative that they voice their concerns immediately to their congressmen and senators. For more information about how the proposed Refuge would affect your operations, contact the Farm Bureau and the Property Owners Association of Riverside County.



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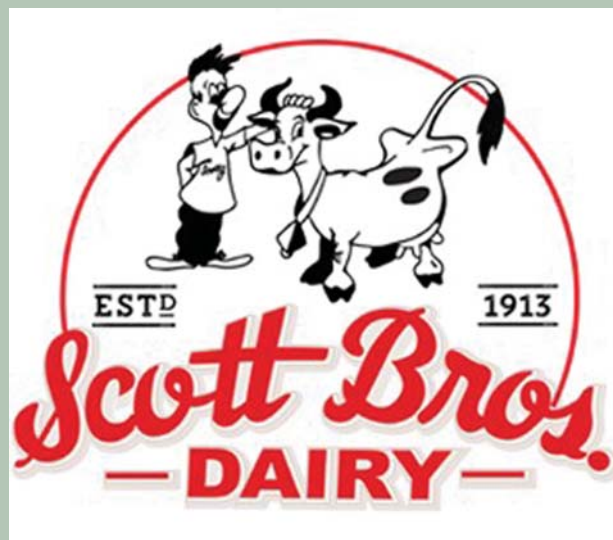
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**V. Manuel Perez, District 4**



It is my privilege to submit the 2021 Riverside County Agricultural Production Report. This report is produced in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, and summarizes the acreage, production and valuation of our County's agricultural commodities.

The gross value of all agricultural crops produced during 2021 in Riverside County is **\$1,405,910,000**. This total represents an decrease of \$12 million (-1%) from last year's total value. The largest increase (8%) was seen in nursery production followed by aquaculture (6.%) while field and Seed crops saw a 13.5% drop in value.

Using historical economic values, the total agricultural contribution to Riverside County's economy is approximately \$3.9 billion.

This report is our yearly opportunity to recognize the growers, shippers, ranchers and other businesses instrumental to and supportive of agriculture in Riverside County. As such, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the industry for their continued efforts in providing the vital information that enables the compilation of this report. Special recognition goes to the Agricultural Commissioner's staff for their efforts in the production of this year's report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruben J. Arroyo  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY** **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT** 2021



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To view the complete 2021 Crop Report, please visit [www.riversidecfb.com](http://www.riversidecfb.com)  
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# DISTRICT VALUATIONS - AGRICULTURAL CROPS

District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Riverside/Corona	102,010,000	105,905,000	126,279,000	135,650,000	136,700,000
San Jacinto/Temecula Valley	156,061,000	153,514,000	148,788,000	165,415,000	166,300,000
Coachella Valley	592,337,000	623,805,000	684,911,000	703,250,000	705,310,000
Palo Verde Valley	142,468,000	151,721,000	209,974,510	216,100,000	210,000,000
<b>Total Crop Valuation</b>	<b>992,876,000</b>	<b>1,034,945,000</b>	<b>1,169,953,000</b>	<b>1,220,415,000</b>	<b>1,218,310,000</b>

## ACREAGE STATISTICS

Crop	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Citrus	16,082	17,333	19,756	18,889	19,400
Tree and Vine	23,405	22,988	21,075	22,506	22,082
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	39,621	44,287	46,709	40,550	40,978
Field and Seed	102,829	102,829	116,182	127,346	114,382
Nursery	6,082	6,909	5,616	5,624	6,407
<b>Total Planted Acreage</b>	<b>188,019</b>	<b>194,346</b>	<b>209,338</b>	<b>214,915</b>	<b>203,249</b>

## TOTAL VALUATION

Crop	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Citrus	177,055,000	170,775,000	121,934,000	126,567,000	127,473,000
Tree and Vine	228,315,000	249,150,000	268,368,000	282,840,000	280,105,000
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	331,986,000	371,570,000	354,217,000	334,440,000	324,895,000
Field and Seed	96,063,000	93,282,000	141,652,000	156,114,000	135,033,000
Nursery	153,749,000	165,758,000	204,768,000	247,765,000	267,547,000
Apiculture	5,415,000	5,473,000	6,123,000	5,858,000	5,925,000
Aquaculture	4,764,000	4,732,000	4,776,000	4,596,000	4,873,000
<b>Total Crop</b>	<b>997,347,000</b>	<b>1,060,740,000</b>	<b>1,101,838,000</b>	<b>1,158,180,000</b>	<b>1,145,851,000</b>
Livestock and Poultry	221,175,000	238,468,000	219,427,000	260,040,000	260,059,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,218,522,000</b>	<b>1,299,208,000</b>	<b>1,321,265,000</b>	<b>1,418,220,000</b>	<b>1,405,910,000</b>



## TEN LEADING CROPS FOR 2021

Rank	Crop	Value
1st	Nursery Stock	\$232,560,000
2nd	Milk	\$174,800,000
3rd	Table Grapes	\$87,378,000
4th	Dates	\$83,720,000
5th	Avocados	\$80,100,000
6th	Alfalfa	\$75,312,000
7th	Eggs	\$69,377,000
8th	Lemons	\$68,172,000
9th	Bell Peppers	\$67,500,000
10th	Turf Grass	\$32,500,500

## OTHER MILLION DOLLAR COMMODITIES

Crop	Value	Crop	Value	Crop	Value
Lettuce - Head	28,310,000	Cotton	9,927,800	Talapia	3,692,000
Carrots	26,331,000	Bermuda Grass	9,565,140	Cabbage	3,640,000
Broccoli	25,605,600	Okra	7,979,050	Strawberries	3,620,000
Mandarins/Tangerines	24,480,000	Wheat - Grain	7,652,600	Beets	3,465,000
Grapefruit	22,552,500	Alfalfa - Silage	7,488,000	Cotton Seed	3,309,000
Wine Grapes	20,292,188	Mixed Melons	7,450,000	Honeydew melon	3,200,000
Spinach	17,420,000	Celery	7,448,400	Sudan Grass	2,732,400
Artichokes	15,776,595	Romaine Lettuce	6,608,000	Kale	2,565,700
Corn - Sweet	15,374,000	Watermelon	6,050,000	Potatoes	2,375,000
Oriental Vegetables	13,560,000	Eggplant	5,333,125	Chili peppers	2,140,000
Cauliflower	13,267,000	Cantaloupe	5,120,000	Rye Grass	1,683,000
Cattle / Calves	11,500,000	Green Beans	4,792,000	Corn - Silage	1,605,000
Industrial Hemp	11,400,000	Pollination	4,750,000	Lamb and Sheep	1,382,000
Onion - Dry	11,016,000	Spices / Herbs	4,134,000	Squash	1,258,000
Oranges	10,987,600	Tomatoes	3,955,600	Radishes	1,200,000

## CALIFORNIA'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES BY TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION

<u>2019</u>			<u>2020</u>		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>
1	Fresno	7,717,906,900	1	Fresno	7,979,650,000
2	Kern	7,620,699,180	2	Kern	7,669,409,070
3	Tulare	7,505,352,100	3	Tulare	7,140,076,500
4	Monterey	4,409,992,000	4	Monterey	3,910,135,000
5	Stanislaus	3,598,404,000	5	Stanislaus	3,476,093,000
6	Merced	3,161,248,000	6	Merced	3,401,610,000
7	San Joaquin	2,617,815,000	7	San Joaquin	3,031,279,000
8	Kings	2,187,693,000	8	Kings	2,179,476,000
9	Imperial	2,015,843,000	9	Imperial	2,026,427,000
10	Madera	2,001,565,000	10	Ventura	1,985,365,000
11	Ventura	1,990,100,000	11	Madera	1,949,532,000
12	San Diego	1,795,528,573	12	Santa Barbara	1,819,198,000
13	Santa Barbara	1,600,146,484	13	San Diego	1,810,326,411
<b>14</b>	<b>Riverside</b>	<b>1,321,265,000</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Riverside</b>	<b>1,418,220,000</b>



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# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
&  
A Happy New Year



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board Meeting held in November or December. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. More details will be announced at a later date.

## Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

### *Researchers are on the lookout for pests, 'citrus greening' disease in Southern California*

Researchers are combing commercial citrus sites in Southern California to determine whether Asian citrus psyllids are spreading huanglongbing "citrus greening" disease. The insect vectors are known to carry the bacterium that can cause the virus known as HLB. So far, researchers have tested more than 3,000 of the insects collected from 15 commercial citrus sites. Just over 3.5% of the bugs had some level of bacterium. California so far has not had widespread infections in citrus, as has occurred in Florida and Texas.

### *Farmers and ranchers to be surveyed for 2022 Census of Agriculture*

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is underway. The census provides America's comprehensive database on farming and ranching in every state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Nov. 22 began mailing survey codes to agricultural producers across the country. Paper questionnaires will be mailed out in December, and all farm operations that produced or sold \$1,000 or more of agricultural products this year are required to participate in the census. All responses are due by Feb. 6, 2023.

### *Citrus growers optimistic as production is up after disappointing 2021 crop*

California citrus growers and marketers say the current navel orange crop looks promising in volume and quality. Citrus growers had one of their smallest crops in years last season. This year, California Citrus Mutual estimates navel orange production will be up about 10%. However, that is lower than an earlier season forecast by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, which had predicted the crop would be up by 19%.

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