

# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 77th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVII, Number 4, April 2023.



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## Welcome New Members

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

## LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

### Insurance

**SB-505**, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau and the California Department of Insurance, passed from the Senate Insurance Committee with unanimous bipartisan support. Authored by Senator Susan Rubio, SB 505 would instruct the FAIR Plan to include commercial insurance policies in a process called the "clearinghouse" that is limited today to homeowner policies. The bill will help farmers to move homeowner and commercial insurance policies back to the competitive marketplace. The bill moves next to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

### Taxes

**AB-294**, authored by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris was discussed previously because the bill was pulled from Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee and moved to a suspense file. The bill was amended and has been re-referred to Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. Farm Bureau supports the amended version, as the bill would still provide a blanket gross income exclusion from wildfire settlements statewide, as opposed to the current approach where each wildfire incident sees county specific tax relief measures.

### Climate Change

**SB-709**, authored by Senator Ben Allen, if passed and went into effect would eliminate the dairy sector's ability to continue reducing methane emissions. There has been tremendous progress made on this issue and this legislation would hurt both potential investments in dairy digesters as well as additional progress on reducing future greenhouse gas emissions. It's important to note that even the California Air Resources Board acknowledges the progress of methane reductions in its 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality. Because of these concerns, The Farm Bureau opposes Senate Bill 709 along with a broad agricultural coalition.

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## SPRING GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR BACKYARD CITRUS TREE

The Asian citrus psyllid and the disease it can carry, Huanglongbing (HLB), have been found in California, but by following these best practices below you can keep your tree healthy while limiting the spread of HLB:



As the weather warms, apply water at the tree's trunk. As the tree grows, water a larger area around the tree.



Newly planted trees should be watered every 3-7 days. Older trees can be watered every week or two.



Apply fertilizer and keep pests at bay. Ask your local nursery or garden center about which products are best.



When harvesting fruit, clip the fruit off at the stem with sharp clippers, removing all leaves.



Be sure to dry out citrus tree clippings or double bag them before removing the plant material from the property.



[CALIFORNIACITRUSTHREAT.ORG](http://CALIFORNIACITRUSTHREAT.ORG)

# UC ANR experts offer counsel as CalFresh benefits shrink, participants face hunger

*Reduction of SNAP benefit deepens crisis of inflation, high cost of living, low wages*

Starting this month, many of the estimated 3 million people in the CalFresh program – California's version of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) – will be facing hunger and making difficult decisions to meet their most basic needs. In late March, participants received the last of the pandemic-related emergency aid that significantly boosted their monthly benefits. The reduction varies by household size and income; for example, in April a single-person household could see a drop from \$281 per month to \$23.

"The emergency food allotments had a tremendous impact in our communities and across the nation," said Shannon Klisch, academic coordinator for the Youth, Families and Communities Program for UC Cooperative Extension in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. "One study estimated that these allotments kept more than 4 million people out of poverty across the U.S. in the last quarter of 2021, and reduced child poverty by 14%."

SNAP increases during the pandemic made many Californians more food-secure, with some participants reporting that their allotments finally had been enough to feed their families for the month, according to Wendi Gosliner, a project scientist at the Nutrition Policy Institute (a program of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources). But, with the benefit reductions, food insecurity is emerging again as a serious concern.

"It is inconceivable that a nation this wealthy should have so many people experiencing hunger," Gosliner said. "And here in California, with the high cost of living, ongoing inflation and extreme income and wealth disparities, people are being forced to explore every possible avenue just to feed themselves and their families."

To help ensure they are receiving the maximum allotment, Klisch recommends that CalFresh participants – especially those who applied during the pandemic and are relatively new to the program – double-check their information.

"If the county doesn't have your most up-to-date information, call your county worker if you've changed your address, if you've experienced decreased income, if your housing costs have gone up, or if you have new expenses – like child or dependent care expenses or medical expenses – these can help you qualify for more CalFresh funds," she explained.

For families with school-aged children, Klisch said they can stretch their food dollars and promote healthy eating by encouraging their children to eat breakfast and lunch at school through California's universal free school meals, and all families with children under 18 can watch for the next issuance of the P-EBT (Pandemic EBT) card, worth potentially hundreds of dollars.

In addition to these options for food assistance, Klisch pointed to programs that can help people save money on other household expenses, such as California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs (CARE) and Affordable Connectivity Program. Local food banks are also gearing up across the state to handle an expected surge in clients in need of emergency food; a list of California food banks can be found at [cafoodbanks.org/our-members](http://cafoodbanks.org/our-members).

"We ask a lot of low-income families and workers to navigate and piece together various programs, applications, and benefits when we don't commit to a strong safety net," Klisch said. "On the other hand, when people have enough money for food, everyone benefits through decreased health care costs and increased economic activity."

Gosliner also said that people should look into their eligibility for WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), as well as the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and CalEITC, poverty-alleviation benefits underused by Californians.

"People should make sure they are accessing all the safety net benefits for which they are eligible," Gosliner said.

## **Market Match, other nutrition incentive programs can help**

Through programs like Market Match, available at about 300 farmers markets across California affiliated with the Ecology Center, CalFresh participants can have their EBT benefits "matched" by their local market (usually up to \$10 or \$15 per visit).

"People are looking to get creative about how to stretch their food dollars, and Market Match is one way to do that," said Klisch, who has led UCCE efforts to help promote the program along the Central Coast since 2017.

Striving to expand access to fresh fruit and vegetables and to support local farms, UCCE and CalFresh Healthy Living, UC worked with partners to increase CalFresh redemption at farmers markets in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties.

In 2017, about \$48,000 in CalFresh and Market Match benefits were redeemed at farmers markets in the area. In 2022, the total was more than \$207,000 – a 327% increase. According to Ecology Center figures for the entire state, CalFresh and Market Match spending at farmers markets jumped 161% from 2019 to 2021, up to \$13 million.

Gosliner, whose research has shown that these nutrition incentive programs are associated with increased food security, noted that "the people who use Market Match absolutely love the program and feel it is incredibly helpful." She also added that the California Department of Social Services is developing a pilot program that would offer match incentives for purchasing fruits and vegetables at larger food retailers.

Although the biggest of its kind, Market Match is just one of the programs across California that provide "matches" for healthy food purchases under the California Nutrition Incentive Program, which in turn is primarily funded by GusNIP (the nationwide Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program).

GusNIP dollars – and SNAP overall – are governed by the federal Farm Bill, typically renewed every five years and currently being negotiated by Congress.

# SAFETY TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

## PREVENTING HEAT ILLNESS



Our company is concerned about the effects of heat, and we want you to be too. Your body's natural reactions to heat can reduce your comfort, safety, health, and performance. Heat stress is greater when you are working hard and the weather is hot, but it builds up even under ordinary conditions or when you are wearing personal protective equipment that interferes with your body's ability to shed heat and can affect you before you notice.

### BODY HEAT GAIN AND LOSS

Your body regulates itself to maintain a normal body temperature. We generate heat, usually more than needed, when active. If you are working in hot weather using personal protective equipment like protective garments that cover large areas, your body may be unable to cool itself effectively.

Harder work builds body heat faster, and hot or humid weather slows the release of excess heat. To get rid of heat, your body sends more blood to outer vessels, and your sweat glands produce sweat that carries heat through to the skin surface. These processes leave less blood and water available to nourish your muscles, brain, and other organs.

### HEAT ILLNESS SYMPTOMS

Prolonged sweating can make you more likely to experience:

- general discomfort,
- loss of coordination and stamina,
- weakness, poor concentration,
- irritability,
- muscle pain and cramping,
- fatigue,
- blurry vision,
- headache,
- dizziness,
- nausea,
- confusion,
- and unconsciousness.

### HOW TO REDUCE HEAT STRESS

- Rest as you need to in shade provided by your employer.
- Reduce heat stress risks by steadily replenishing the water you lose as you sweat. Drinking small amounts frequently is more effective than drinking large amounts less often.
- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Most people do not feel thirsty until their fluid loss is already affecting them.
- Be extra careful and extra aware of the need to replenish water if you are using personal protective equipment that covers large areas of the body.
- If you notice heat illness symptoms in yourself or a co-worker, please rest to stop generating heat, find shade, loosen clothing, get fluids, fan the body with any item available (such as cardboard or a towel) and tell your supervisor.
- If the person has lost a lot of fluid, there may be a serious risk of heat stroke – a life-threatening emergency. Don't let it get this far! But if it does, seek medical help right away.



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## FREE CLASSROOM VIRTUAL EVENT

California's second driest year on record was in 2021 while in 2023 the state received record snowfall!

What does this mean for the food and fiber grown in the Golden State? Hear how farmers respond to the changes in our atmosphere with smart farming decisions that benefit crops, livestock, and our environment.

You and your students will learn that rainfall can encourage growth or devastate crops, cool temperatures can hinder seed growth, and hot temperatures can scorch plants.

Despite these risks and uncertainties, California farmers and ranchers still produce more than 400 commodities – agriculture products that enrich each of our lives every day. We plan to spend an hour and a half with your class and hope your students are as excited as we are!

There's no cost to participate. To Register: <https://learnaboutag.org/programs/farmday>

## Don't Miss Your Opportunity to be Represented in the Ag Census Data

Time is running out to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture! Thank you to the producers who have already completed the ag census. If you have not responded, there is still time. By federal law, the ag census questionnaire needs to be completed by everyone who received it, including landowners who lease land to producers, those involved in conservation programs, even those who may have received the ag census and did not farm in 2022.

Strong response means strong data; these data will inform decisions that will help shape the future of American agriculture for the next five or six years. By not responding, you risk being unrepresented and therefore underserved in farm programs and funding, crop insurance rates, rural development, disaster assistance, and more.

Return your ag census by mail or fill it out online at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov).

Learn more at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus) and respond today.



**JOIN US**

# California Farm Day!

**MAY 12, 2023**

9:30 AM-11:00 AM

**Learn About Ag**  
California's Agriculture in the Classroom

# California Court of Appeal sides with farmers in precedential water quality cases

In a legal win for California farmers, a state appeals court rejected all arguments brought by environmental groups and sided with the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Farm Bureau and others related to the Central Valley’s Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

In its March 17 decision, the Third District Court of Appeal addressed three cases brought by environmental plaintiffs against the California State Water Resources Control Board in which the groups challenged the adoption of general waste discharge requirements for growers within the Eastern San Joaquin Watershed.

“The Court of Appeal’s landmark decision supports reasonableness and balancing in protecting water quality, while also maintaining our food supply and the economic viability of agriculture,” said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson. “The court’s decision is precedential and applies to irrigated lands regulatory programs throughout the state.” Johansson added, “The decision upholds farmer anonymity for nitrogen application data, the use of township-level nitrate data and surface water representative monitoring.”


Farm Bureau was represented in the case by Senior Counsel Kari Fisher and joined by fellow agricultural intervenors/respondents represented by Tess Dunham of Kahn, Soares & Conway and Jennifer Spaletta of Spaletta Law.

*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.*

## CALIFORNIA CITRUS IS AT CRITICAL RISK

**A serious plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB) is devastating our backyard citrus.**

- ⚠
 HLB has been found in California. There is no cure. An HLB-infected tree will die.
- 🌿
 The disease is spread by an insect called the Asian citrus psyllid as it feeds on citrus tree leaves and stems.
- ✅
 The best way to protect California’s citrus trees is to stop the spread of the pest and disease.



Psyllid → HLB symptoms → Dead citrus trees

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 📋
**COOPERATE**  
 Agriculture crews are working in the area to find and stop the disease. Please allow them to access your property.
- ⊗
**DON'T MOVE CITRUS**  
 Do not transport citrus fruit, plant clippings or trees because you could unknowingly spread the disease. Never bring citrus from other countries.
- 🌳
**REMOVE YOUR TREE**  
 If you do not care for your citrus tree, proactively remove it. Fewer trees mean fewer opportunities for the disease to spread.

**CALL THE FREE CDFA HOTLINE 800-491-1899 TO REPORT DISEASE SYMPTOMS.**

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**3** 74.45 AC AVE 62/JACKSON  
VISTA SANTA ROSA, CA

ORGANIC FARM GROUND FOR  
LEASE - CANAL WATER AVAILABLE  
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**4** 200 AC AVE 62/MONROE  
VISTA SANTA ROSA, CA

PRIME FARM GROUND FOR LEASE  
CANAL WATER & DEEP WELL  
PRICE: \$450/AC/YR

**5** 120.5 AC AVE 64/JACKSON  
VISTA SANTA ROSA, CA

ORGANIC FARM GROUND FOR  
LEASE - CANAL WATER AVAILABLE  
PRICE: \$600/AC/YR

**6** 19.08 AC AVE 64/JACKSON  
VISTA SANTA ROSA, CA

VACANT LAND FOR LEASE  
WELL NEEDS REPLACING  
PRICE: \$400/AC/YR

**7** 40.1 AC CLINTON/AVE 42  
INDIO, CA

FARM GROUND FOR LEASE  
CANAL WATER AVAILABLE  
PRICE: SUBMIT

**8** 429.61 AC SOUTH AVE 66  
VISTA SANTA ROSA, CA

FARM GROUND FOR LEASE  
CANAL & WELL WATER AVAILABLE  
PRICE: \$700/AC/YR

**9** 537 AC AVE 80/PIERCE  
OASIS, CA

FORMER VINEYARD FOR LEASE  
WELL NEEDS REPAIR  
PRICE: \$500/AC/YR



Please call 760-360-8200 for details  
or to receive information on additional agricultural properties.



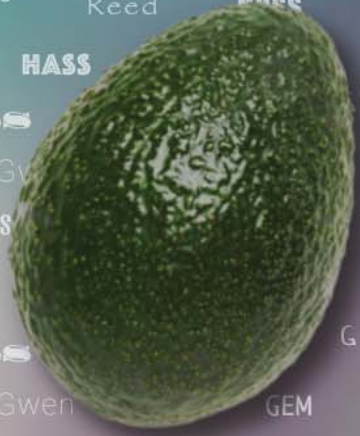
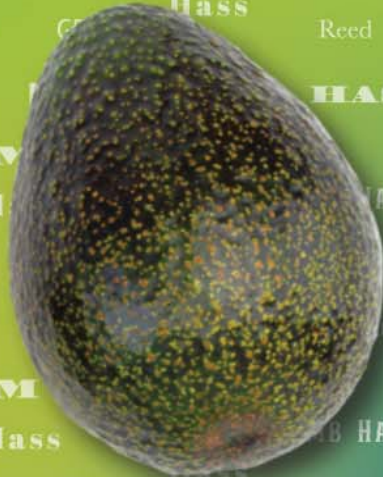
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## In-person Food Safety Training Is Back!

### Produce Safety Training

Who should attend: Produce growers, buyers, and others interested in learning about: produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.

The U.S. FDA's Produce Safety rule requires in § 112.22(c) that for each farm, "At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration." The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy this requirement; it is the only course currently recognized by FDA.



**June 8, 2023, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**San Diego County Farm Bureau  
420 South Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025**



Get Your Mandatory Produce Safety Training  
**Only \$35 INCLUDES:**

- Course Materials • Certificate • Coffee and Lunch

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For more information call 916-561-5672.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**☞** May 10, 2023 ~ 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting. In person at Farm Bureau office and via Zoom Conference. Please call our office at (951) 684-6732 for more information.

## Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

### ***EPA gives go-ahead to California's zero-emissions truck plan***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved California's plan to phase out the sale of diesel-fueled heavy-duty trucks. The plan covers big rigs that transport much of the state's agricultural goods, as California seeks to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. Agricultural groups, including the California Farm Bureau, have expressed concerns that the California Air Resources Board's zero-emissions plan could disrupt transportation of livestock and fresh produce across the state due to a shortage of electric vehicles, charging stations and drivers.

### ***California producers continuing to produce seeds for farmers in Ukraine, Russia***

Despite continuing war between Russia and Ukraine, major seed producers in California are not turning their backs on farmers in the Black Sea region. Both countries remain destinations for California-grown seeds, even as Ukrainian growers face considerable difficulty amid the conflict. That means state farmers are continuing to produce seeds for growers there, including sunflowers, which remain a major crop in both Ukraine and Russia. Nearly all sunflowers grown commercially in California are harvested as certified seed used by other farmers.

### ***EPA updates risk assessments for pesticides for tree crops, vegetables and cotton***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released updated risk assessments for spray drift from four organophosphate pesticides. The materials—diazinon, ethoprop, tribufos and phosmet—are used in agriculture for fruit and nut trees, vegetables and cotton, and for a variety of purposes in nonagricultural settings. The EPA is undertaking a lengthy registration review process for them.

***"Farm Bureau Working for You"***