

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 78th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVIII, Number 4, April 2024.



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Welcome New Members

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



Join us for an extraordinary virtual journey into the heart of California agriculture. As we explore the theme of "Fields of Innovation," students will witness the remarkable fusion of technology and tradition driving our farmers and ranchers forward.

Get ready to discover cutting-edge technologies, ingenious farming practices, and sustainable solutions that are transforming the agricultural landscape. Welcome to California Farm Day: Fields of Innovation, where we explore the future of farming. Let's embark on this exciting journey together! Through a mix of pre-recorded segments and live hosts, classrooms will delve into the collaborative efforts of farmers, engineers, scientists, ranchers, builders, and computer programmers. Together, they tackle the challenge of sustainably producing over 400 different products to feed and clothe our ever-expanding world.

Our newest edition of the "What's Growin' On?" student newspaper will act as a guide for our Farm Day adventures. A class set will be mailed to the address you provide. **Register by April 25 to ensure timely delivery of this resource!**

NOTES: Upon registration, you'll receive a link valid for ONE DEVICE ONLY to connect to Zoom for this event, intended for a teacher to connect and display the event to students in a classroom. All teachers wishing to participate should register separately to receive their own unique link to join.

This event will also be live streamed and recorded to YouTube for remote and on-demand viewing. The YouTube link will be provided in confirmation communication upon registration. To Register visit <https://learnaboutag.org/programs/farmday>

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD SAN DIEGO REGION NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is extending the public comment period for **Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0029**, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations in the San Diego Region (Tentative Order) to **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024**. The San Diego Water Board released the Tentative Order for public comment on March 29, 2024, and held a public workshop for the Tentative Order during the San Diego Water Board meeting on April 10, 2024.

The Tentative Order updates and consolidates existing waste discharge requirements adopted by the San Diego Water Board in Order No. R9-2016-0004, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region, and Order No. R9-2016-0005, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers Not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region.

The Tentative Order and Notice of Written Comment Period which contains instructions on how to submit written comments, are available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

All written comments must be received no later than by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, and will be provided to the San Diego Water Board members for their review in advance of the public hearing to consider the adoption of the Tentative Order. San Diego Water Board staff will prepare written responses to significant comments that are timely received.

Questions and comments should be directed to either Cailynn Smith by phone at (619) 521-3380 or by email at Cailynn.Smith@waterboards.ca.gov or Abigail Pashina by phone at (619) 521-3379 or by email at Abigail.Pashina@waterboards.ca.gov.



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Tips on care of backyard chickens, sheep, goats compiled on new website

UC Cooperative Extension expertise available in English and Spanish on small-scale livestock production, pasture management, pests and predators, weed management and emergency preparedness

A team of University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources advisors has created a new comprehensive website for small acreage landowners in California and beyond. The Small Acreage Landowners website, at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/smacreage>, is designed to be a one-stop shop for backyard livestock producers, youth raising livestock, and other small acreage landowners. Information on livestock husbandry, pasture management, pests and predators, weed management and emergency preparedness is in English and Spanish on the website.

"We've seen an amazing growth in interest in small-scale livestock production throughout California in the last four years," said project leader Julie Finzel, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Kern, Tulare and Kings Counties. "Folks in our communities are hungry for knowledge about how to care for their land and their animals – from urban chickens to backyard goats and sheep."

The website includes specific information for most common livestock species, as well as links to sites with more in-depth information about specific topics. Other pages include information on protecting livestock and property from pests and predators, controlling common weeds and protecting water quality.

The site also provides links to a variety of other UC ANR resources, including wildfire information from the Fire Network, and videos and webinars from the UC ANR Managing Land & Livestock on Small Acreage Webinar Series.

"We're excited this new website will make science-based information available to a wider audience," said Finzel. "Most of our educational programming has focused on commercial livestock production."

In addition to Finzel, a team of UC Cooperative Extension livestock advisors contributed to the project, including Theresa Becchetti (Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties), Brooke Latack (Imperial, Riverside and San Bernadino counties) Dan Macon (Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba counties), Devii Rao (San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties) and Rebecca Ozeran, former UC Cooperative Extension livestock advisor for Fresno and Madera counties. UC ANR technician Sequoia Williams in Placer County compiled information and designed the webpages.

The Small Acreage Landowners website was created in part with funds from a USDA-NIFA Renewable Resources Extension Act grant.



Pesticide Safety Instructor Training VIRTUAL Workshops

Update your knowledge of changing regulations!

The Train the Trainer workshop will qualify participants to train **fieldworkers and pesticide handlers** under CA pesticide regulations.

Topics will cover 2024 regulation updates, pesticide exposure, signs and symptoms of illness, emergency medical care, proper use of personal protective equipment, safe handling and transportation of pesticides, and laws and regulations regarding labels and safety data sheets.

Who Should Attend?

- Ag supervisors
- Growers
- Farm Labor Contractors
- Safety Managers
- Safety Trainers
- Lab Managers, PIs who conduct field research

Dates

English	May 8, 2024
Spanish	May 15, 2024

6.5 L&R Continuing Education Units *Registration closes one week before workshop date*

Please use link below for online registration

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=42297>

Questions

Contact us by email at psep@ucanr.edu

New 2024 ACP Areawide Treatment Schedule

All properties with 25 or more citrus trees and commercial citrus growers in Riverside County that are outside the pest control districts (PCDs) are asked to apply ACP areawide treatments to keep ACP populations low and reduce the risk of Huanglongbing (HLB) which is deadly to citrus trees and has no cure. The best way to stop the disease from spreading is keeping the ACP vector populations low. The University of California (UC) recommendations for best citrus management practices include monitoring ACP populations, participating in ACP areawide treatments using ACP-effective materials to keep ACP populations low, and controlling ants because they protect ACP from natural enemies. For organic groves, each treatment must consist of two applications applied 10-14 days apart. The two applications are required due to the limited residual efficacy of organic materials.

If you need a referral for pest control or tree removal, contact Sandra Zwaal szwaal2@gmail.com. **Please consider removing citrus that is not worth the resources or effort required to protect it from HLB.**

ACP/HLB Update For Riverside County

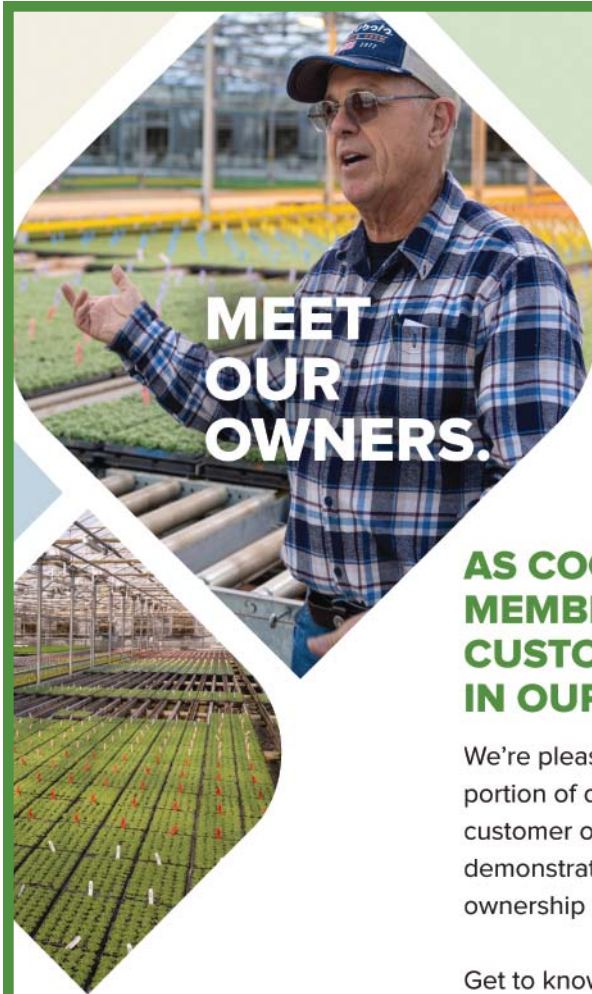
As of April 9, additional residential citrus trees have been confirmed positive for HLB in the Corona area, bringing the county total to 275. Statewide, 7679 citrus trees have been confirmed positive for HLB. HLB quarantine maps can be found in the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) website. When moving citrus from, to, or within an HLB quarantine, please follow the recently updated HLB Bulk Citrus Quarantine Requirements and continue to submit the required mitigations to the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office even if you are not required to mitigate under the new regulations.

HLB vs ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY QUARANTINES

In addition to, and separate from, the HLB quarantine there is also an invasive Oriental fruit fly quarantine. Fruit fly quarantines have their own set of regulations and protocols that do not affect ACP/HLB regulatory requirements. Visit Citrus Insider's Citrus Industry Guide to Fruit Fly Quarantines for more information, resources and FAQs for fruit fly. Continue to use HLB Bulk Citrus Quarantine Requirements for ACP/HLB related requirements.

Riverside County (outside the PCD) 2024 ACP Treatment Schedule	
Spring Treatment	Apr 29 – May 24
Summer Treatment *	Jul 1 - Aug 2
Fall Treatment	Oct 7 – Nov 1
Winter Treatment	Nov 18 - Dec 20

* May be a perimeter spray if scouted & determined that the center has no ACP



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USDOL is Inspecting California Farms! Are You Ready?

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is actively enforcing federal wage and hour and agricultural employment requirements with farm labor contractors and growers. California has also stepped-up onsite visits through its Labor Enforcement Task Force (LETF). Many employers are not fully prepared for potential consequences, which can include substantial citations and, in extreme circumstances, criminal prosecution.

Don't hope you go unnoticed! Rosasco Law Group CEO Erica Rosasco will train you to be ready for an inspection. Employers and their supervisors should familiarize themselves with their rights before state or federal inspectors arrive. How you handle an investigation can make a huge difference!

When? May 31, 2024, 10:00 AM

Where? Your phone, laptop, tablet or your favorite web-enabled device

Register at <https://www.fels.net/>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The next Board meeting will be held in person at Farm Bureau office and via Zoom Conference on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Please call our office at (951) 684-6732 for more information.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Land-use legislation could convert more farmland for solar, renewable energy projects

Proposed state legislation to modify California's longstanding farmland conservation law could pave the way for large swaths of farm acreage to be repurposed as sites for renewable energy projects, including solar power. Assembly Bill 2528, introduced by Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula, D-Fresno, would allow owners of Williamson Act land that lacks sufficient water for farming to cancel their contracts—without paying mandated cancellation fees of 12.5% of land values. Farm advocates warn the proposed law could accelerate the loss of farmland and reduce food supply.

Spring snowpack raises hopes for California water year
California's snowpack has reached 110% of its seasonal average, up from 28% of average on Jan. 1, according to the state Department of Water Resources. The April 1 measurement was closely watched by California water managers because it is an indicator of peak seasonal snowpack. It also signals the transition to spring snowmelt into rivers and reservoirs. The snowpack survey results came after state and federal water officials on March 22 increased water allocations after accounting for storms that improved snowpack and reservoir levels.

Researchers study whether agave can be state's next drought-tolerant crop

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, are studying agave plants as a potential drought-tolerant option for California farmers. The research is centered on agave genetics, virus susceptibility, pest control, soil management and crop productivity. UC Davis began investigating the crop after farm owners Stuart and Lisa Woolf established a research fund to determine if agave is viable for agriculture in California. Agave, used to produce tequila and mezcal in Mexico, can be distilled into spirits, used as a fiber or converted into a sweetener.