

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 6, June 2024.



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Welcome New Members

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

Bobbielynn Galvan



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bobbielynn Galvan, an extraordinary woman who lost her courageous battle with cancer.

Bobbielynn's spirit and kindness left an everlasting

impression on everyone she met. She was a long time Ocean Mist employee and advocate for agriculture. She was a service-oriented person donating her time to many organizations including California Women of Agriculture.

Bobbielynn was a beacon of light and strength, known for her unwavering positivity and compassion. Her ability to uplift others, even in the face of her own challenges, was truly remarkable. She touched countless lives with her warmth and generosity, leaving a legacy of love and inspiration.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and community in the Coachella Valley.



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SAVE THE DATE

September 27-29, 2024

Join us in Orange County for our Annual Ag in the Classroom Conference.

First Bell Registration: May 14 - June 30 - \$345

Early Bird Registration: July 1st - August 16 - \$365

Registration after August 16 - \$385

Registration opens May 14!



Visit WWW.learnaboutag.org by May 14. for CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Farm Bureau at Work on Many Issues

Overall Budget Picture: The Assembly and Senate approved a budget package that identified a shortfall of \$37.9B for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher stated that it would saddle businesses with billions in costs. Gallagher pointed out that farmers are already struggling with inflated costs for fertilizer and other supplies.

GOOD NEWS! Water/AB 460 Amended to remove most of the bill's language that would have stripped due process from water rights holders when the State Water Resources Control Board pursues an enforcement action. The remaining bill language was amended to merely increase per-incident fines for unauthorized water diversions and add a volumetric fine component. Once these amendments were made, leadership members of the 200-organization opposition coalition, including the Farm Bureau, dropped their opposition to the bill, which will be heard on Tuesday, June 11, in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

AB 1337 – MORE GOOD NEWS, this was another attempt by Asm. Buffy Wicks to regulate water rights. FB and many other water users fought this bill, it is dead for this session.

MILL TAX – AB 2113/Eduardo Garcia would increase mil tax over 60% over 3 years. Ag is fighting hard on this one. Garcia leaving office end of year.

Bills had to leave their house of origin at the end of May and will be addressed in this session. There were 1,009 total bills on Suspense (both houses), 689 are headed to the Floors and 320 were held, which is 31.7%. The historic average percentage held is 25%.



Riverside County Farm Bureau was proud to be part of the Jeff Gonzalez for Assembly campaign fundraiser. The event was hosted by Mike and Ellen Way and exceeded all expectations, displaying the unwavering support from the Coachella Valley farming community. Through grassroots efforts and strategic outreach, the event rallied both long-standing supporters and new advocates alike, resulting in a significant boost in campaign funds. With each contribution, supporters demonstrated their belief in Jeff's vision for positive change. This successful fundraiser not only provided crucial financial backing but also served as a testament to the widespread endorsement of Jeff Gonzalez's candidacy and the collective desire for progressive leadership in the Assembly. Both Riverside and Imperial County Farm Bureau have endorsed Jeff's candidacy as well as the Imperial Democratic Party, and many others. www.Gonzalez4Assembly.com

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Orange County Fair Docents Visit Scott Bros. Dairy

In an enriching educational venture, 45 docents from the Orange County Fair's Centennial Farm recently embarked on an informative tour of Scott Bros. Dairy. This immersive experience was designed to deepen their understanding of the dairy business and agricultural practices. The knowledge gained from this visit will be instrumental in enhancing their educational outreach to young children and parents, fostering a greater appreciation for the dairy industry and its role in our daily lives.

Upon arrival, the docents were warmly welcomed by dairy owner Brad and Sally Scott, who provided a comprehensive overview of the dairy's operations. The tour began with a visit to the milking parlor, where the docents observed the milking process and learned about the technology and techniques employed to ensure the health and well-being of the dairy cows. The precision and care involved in milking operations emphasized the commitment to quality and animal welfare.

The journey continued with a walk down to the feed barn, where the docents were familiarized with the various types of feed and nutritional strategies used to maintain the health and productivity of the herd. Understanding the science behind cow nutrition was a highlight for many, illustrating the intricate balance required to produce high-quality milk.

Throughout the tour, the docents had the opportunity to engage with dairy experts like Sid Sybrandy, retired dairyman and Greg Anema from California Dairies, Inc., and Rachael Johnson from Riverside County Farm Bureau. They asked questions and discussed topics ranging from herd management to sustainable farming practices. These interactions provided a deeper understanding of the challenges and innovations within the dairy industry, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and adaptation in modern agriculture.

In a separate tour to The Scott Bros. Dairy Creamery in Chino the docents were also able to learn about the processing facilities, where raw milk is transformed into various dairy products. The docents observed the meticulous processes involved in pasteurization, homogenization, and packaging, gaining insight into the strict quality control measures in place to ensure consumer safety and satisfaction.

Armed with newfound knowledge and experiences, the docents will return to Centennial Farm with a renewed enthusiasm for their educational roles. Their firsthand insights into the dairy business will enrich their interactions with young visitors and their parents, helping to bridge the gap between farm and table.

The docents are now better equipped to explain the origins of milk and dairy products, the importance of sustainable farming practices, and the daily efforts of farmers to ensure the health and happiness of their animals. By sharing these stories, they hope to inspire a new generation of informed consumers and potential future farmers. Through these efforts, the legacy of agricultural education at Centennial Farm continues to thrive, fostering a community that values and understands the importance of agriculture.



Public Workgroup Meeting to Discuss Updates to the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program Guidelines

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workgroup meeting on proposed updates to the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions Program (FARMER) Guidelines. During the workgroup meeting, CARB staff will provide an overview of the FARMER Program, present proposed changes to the current FARMER Program Guidelines, and gather feedback from attendees on the proposed changes. Visit <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/farmer-program/farmer-program-meetings-workshops> for more information or to register for the remote zoom option click onto (Workgroup Notice (Spanish)).

Southern California: Riverside

Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: California Air Resources Board, Riverside Headquarters Building Los Angeles River and Merced River Rooms 4001 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, California 92507

The in-person meetings above will not have a remote attendance option, so those wishing to participate remotely should participate in the Zoom webinar below. This remote attendance option will also have Spanish translation service available.

Remote Attendance Option

Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar



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Riverside County project awarded \$25 million grant

Courtesy of CAFB

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced it is investing \$83 million in domestic fertilizer production in hopes of spurring economic growth in rural communities and increasing competition in agricultural markets.

The new funding from the Fertilizer Production Expansion Program, supporting projects in 12 states, includes a \$25 million grant to build and equip a food waste upcycling facility in Riverside County's Jurupa Valley that will use insects to recycle food waste into organic nutrient fertilizer. Through this funding, the facility is expected to produce 11,400 tons annually, which will provide domestic fertilizer for approximately 90 producers in the region.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement that the USDA is "committed to bolstering the economy and increasing competition for our nation's farmers, ranchers and small business owners."

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- In Opportunity Zone providing tax incentives
- Low property taxes (Williamson Act)
- General Plan calls for Business Park, Medium Density Residential, and Commercial, amongst other uses
- 40 miles from Palm Springs
- 75 miles to the Mexicali Trade Area which has become an export hub for aerospace, medical devices, automotive, telecommunication & electronics

PRICE: \$26,393,250 (\$25,000/AC)



VICINITY MAP



03/07/24 JC



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Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is collecting information for the 2023 Annual Crop Report

This report is the single best source of data which measures and highlights the values of Riverside County agriculture, the information is also utilized by numerous industries, institutions and state agencies. All individual information is confidential, please help show agriculture's strength by participating.

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San Jacinto District - Kevin Gallego, KGallego@rivco.org, 951-654-2050
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Coachella Valley and Palo Verde District
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board of Directors meeting in July and August 2024. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

San Diego County farmers raise concerns over proposed water quality rules

Farmers in San Diego County say proposed water quality regulations that establish updated general waste discharge requirements for commercial agricultural operations are burdensome, costly and duplicate work by growers participating in other regulatory programs. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board on March 29 released a proposed draft that creates new monitoring and reporting requirements for nitrogen applications and removals. Local farmers say the proposed requirements are based on large farms in other regions, not small farms in San Diego County.

As hot season arrives, farmers seek to protect agricultural workers

Over the past two decades, heat illness awareness and prevention has become a major focus for California farms that rely on workers to harvest crops and perform other essential work during the hottest months of the year. Farmers and farm labor safety experts in California said heat-illness awareness and preparedness have evolved since the state established the nation's first heat-safety law for outdoor workers in 2005. Outdoor workers must have access to water, shade and rest when the temperature rises above 80 degrees. When it hits 95, more frequent breaks are required.

Study: Reduced flows for farming stir up dust from Salton Sea

The Salton Sea, formed in 1905 after the Colorado River overflowed its banks, has been fed since primarily by water runoff from agricultural operations for almost a century. Now a new research paper in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics finds that, as farmers have reduced water consumption to help increase water deliveries to San Diego County communities, flows to the lake have decreased and dust pollution has increased. The report's co-author said disadvantaged neighborhoods located near the Salton Sea have been most affected by dust.