

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

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Inside this Issue...

- COVID-19 Face Covering.....2
- Carl Moyer Program Deadline...2
- Free Produce Safety Training.....3
- VND Quarantine Lifted.....4
- New Ag Night Work Standards..4
- Farm Advisor Jose Aguiar5
- Pandemic Losses to CA Farms ..6
- Calendar8

Welcome New Members

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

RivCo COVID-19 Update

Statewide face covering requirement responds to increased cases, supports local reopening efforts

COVER YOUR FACE



BANDANA



NECK GAITER



HOMEMADE

The state has ordered face coverings to be worn outside the home, including while inside businesses. Enforcement of the state's mandatory requirement is up to the discretion of the sheriff and/or local law enforcement.

Cases of coronavirus have increased, which is an expected outcome resulting from people visiting more places in the community. To follow the state's order and best safety practices, businesses are encouraged to follow local and state-issued industry guidance, including posting signs indicating face coverings are required for service. Community members and employees will be required to wear face coverings while inside all county facilities.

Coronavirus spreads through droplets expelled while sneezing, coughing or talking. People who carry the disease and do not show symptoms can still spread the disease to others. Covering the nose and mouth with a cloth face covering, bandana or neck gaiter, keeps these droplets in.

Face coverings should be washed regularly to keep clean. Public health officials also remind residents to keep six feet of distance between others while in public and to frequently wash their hands.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

NEW! South Coast AQMD is Currently Soliciting Eligible Projects for the Carl Moyer Program (CMP): Under Program Announcement (PA) #2020-04 visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/business> - Click onto Vehicle & Engine

NEW! The Deadline to Submit Applications for the Carl Moyer Program Has Been Extended to **Tuesday, August 4, 2020 by 1:00 PM.**

South Coast AQMD Encourages Applicants to Apply Online Using the Carl Moyer Online Application Program. Visit <http://www.aqmd.gov>

To Submit Paper Applications for the Carl Moyer Program, Visit <http://www.aqmd.gov>



A Look at California Agriculture

Capital: Sacramento

Population: 39,540,000

Founded: September 9, 1850 (31st)

State Bird: California quail

State Tree: Redwood

State Flower: Poppy

Number of Counties: 58

Largest City: Los Angeles - 4.1 million

Nickname: The Golden State

Number of Farms: 76,700

Average Farm Size: 331 acres

Total Farmland: 25.4 million acres

Area: 163,696 square miles



www.agclassroom.org/ca

Climate & Soil

- California's moderate, Mediterranean climate, coupled with the state's fertile soil and diverse land resources, allows year round production of many commodities. Some of those with year-round crop seasons include lemons, artichokes, avocados, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, mushrooms, potatoes, spinach and squash.
- The San Joaquin series is the state soil.
- California is home to more than 2,000 soils, located in the state's unique blend of valleys, foothills, mountains, coastal areas and deserts.

Crops & Livestock

- California produces more than 400 crops. Of those, the following are commercially produced only in California: almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwifruit, olives, persimmons, pistachios, pomegranates, prunes, raisins and walnuts.
- California grows more than half of the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts from just three percent of the nation's farmland.
- California leads the nation in milk production with more than 1,781,000 dairy cows.
- Primary livestock production includes: cattle and calves, beef cow operations, dairy cows, hens and pullets, broilers, turkeys, hogs and pigs, sheep, lambs and goats (dairy, meat and milk).
- Over 5 billion eggs are produced each year by 14.5 million hens and pullets of laying age.
- Bee colonies, of which there are over 310,000 in the state, are included in the category of livestock. They are used for pollination of at least 90 different crops, valued at \$11.7 billion.

General

- California is the nation's top agricultural state, and has been for more than 50 years
- There are 76,700 farms and ranches in California.
- The state's average farm size is 331 acres.
- More than 97 percent of California farms are family farms or partnerships.
- The state's two leading commodities in cash receipts are milk (\$6.07 billion) and grapes (\$5.58 billion).
- The top 10 commodities include: milk and cream, almonds, all grapes, cattle and calves, lettuce, strawberries, all tomatoes, pistachios, walnuts, and oranges.
- California's Secretary of Agriculture is Karen Ross.

Economy

- California exports approximately 25% of its agricultural production by volume, accounting for over \$20.4 billion in value.
- California is the largest food and agricultural economy in the nation.
- Agriculture provides more than 3 million jobs in California.
- California's farms and ranches received approximately \$46 billion for their output in 2016.

Revised 7/2018
National Ag in the Classroom

NEW DATES ADDED! FREE REMOTE DELIVERY Produce Safety Training



Food Safety Training Partnership is pleased to offer FREE Produce Safety Training (required by the Produce Safety Rule) offered through Web-based live remote delivery by Produce Safety Alliance-approved instructors from the Food Safety Training Partnership's Safe Food Alliance!

Space is limited!

A high-speed internet connection and confirmed attendance for the full course will be required.

- July 13 & 14, 2020 (NEW!)
- July 15 & 17, 2020 (NEW!)
- July 30 & 31 (NEW!)
- August 6 & 7 (NEW!)
- September 8 & 9 (NEW!)
- September 28 & 29 (NEW!)

Register Today!

Register at Food Safety Training Partnership; visit <http://foodsafetytraining-partnership.org> for more information or call 916-561-5672.



Are you looking for seedling to start your garden?

Contact Bill Shinkle at Color Connection (951) 313-5387

CALIFORNIA FREE OF VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Southern California Regional Quarantine Lifted

SACRAMENTO, June 1, 2020 – The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have announced an end to the Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) quarantine in Southern California. Extensive testing of the regulated area has been completed, with no additional detections of the disease. This allows poultry to again move freely within California.

“We have eagerly anticipated this day and are extremely proud of the tireless work of the Virulent Newcastle Disease Task Force,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. “While we extend gratitude to the hundreds of dedicated and skilled USDA, CDFA and California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System employees who worked for over two years to achieve this goal, often in adverse conditions, we also want to thank the thousands of poultry owners in Southern California who made the sacrifices and investments needed to eradicate this virus from California.”

VND was first detected in May of 2018 in Los Angeles County. By December 2018 the virus had spread extensively in backyard poultry in the LA Basin and also infected commercial flocks. After prolonged disease control efforts, the last confirmed positive case was detected in February, 2020. Testing has continued throughout the area since that time to gain assurance that the disease was eradicated.

To continue to protect California flocks, poultry entering California must either have a certificate of veterinary inspection demonstrating good health or a National Poultry Improvement Program certificate. CDFA retains the authority to monitor and test poultry so that any future infections can be stopped quickly, minimizing potential harm. Additionally, CDFA and USDA, in partnership with many bird enthusiasts in Southern California, are committed to on-going monitoring for disease and continual support for biosecurity training.

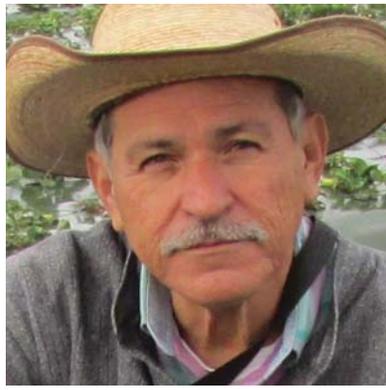
All backyard poultry owners and commercial operations are encouraged to practice biosecurity measures to help prevent the introduction of disease when people enter or depart the premises, to routinely check birds for signs of illness, and to report any incidence of suspected VND or other bird diseases. More information is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov or through the California Avian Health Education Network (CAHEN) at (866) 922-2473.

California State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones: “We hope to continue working with bird owning communities to prevent a reintroduction of widespread disease so that we never have to place an areawide VND quarantine in Southern California again.”

Background: Virulent Newcastle disease is a virus that affects birds with particularly lethal effects on poultry, affecting the digestive system, nervous system and respiratory system. It is not normally found in the United States. It spreads quickly between birds but is not considered a human health threat. Its presence can be so detrimental to poultry health and the food supply that it triggers state, federal and international regulatory response. While this virus has been introduced and eradicated from more than 15 U.S. states since 1950, the largest outbreaks occurred in California in 1971-1974 and 2002-2003 following a similar pattern but with wider spread than the recent 2018-2020 outbreak.

New Cal OSHA Agricultural Night Work Standards in Effect July 1st

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Cal OSHA) adopted a new standard for “Outdoor Agricultural Operations During Hours of Darkness” in February. The California Office of Administrative Law approved the regulation as adopted by the Standards Board in early June. As a result, the standard takes effect on July 1, 2020. As initially proposed and in several subsequent versions, the standard might have required farmers to provide excessive amounts of light that would have disturbed neighbors and nocturnal wildlife, created issues related to operating gasoline- or diesel-powered light towers, required site traffic plans to direct vehicle traffic away from work areas and employees to be warned about snakes, insects and other nocturnal animals, and included a variety of ideas ultimately rejected by the Standards Board. Employer stakeholders engaged the Board to make numerous revisions to the various versions of the proposed standard to make it more workable for farm employers. Please visit the Farm Employers Labor Service website for more information: fels.net



From farm worker to farm advisor - A life of fulfillment

Jose Aguiar, who has been working as a vegetable crops small farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in the Coachella Valley in Riverside County since 1992, will retire on July 1.

"My job is one of the best jobs in the world. I enjoy the research and education that we provide our community. From the beginning, there was so much to learn, and it has been that way every day on the job," Aguiar said.

What started many years ago to help his family economically became a passion turned into a career. He was 12 years old when, alongside his father, he started

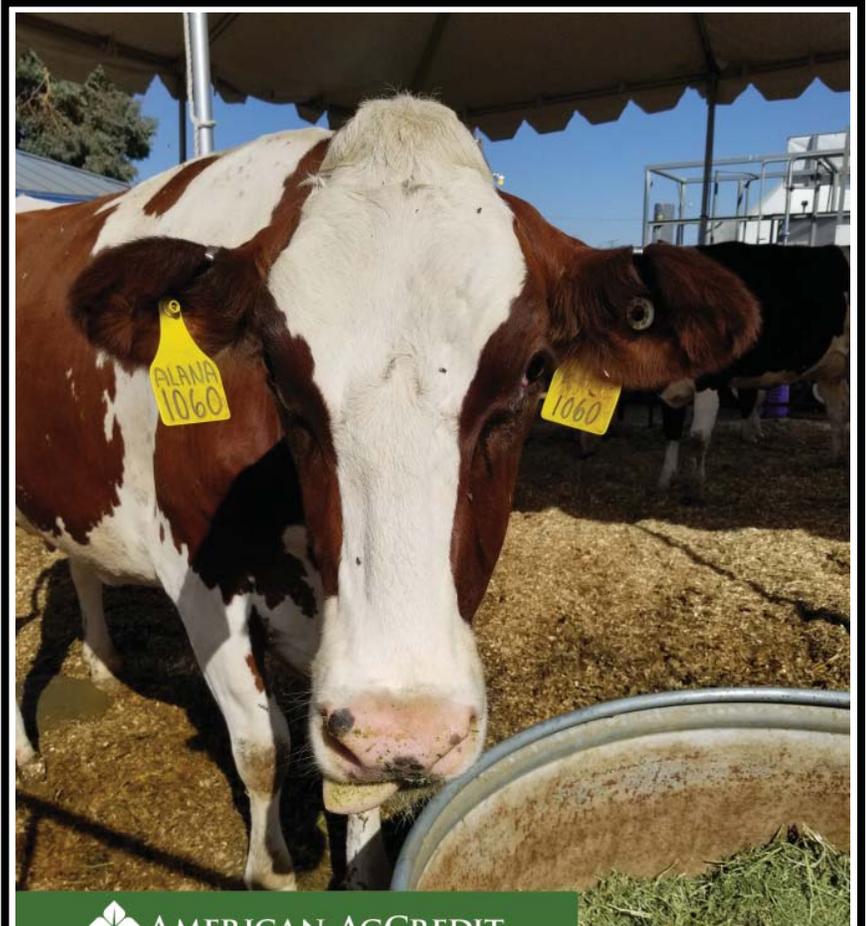
working in the Coachella Valley agricultural fields.

"When all my friends went on vacation, I was going to work in the fields. It was my turn to sow asparagus, harvest okra. I did not like it at all because you have to put on a long shirt, because pollen scratches you a lot; it is a very difficult crop to harvest," remembers Aguiar.

Aguiar specializes in bell pepper, which was a great help in 2012. That year in the Coachella Valley, a microscopic worm threatened the bell pepper and chili crop that had an estimated value of \$90 million. UC Agriculture and Natural Resources experts worked with farmers to understand why it was a problem there and not in other pepper growing areas. That's where the idea of creating a UC ANR pepper work-group to research these problems came about.

"Meeting with the small scale producers, I had a list of 12 or 15 problems," Aguiar said. "I started to speak with other advisors about having a conference for limited scale producers where we could present them with research based information. I invited all the small farmers, and we covered production problems, insect and disease problems, postharvest and even marketing of their particular crops."

Aguiar expressed the essence of his 20 years of passion at work: "I have enjoyed presenting research-based information to farmers and pest control advisers. I have enjoyed walking in many fields and seeing and hearing about the problems firsthand. I have enjoyed working with the small farmers and addressing some of the issues, such as producing a crop with a limited budget. I have enjoyed collaborating with many UC farm advisors, specialists, and the local agencies involved in agriculture. I have enjoyed working with groups doing and working on community gardens." - Ricardo Vela



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Report details pandemic losses to California farms and ranches

California Farm Bureau Federation

Pandemic-related losses to California farms, ranches and agricultural businesses will range between \$5.9 billion and \$8.6 billion this year, according to an economic study released today. The analysis says the state's agricultural sector has already suffered \$2 billion in losses so far, from disrupted markets and rising production costs related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Financial impacts of the pandemic vary widely among different parts of the agricultural economy, the study says, depending in part on how much a particular crop or commodity relies on sales to food service and how much it has been affected by shifts in retail demand and changes in costs of production and processing.

Produced by Davis-based ERA Economics, the study was commissioned by a coalition led by the California Farm Bureau Federation and including UnitedAg, Ag Association Management Services Inc., the California Fresh Fruit Association, California Strawberry Commission, California Tomato Growers Association and Western Plant Health Association.

CFBF President Jamie Johansson said the study illustrates the scope of the pandemic's impact.

"California farmers, ranchers and their employees have continued the essential work needed to keep American families fed, but that work has come with sacrifice," Johansson said. "The impact is being felt in rural communities throughout the state that rely on agriculture for their residents' livelihoods. We want legislators and regulators to bear that in mind and avoid making farming even more costly and difficult in California."

Analysts looked specifically at 15 different agricultural sectors, using data on production, exports and prices through early May, plus interviews and surveys of people and businesses. The study showed the greatest dollar-loss impact to dairy, \$1.4 billion to \$2.3 billion; grapes, \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion; and flowers and nurseries, \$660 million to \$740 million.

In addition, the report says farms, ranches and related businesses have incurred higher operating costs for measures intended to increase employee health and safety, and in the logistics required to move crops and commodities to market.

"Along with the loss of key markets due to food service disappearing overnight or flower shops and garden centers not being allowed to operate in certain areas, we now are adapting to significant increased operational costs that many California farmers will never recoup," said Chris Zanobini, president/CEO of Ag Association Management Services.

Some crops have seen increased business activity during the pandemic, the report says, citing shelf-stable items such as rice, processed tomato products and canned fruit. But in aggregate, the study says, "the losses far outweigh the isolated benefits."

Abrupt shifts in purchasing patterns in export and domestic markets—prompted by the constriction in restaurant and other food-service sales and a swing to retail purchases for at-home use—have affected farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses at various points in the supply chain, the study says, ultimately resulting in farm-gate crop price impacts.

"Observing how agriculture is affected will help us orient and decisively act to create a stronger future," UnitedAg President and CEO Kirti Mutatkar said. "The agricultural industry is not only one of the most necessary industries, but one of the most resilient."

The full report, titled Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on California Agriculture, may be found at www.cfbf.com/covid-19-study.



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**2020
VISIONS**

2020 CFBF PHOTO CONTEST
Deadline To Enter: September 30

PARTIAL RULES: Photos must highlight California agriculture and **have been taken in 2019 or 2020.**

All entrants must be a member of a county Farm Bureau or a contributing member of the California Bountiful Foundation.

Please see complete rules online at www.cfbf.com/photocontest.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 8, 2020 - 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting, Johnny Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Pepper growers see robust demand

On-farm prices for California-grown green bell peppers have been sharply higher than a year ago, but farmers say that has more to do with short crops in other regions than pandemic-related changes in demand. In the Coachella Valley, farmers say they're harvesting red and yellow bell peppers along with green bells. Fewer peppers than expected from Mexico have been reaching market, heightening demand for the California crops.

Cheese prices rise to record highs

With restaurants reopening, though at partial capacity, and sales continuing through retail, export and food-aid programs, cheese prices have surged to records. Analysts describe the price movement as "eye-popping," given that milk prices had plunged at the start of pandemic-related restrictions. Dairy farmers have yet to see the effects of the cheese-market surge, though it may show up in their June income.

Winemakers, growers assess tasting room reopening

As tasting rooms reopen at many California wineries, vintners and grape growers wait to see how customers respond to new requirements. Counties that have allowed tasting rooms to reopen also require smaller groups of patrons, observing social distancing, with masks for staff and visitors. The closure of tasting rooms during the pandemic has been especially difficult for small wineries that depend on them for most of their sales.

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