

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 75th Year of Publication: Volume LXXV, Number 1, January 2021.



Pictured are Medjool Dates 6-7-2020. Photo from Fresh Dates by Anderson.com.

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Welcome New Members

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



COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

<https://www.ruhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine>

VACCINE ARE OPEN TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY RESIDENTS AND THOSE WHO WORK IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY WHO ARE IN PHASE 1A - ALL TIERS, PHASE 1B - TIER 1 OR AGED 65 YEARS AND OLDER

- Acute Care
- Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities (medically vulnerable individuals)
- First Responders (paramedic/EMTs)
- Correctional Hospitals
- Behavior Health (psychiatric)
- Dialysis Centers (staff)
- Pharmacist & Pharmacy Staff
- Intermediate Care Facilities
- Education and Childcare
- Law Enforcement
- Home Health and IHSS
- Public Health (field)/DPSS
- Community Health Workers
- Primary Care & Community Clinics
- Urgent Cares (stand-alone)
- Specialty Clinics
- Laboratory Workers
- Dental/Oral Health Clinics
- Mortuary Services Industries
- Food and Agriculture
- Emergency Services

****FOR WORKERS IN PHASE 1A AND 1B - TIER 1, AN APPOINTMENT AND WORKER ID BADGE/LETTER FROM PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED OR YOU WILL NOT BE VACCINATED****

****FOR THOSE 65 YEARS AND OLDER, AN APPOINTMENT AND ID IS REQUIRED****

For those age 65 and older who need help navigating the registration portal:

Call 800-510-2020 Select [2] for LOCAL county assistance, then Select [1] and say "Riverside"

First CLas-positive Asian citrus psyllid found in San Diego County

An Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) sample – confirmed positive for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas), the bacteria that causes Huanglongbing (HLB) – was collected from a residential property in the Fallbrook area of San Diego County. Confirmed by Citrus Research Board's Jerry Dimitman Laboratory, this adult psyllid sample is the first CLas-positive ACP found in San Diego County.

While the first confirmation of a CLas-positive ACP in San Diego County is concerning, as of today, HLB has not been detected in any San Diego County trees but surveying and sampling of area trees is ongoing. This find signals a critical time for homeowners and growers alike to continue to control ACP populations to stop the potential spread of this deadly disease, as oftentimes a CLas-positive ACP precedes the detection of an HLB-positive tree.

The HLB quarantine zone will not be expanded as a result of this CLas-positive ACP detection and CDFA staff is swiftly conducting surveys and collecting samples from HLB host plants that are located within a 250-meter radius around the find, per the ACP/HLB Action Plan.

While treatment is not mandatory for area commercial growers as a result of the detection, San Diego County commercial growers who have additional questions can contact Sandra Zwaal, San Diego County Grower Liaison, at szwaal2@gmail.com.

For additional details on the CLas-positive ACP detection, visit www.countynewscenter.com/state-and-county-investigate-citrus-disease-in-fallbrook/



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

RUBEN J. ARROYO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture
and

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Riverside County
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Chuck Washington, District 3
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Jeff Hewitt, District 5

It is my privilege to submit the 2019 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 2019 in Riverside County is **\$1,321,265,000**. This total represents an increase of \$22 million (1.7%) from last year's total value. The largest increase (51.9%) was seen in field and seed production followed by nursery production (23.5%) while citrus crops saw a 28.6% 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
2019**



Ranch image wins top prize in Farm Bureau Photo Contest

A cattle rancher from Tulare County earned the Grand Prize in the 39th annual California Farm Bureau Photo Contest. Hannah Gill of Exeter won \$1,000 for a photo of her 2-year-old daughter peering through a fence to watch her father rope cattle.

The California Farm Bureau received nearly 400 entries for the 2020 Photo Contest from amateur photographers who are members of county Farm Bureaus.

Our very own RCFB Director Celeste Alonzo was one of six photographers to earn Honorable Mentions and \$50 for her submission.

All 12 prize winning photos can be viewed at www.cfbf.com, www.agalert.com and www.californiabountiful.com and social media pages



Celeste Alonzo, Riverside County: Alonzo, past president of her county's Young Farmers and Ranchers group, shot this picture of date palms in winter with the snow-capped San Jacinto Mountains in the background. "I'll take random routes home just so I can see different fields, especially the winter crops—all the celery, carrots, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli," she said. "The mountains looked really pretty."

PRODUCTION VALUATION CHANGES 2018 to 2019

<u>Crop</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Value Change (\$)</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Citrus	121,934,000	170,775,000	(48,841,000)	-28.6%
Tree and Vine	268,368,000	249,150,000	19,218,000	7.7%
Vegetables	354,217,000	371,570,000	(17,353,000)	-4.7%
Field and Seed	141,652,000	93,282,000	48,370,000	51.9%
Nursery	204,768,000	165,758,000	39,010,000	23.5%
Apiculture	6,123,000	5,473,000	650,000	11.9%
Aquaculture	4,776,000	4,732,000	44,000	0.9%
All Agriculture	1,101,838,000	1,060,740,000	41,098,000	3.9%
Livestock and Poultry	219,427,000	238,468,000	(19,041,000)	-8.0%
Grand Total	1,321,265,000	1,299,208,000	22,057,000	1.7%

CALIFORNIA'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES BY TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION

<u>2019</u>			<u>2018</u>		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>
1	Kern	7,620,699,180	1	Kern	7,254,004,000
2	Tulare	7,505,352,100	2	Tulare	7,039,709,000
3	Fresno	7,024,915,000	3	Fresno	7,024,915,000
4	Monterey	4,425,425,000	4	Monterey	4,425,425,000
5	Stanislaus	3,648,192,000	5	Stanislaus	3,648,192,000
6	Merced	3,409,518,000	6	Merced	3,409,518,000
7	San Joaquin	2,527,966,000	7	San Joaquin	2,527,966,000
8	Kings	2,099,889,000	8	Ventura	2,099,889,000
9	Imperial	2,066,329,000	9	Kings	2,066,329,000
10	Madera	2,065,599,000	10	Imperial	2,065,599,000
11	Ventura	1,973,067,000	11	Madera	1,973,067,000
12	San Diego	1,774,192,000	12	San Diego	1,774,192,000
13	Santa Barbara	1,590,351,000	13	Santa Barbara	1,590,351,000
14	Riverside	1,321,265,000	14	Riverside	1,299,208,000

OTHER MILLION DOLLAR COMMODITIES

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>
Lettuce - Head	31,934,033	Mixed Melons	11,123,000	Talapia	3,850,000
Turf Grass	27,259,568	Artichokes	10,443,000	Cabbage	3,397,540
Grapefruit	25,497,893	Bermuda Grass	9,180,000	Watermelon	3,174,890
Mandarins/tangerines	24,242,317	Corn - Sweet	8,979,000	Wheat - Grain	3,067,000
Broccoli	22,157,085	Alfalfa - Silage	8,238,000	Tomatoes	2,623,000
Spinach	18,711,000	Celery	7,939,000	Honeydew Melon	2,570,000
Oriental Vegetables	17,549,606	Spices/Herbs	6,312,203	Oats	2,379,780
Wine Grapes	16,524,000	Potatoes	6,258,000	Squash	2,208,000
Romaine Lettuce	15,732,000	Okra	6,074,000	Corn - silage	2,130,000
Onions - Dry	13,188,000	Cantaloupe	5,817,500	Rye Grass	1,827,000
Oranges	13,083,260	Industrial Hemp	5,400,000	Sheep and lamb	1,411,000
Cotton	13,021,954	Pollination	4,845,000	Honey	1,242,000
Cauliflower	12,584,000	Cotton Seed	4,694,000	Sudan Grass	1,092,000
Beans - Green	11,703,000	Eggplant	4,421,000	Tangelos	1,058,114
Cattle / Calves	11,500,000				

TEN LEADING CROPS FOR 2019

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>
1st	Nursery Stock	\$204,768,000
2nd	Milk	141,524,000
3rd	Table Grapes	102,286,799
4th	Dates	96,249,158
5th	Alfalfa	87,723,000
6th	Bell Peppers	73,206,000
7th	Eggs	62,094,000
8th	Lemons	57,845,989
9th	Avocado	40,339,000
10th	Carrots	33,462,000

DISTRICT VALUATIONS - AGRICULTURAL CROPS

District	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Riverside/Corona	94,139,000	91,835,000	102,010,000	105,905,000	126,279,000
San Jacinto/Temecula Valley	151,976,000	146,500,000	156,061,000	153,514,000	148,788,000
Coachella Valley	649,732,000	639,620,000	592,337,000	623,805,000	684,911,000
Palo Verde Valley	146,197,000	124,708,000	142,468,000	151,721,000	209,974,510
Total Crop Valuation	1,042,044,000	1,002,663,000	992,876,000	1,034,945,000	1,169,953,000

ACREAGE STATISTICS

Crop	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Citrus	16,462	15,802	16,082	17,333	19,756
Tree and Vine	23,269	22,784	23,405	22,988	21,075
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	37,165	46,934	39,621	44,287	46,709
Field and Seed	114,492	102,829	102,829	102,829	116,182
Nursery	6,393	5,695	6,082	6,909	5,616
Total Planted Acreage	197,781	194,044	188,019	194,346	209,338

TOTAL VALUATION

Crop	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Citrus	187,673,000	200,101,000	177,055,000	170,775,000	121,934,000
Tree and Vine	234,928,000	227,444,000	228,315,000	249,150,000	268,368,000
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	327,199,000	365,157,000	331,986,000	371,570,000	354,217,000
Field and Seed	122,794,000	97,184,000	96,063,000	93,282,000	141,652,000
Nursery	158,648,000	150,426,000	153,749,000	165,758,000	204,768,000
Apiculture	4,897,000	5,082,000	5,415,000	5,473,000	6,123,000
Aquaculture	5,397,000	4,624,000	4,764,000	4,732,000	4,776,000
Total Crop	1,041,536,000	1,050,018,000	997,347,000	1,060,740,000	1,101,838,000
Livestock and Poultry	260,015,000	225,758,000	221,175,000	238,468,000	219,427,000
GRAND TOTAL	1,301,551,000	1,275,776,000	1,218,522,000	1,299,208,000	1,321,265,000

PAST RIVERSIDE COUNTY RANKING 2010 - 2019

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>STATE RANK</u>
2010	\$1,093,646,000	12
2011	\$1,282,256,000	13
2012	\$1,253,130,000	13
2013	\$1,327,804,000	14
2014	\$1,362,016,000	13
2015	\$1,301,551,000	14
2016	\$1,275,776,000	14
2017	\$1,218,552,000	14
2018	\$1,299,208,000	14
2019	\$1,352,148,000	14

Agriculture and business coalition challenges Cal/OSHA emergency standards

A coalition of agricultural and business employers has filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court challenging the COVID-19 related emergency temporary standards (ETS) recently approved by the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Board). The complaint alleges, among other things, that the Board lacks statutory authority to impose many of the sweeping measures of the ETS on California employers.

For California's multi-generational farmers, the health and safety of their employees and the consumers they serve is their top priority.

"In the weeks and months following Governor Newsom's emergency declaration in March, California farmers and processors moved quickly to implement dramatic new safety practices aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace," said Dave Puglia, President & CEO of Western Growers. "While these measures helped reduce transmission in workplaces, this virus has swept through communities large and small in spite of lockdown orders and mask mandates, and through every sector of the economy as well despite extraordinary efforts by employers and employees alike. The Board imposed unrealistic, unfounded and economically harmful standards in total disregard of these realities. We have no choice but to seek judicial relief."

The standards promulgated by the Board are unprecedented and sweeping. They were adopted with little public notice or opportunity for comment based on a purported "finding of emergency" and a declared need for immediate action, even though it took the Board nine months to enact these rules. Furthermore, Cal/OSHA staff insisted the ETS were not necessary for the agency to enforce the continually evolving general and industry-specific guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19. As stated in the complaint, "the ETS does not solve a crisis as much as it creates one."



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"We take this unfortunate yet serious action because we believe there are unconsidered mitigation steps that have and would continue to better protect farm workers while allowing our farmers to continue to produce a consistent supply of fruits and vegetables," said Christopher Valadez, President of the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California. "As this pandemic has shown us over the last several months, it is imperative that science and data drive policy. That is at the core of what we seek in this lawsuit."

The ETS create significant new obligations and liabilities for employers, and subject well-meaning California farmers and other businesses to additional enforcement actions and substantial penalties. The practical effect of these emergency standards is to shift the public health and economic costs of COVID-19 monitoring, investigation, compliance and remediation onto employers, all without any consideration of the financial damage inflicted on businesses already struggling to recover from the pandemic.

"These regulations will disrupt food supply operations all along the line, but it will be especially hard on our 20,000 small family farming members," said Jamie Johansson, President of the California Farm Bureau Federation. "They and their employees are the unsung heroes of the pandemic but once again, they must react to a rule handed down by fiat instead of going through a deliberate regulatory process where the voices of farmers would be heard. We hope the court forces government to follow the law."

It is important to note that the ETS will have a disproportionate impact on California farmers and their employees since one aspect of the regulations is to substantially reduce and eliminate vitally needed agricultural housing during a statewide housing crisis. A reduction in already-scarce housing will directly impact farmworker communities and harm rural economies across the state that depends on agriculture.

The lawsuit filed by lead attorney David A. Schwarz, Kent R. Raygor and Barbara Taylor, with Sheppard Mullin, argues that in enacting the emergency regulations without due process, the Board failed to explain the causal link between the ETS and the emergency to be addressed, or to adequately justify the necessity of the new rules. Additionally, the complaint contends that many of the regulations have nothing to do with workplace health or occupational safety but are designed to address non-work-related COVID-19 exposure risks.



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Vonny Barlow, former UC Cooperative Extension entomology and crop production advisor in Riverside County, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 9 from a massive heart attack after being transported to a Palm Springs hospital. He was 55.

Barlow, a native of Mountain View, joined UC ANR in 2009 as an entomology and crop production advisor. He worked mostly in alfalfa, cotton, melons, lettuce and broccoli. For many years, he served as an affiliate integrated pest management advisor, the Entomology

Workgroup co-chair and as an entomology project leader for 4-H in Riverside County.

Barlow volunteered with Winrock International, a non-profit organization that administers the Asia Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Under this program, he conducted training on 'Improved Knowledge in Safe and Judicious Use and Handling of Pesticides' for agro-input retailers, input company and association representatives, and USAID-funded Agro-Inputs Project staff in five different locations, namely Barisal, Faridpur, Khulna, Dhaka and Jessore in Bangladesh," said Sonia Rios, UCCE subtropical horticulture advisor for Riverside and San Diego counties.

In 2016, Barlow left UCCE Riverside County to conduct research with UCCE specialist Larry Godfrey, under whom he had studied as a UC Davis graduate student. He then started his own consulting business in Blythe.

"He was known well by growers for his expertise and friendliness," Rios said.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



 February 10, 2021 ~ 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting will be held by a Zoom Conference. If you are interested in participating, please call our office at (951) 684-6732.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Western groups advocate for new water investments

Water projects should be included in any future federal infrastructure package, according to more than 200 Western agricultural and water organizations. The groups, from 15 states, sent letters to President Biden and congressional leaders, advocating investment in a diversified water-management portfolio for the region. Without immediate attention, the coalition said, the water system will soon be unable to meet the region's needs.

Mandarin farmers see rising demand, supply

The vitamin C content of citrus fruit has helped boost its popularity during the pandemic, and farmers who grow mandarins say they've seen more demand for their fruit. California Citrus Mutual says it expects increased volumes for this year's mandarin harvest, which began last month and will continue for several more weeks. Recent cool, wet weather has helped the fruit gain color, and farmers say they're expecting a good mandarin season.

Survey shows strong trust in U.S. farmers

Trust in American farmers has increased during the pandemic, according to survey results released by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The nationwide survey showed nearly nine in 10 respondents trust farmers, up 4% from a survey taken earlier in the year. The survey also gauged Americans' attitudes about agricultural sustainability practices, and found nearly 60% rated farmers' practices positively.

"Farm Bureau Working for You"