

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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Photo by Amy Lynn Grover on Unsplash.com

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Welcome New Members

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

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom 2021 Virtual Conference



Save the Date
September 24 - 25, 2021

For more information Visit
<https://learnaboutag.org>



The Riverside County Farm Bureau has secured additional stock of disposable masks, please contact our office for availability and to arrange pick-up.

Call our Office (951) 684-6732

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Riverside County continues to release appointments for the COVID-19 vaccines as they become available. The demand for the COVID-19 vaccine throughout our community continues to exceed the limited supply available. Community members are encouraged to check Riverside County's Vaccine Dashboard on a regular basis to make sure they are informed of new vaccine clinics as appointments become available.

- Visit Riverside County's new Vaccine Dashboard, at <https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine>
- Email your questions about Riverside County vaccinations to rivco.vaccines@ruhealth.org.
- For information on Riverside County's COVID-19 Response, visit www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus.
- Please visit the CDC Essential Worker COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit to help educate your workers about important prevention tools and why vaccines are important. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/essential-workers.html>
- Follow Riverside University Health System – Public Health on Social Media for the latest updates
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/countyriversidedepartmentofpublichealth
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RivCoDoc>

Protect Citrus from Sweet Orange Scab and the Lime Swallowtail Butterfly

Article from Citrus Insider

While limiting the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing are the highest priority for the California citrus industry and the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program, the program continually monitors for a number of threats to the industry and has recently detected sweet orange scab (SOS) in new areas of the state. Additionally, an unofficial Lime Swallowtail Butterfly (LSB) sample was identified from Los Angeles County and several LSB sightings have been uploaded onto the iNaturalist application, including sightings in Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo counties.

Sweet Orange Scab

SOS is a cosmetic fungal disease that impacts the marketability of the fruit and effects all citrus, not just oranges. SOS is caused by the fungus *Elsinöe australis*, which is dispersed by water. You can recognize SOS by the scab-like lesions on fruit, and less frequently on leaves and twigs. SOS can cause premature fruit drop and stunt young nursery trees and new field plantings but has little impact on fruit quality.



Fruit lesions from sweet orange scab. Photo credit: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

A positive detection of SOS was found during a commodity survey on the west side of Riverside County, the fourth detection in California within the last year and a half. To help protect citrus from SOS, growers and packinghouses within five miles from an SOS detection, and packinghouses throughout the state receiving fruit from groves within five miles from an SOS detection, are currently required to follow the below measures:

- Sign an SOS compliance agreement with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- Disinfect all fruit and field bins.
- Collect and appropriately dispose of green waste.

Per the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee's direction, CDFA is also reviewing SOS impacts and analyzing the need to establish SOS interior quarantine regulations. Currently the program regulates areas within a five-mile radius from each SOS detection, following the United States Department of Agriculture's quarantine protocols.

Working hand in hand with growers, CDFA is exploring the rulemaking process to create state interior quarantines, which will avoid a broader statewide quarantine that would be more burdensome to the industry.

More information will be shared throughout the process, so stay tuned to Citrus Insider for the latest updates at <https://citrusinsider.org>.

Lime Swallowtail Butterfly

There was one unofficial detection of LSB in Los Angeles and several reported sightings in Los Angeles and in San Luis Obispo counties.

LSB in the larval stage eat citrus leaves and have been very damaging to nursery stock in other parts of the world. The larva looks similar to bird guano before maturing into green caterpillars. As butterflies, they are largely black with irregular yellow spots on the outer wings.



Dorsal view of adult Lime Swallowtail Butterfly.

CDFA Monitoring to Protect California Citrus

CDFA staff will regularly monitor for LSB and SOS when doing the surveys that are helping keep California citrus thriving.

New guide helps organic growers manage burrowing rodents

Written by Pamela Kan-Rice, Assistant Director, UCANR News and Information Outreach



A pocket gopher emerges from a burrow. The holes and mounds created by burrowing rodents pose hazards to farmworkers and farm machinery. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark

Burrowing rodents can cause extensive and expensive damage to orchards and crop fields. To manage the pests without chemicals used on conventional farms, organic growers can consult a new publication from UC Agriculture and Natural Resources scientists.

“Burrowing Rodents: Developing a Management Plan for Organic Agriculture in California” outlines management within organically acceptable methods using an integrated pest management approach.

California ground squirrels, pocket gophers and meadow voles are the three most common species that cause damage. Squirrels chew on seedlings, fruit and nuts, killing young trees and reducing crop yields. In addition to plants, ground squirrels, pocket gophers and voles can chew on irrigation lines, and their burrow systems can channel water away from plants and erode the soil. The holes and mounds created by burrowing rodents pose hazards to farmworkers and farm machinery.



California ground squirrels chew on seedlings, fruit and nuts, killing young trees and reducing crop yields. Photo by Roger Baldwin

This publication helps growers identify the rodent species on their properties, their life cycles and tools available to control them.

“Growers can read about how to effectively select and set a range of traps for burrowing rodents,” said co-author Margaret Lloyd, UC Cooperative Extension small farms advisor for the Capitol Corridor. “Traps are an important tool for organic management, but maximizing control comes from integrating knowledge. Here we present information about rodent biology, trap efficacy, biocontrol, habitat management, plant protection and other approaches to collectively manage the pest problem.”



Traps are an important tool for rodent management on organic farms, but integrating traps with other tools are necessary for effective management, according to the authors. Photo by Roger Baldwin

In the publication, Lloyd and Roger Baldwin, UC Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist in the UC Davis Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology, review the effectiveness of commercially available traps – where to place the traps, whether to use attractants, and methods of euthanizing the animals.

They also offer cultural techniques for deterring rodents such as flooding fields and deep ripping soil to destroy burrow systems. Crops for orchard floors or cover cropping can be selected and managed to minimize habitat that protects and encourages gophers and voles.

For biological control, they suggest barn owls, raptors and snakes might be able to assist, but warn growers that predators alone will not be able to eat enough of the rodents to reduce the high populations to tolerable levels for many growers.

“Effective management will rely on a suite of tools,” said Baldwin. The 15-page publication is available for free download at <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=8688>.

Wildfire-insurance measure moves to Assembly floor

With the approval by the Assembly Insurance Committee, a bill to improve fire-insurance options for farmers and ranchers moved one step closer to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk.

Senate Bill 11—sponsored by the California Farm Bureau and carried by Sen. Susan Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, would authorize the state's insurer of last resort, the California FAIR Plan, to underwrite insurance coverage for commercial farms and ranches. The bill now advances to the full Assembly.

“With all signs pointing to another severe wildfire season, it's crucial for SB 11 to gain passage as soon as possible,” California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said. “Farmers and ranchers in wildfire-prone regions are having their insurance policies canceled and often can't find replacement coverage. It's an emergency that needs to be addressed immediately.”

The FAIR Plan provides basic property insurance for customers who can't acquire insurance in the open market—but its current provisions don't allow coverage for farm structures or equipment. State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has endorsed SB 11 and has been meeting with farmers and ranchers around the state to discuss the breadth of the insurance problem at roundtable discussions organized by county Farm Bureaus.

“Better access to wildfire insurance is a pressing priority for many Farm Bureau members,” Johansson said, “and SB 11 will be one part of the solution. Farm Bureau has also worked with the insurance commissioner's office and the insurance industry to offer a ‘difference in conditions’ policy that fills gaps for farmers when they qualify for FAIR Plan coverage.”

Johansson said Farm Bureau will “continue to attack this problem from every possible angle,” including state and federal initiatives to manage forests and reduce wildfire fuel.

Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention

If you have employees that work outdoors in California, you must protect them from heat illness.

The law requires that you:

- Maintain a written Heat Illness Prevention Plan.
- Train employees on the signs, symptoms and emergency response procedures for heat illness.
- Provide shade whenever employees ask for it and when temperatures reach or exceed 80 degrees.
- Provide enough cool, fresh water for employees to drink at least one quarter of a gallon per hour, and encourage them to do so.
- Allow employees to take preventative cool-down rest breaks in the shade in addition to their regular breaks.

Free Heat Illness Prevention Assistance

- Attend a free training held by Cal/OSHA and other groups on heat illness prevention.
- Use Cal/OSHA's online training tool for comprehensive information on the Heat Illness Prevention Regulation, including best practices and sample procedures for responding to heat illness.
- Contact Cal/OSHA Consultation Services for free assistance with developing a heat illness prevention plan and other requirements. Call 800-963-9424 or email infocons@dir.ca.gov
- Visit the Resources page at <https://www.99calor.org/Resources> for materials to help train workers or contact heat@dir.ca.gov to place a free order for printed materials.

Employer Training Resources

These resources, when combined with training on your company's specific procedures, are designed to help you meet compliance with the Heat Illness Prevention standard. Visit the Resources page for a full list of training and educational materials available for print order or download. Available in several languages.

- Posters to use as visuals
- Worker fact sheets
- Trainer's guide with easy-to-follow instructions
- Supervisor's daily checklist for the worksite



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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU AUCTION SUPPORT FUND

Riverside County Farm Bureau is a buyer and sponsors of an Auction Support Fund to support prices at the Junior Livestock Auction at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio and the Southern California Fair in Perris.

We invite you to make a contribution of \$50 or more. All money contributed to this Auction Support Fund will be used to buy animals at the Junior Livestock Auctions. Your contribution will help maintain auction prices and benefit agricultural students.

Since 2000, the Farm Bureau has directed over \$65,000 into the Date Festival Jr. Live Stock Auction and \$51,000 at the Southern California Fair towards the purchase of animals, including nearly \$21,000 from member donations. We would like to say thank you to all past supporters.

To contribute to the Auction Support Fund, make your check payable to Farm Bureau and mail it to Auction Support Fund, Riverside County Farm Bureau, 21160 Box Springs Road, #102, Moreno Valley, California 92557.

**Donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible as ordinary business expenses; consult your tax preparer. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.*



SAVE THE DATE

November 13, 2021
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Riverside County Farm Bureau cordially invites you to celebrate our

104th Annual Meeting

Monteleone Meadows
35245 Briggs Road
Murrieta, CA 92563

Howie Award Nomination Form

I nominate (name of candidate for Howie Award):

Your name and telephone number:

**Deadline for Nomination Form is
August 1, 2021.**

Send your nomination to:
Riverside County Farm Bureau
21160 Box Springs Road, #102
Moreno Valley, CA 92557

Because (why should your candidate receive the Howie Award) (use extra pages or attach resume/supporting information if available):

The Robert M. Howie Award is an annual award given by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to recognize outstanding service to Riverside County agriculture.



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2021 California Farm Bureau PHOTO CONTEST



2020 First Place winner

To Enter ~ Visit www.cfbf.com
Entry Deadline ~ September 30, 2021

MEMBER REFLECTIONS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board of Directors meeting in July or August 2021. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Study indicates heart-health value of prune consumption

Eating prunes appears to help women improve their cardiovascular health. A study by San Diego State University showed that prune consumption raised antioxidant capacity and reduced inflammation among healthy, postmenopausal women. Those factors are associated with lower risk of cardiovascular disease. Volunteers in the study ate the equivalent of six prunes a day for six months.

USDA urges Americans to reduce food waste

Four steps can help people reduce food waste at home, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA has released new resources to show people how to prevent food waste. The resources stress planning for food purchases, controlling food portions, properly storing leftovers and composting food scraps. USDA says an average family of four wastes almost \$1,500 worth of food each year.

Specialist provides drought tips for landscaping

When water supplies run short, homeowners should concentrate on keeping trees healthy. A University of California specialist describes trees as “our most valuable landscape resource” because of the shade, cooling and other benefits they provide. Other drought tips include irrigating landscapes in the morning, to reduce evaporation; using mulch; and controlling weeds that compete with other plants for water.

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