

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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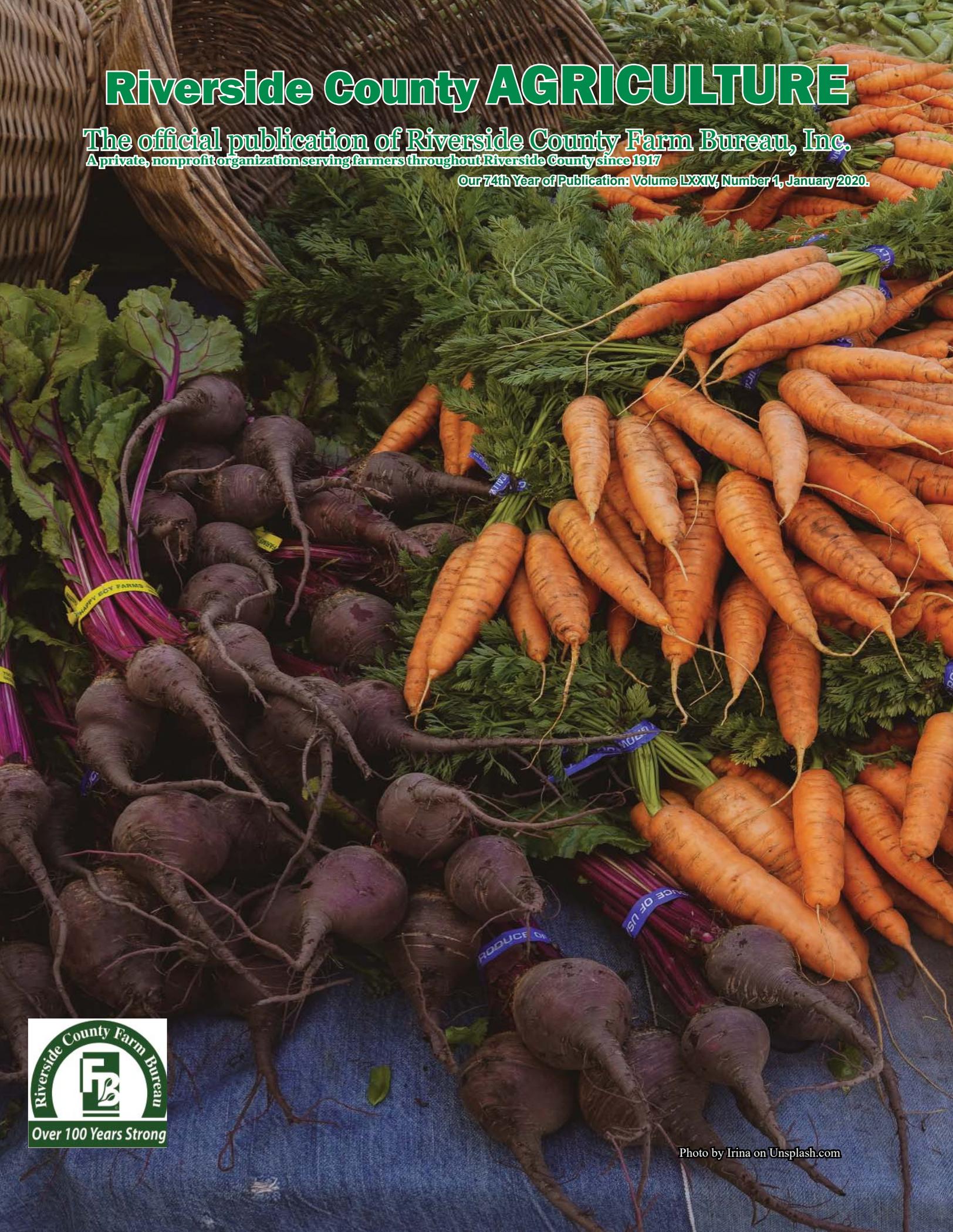


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Welcome New Members

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

Basic Elements of a Farm Emergency Plan

The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.*

Plan for the unpredictable

As farmers and ranchers know all too well: Mother Nature is unpredictable. But being prepared with an emergency action plan is a great investment in helping preserve what you've worked so hard to build.

Here are some tips for what to include in your farm or ranch emergency plan:

- Include a map of your farm or ranch with all buildings and contents. Document emergency escape routes and procedures for each building on your property.
- Specify who will be responsible for what emergency task, and how they'll report fire and other emergencies. Identify procedures to be followed by the people who remain to handle critical operations before they evacuate.
- Document procedures to account for all people and employees after an emergency evacuation. Have contingency plans for where you'll house live-stock if barns or dairy parlors are damaged or destroyed.
- Pre-plan salvage operations and include a method of debris disposal. Be aware of what materials the landfill nearest your farm or ranch will accept and establish alternatives if needed. Follow any specific procedures for disposal of chemicals or other hazardous materials to meet EPA requirements.
- Develop and maintain a list of all people connected with your farm or ranch who should be contacted in an emergency. Be sure to include names and all pertinent contact information. This can include owners, family members, employees, employee family members, suppliers and anyone else who is on your farm or ranch on a regular basis.
- Develop and maintain a list of emergency contacts. Include local law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical responders, gas and electric providers, hospitals and insurance companies. Keep copies of your emergency contact list in your home, your office, your glove compartment, with all family members, any key employees and in additional buildings. The key is to always have them close at hand.



- Establish an inventory system. Know exactly what's on your farm or ranch at all times.
- Designate a location for offsite storage of important documents and records.

For more on this topic, read our full-length article on Nationwide Farm and Agribusiness Resources at <https://www.nationwide.com/farm-and-agribusiness-resources.jsp>.

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California Farm Bureau Federation 101st Annual Meeting

Riverside County Farm Bureau board members and staff attended the California Farm Bureau Federation 101st Annual Meeting December 7-11 at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey.



Left to Right: Vice President Andy Wilson, Young Farmer and Rancher District Representative Celeste Alonzo, Cella Goodwin, Alma Schmid and President Richard Schmid. Photo provided by Executive Director Rachael Johnson.

The delegation included RCFB President Richard Schmid and his wife Alma, RCFB Vice-President Ellen Lloyd-Trover and her husband Denis, Vice-President Andy Wilson, Young Farmer and Rancher District Representative Celeste Alonzo, Agricultural Commissioner Ruben Arroyo, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Delia Cioc and RCFB Executive Director Rachael Scott Johnson.

In the opening session, attendees listened to CFBF President Jamie Johansson speak about the future of Farm Bureau. CFBF President Jamie Johansson said the organization would continue to advocate on behalf of science, improved state and federal policies, and unity in agriculture. He added that scientific and technological advancements have made it possible for farmers and ranchers to succeed.

The meeting also offered members to participate in breakout sessions about topics like industrial hemp, irrigated lands programs, trespassing, water, membership, retirement and more.

The California Farm Bureau will be celebrating the 102nd Annual Meeting in Reno, NV December 6-9, 2020.



Earn a **Professional Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture.**

- Do you enjoy working outside?
- Have you ever dreamed of being your own boss?
- Do you want to make a difference by improving the health of our community?
- Do you have a strong work ethic and love to see the fruits of your labor?

Consider a career in **agriculture** as a **next generation farmer!** Our nation is in need of new farmers to feed and keep people healthy, steward land and natural resources, and build stronger regional food economies. Whether you have just graduated from high school or are changing careers in mid-life, or are a veteran, consider becoming a farmer.

The **Riverside NextGen Farmer Training Program** is a 10-month vocational program in the art, science, and business of **sustainable agriculture**. The program provides comprehensive training and mentorship over two semesters to assist new and beginning farmers to start their own farms and prepares them for a variety of careers in agriculture and related industries. Participants successfully completing the program earn an 18-unit professional, industry-recognized certificate through UCR Extension Professional Studies. Tuition support is available for qualified applicants.

Register today for consideration in the program. **Applications are due January 22, 2020.**

For additional information, or to request an application, please contact: **Joyce Jong at jjong@riversideca.gov or 951-826-5265.**

Program Dates

Semester 1:	January 27, 2020 to June 19, 2020
Semester 2:	August 18, 2020 to January 19, 2021
Class Hours:	Option 1 - Morning Sessions M-F 10:00 am – 11:00 am Option 2 - Evening Sessions M-F 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2060 University Ave, Riverside, CA Saturdays from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm (includes lunch break)
Field Labs:	
Tuition:	\$5,000 (funding support available for eligible individuals)

PROGRAM DETAILS

Comprehensive 6-Module Program in 10 Months

Module 1: Intro to California & Local Agriculture

Careers and opportunities in agriculture, role of agriculture, equipment and tool safety.

Module 2: Soils & Nutrients

Soil properties, nutrient and soil input management, fertilizers, irrigation management.

Module 3: Crop Production

Row and tree crops, organic and conventional production, crop planning and rotation, plant identification, small vs large scale production, weed and pest management.

Module 4: Farm Cultivation, Postharvest & Food Safety

Farm cultivation practices, conservation agriculture, greenhouse management, food safety, grading and quality control, harvesting and post-harvesting techniques, packaging and refrigeration.

Module 5: Farm & Financial Management

Farm production and operations management, labor management, record keeping, planning crop rotation, agriculture regulations, insurance, farm budgeting and accounting, billing and invoicing, revenue diversity.

Module 6: Agribusiness Entrepreneurship

Farm business planning, marketing and sales.



For Lease: 55 acres in Coachella Valley - farmed for over 40 years. Canal water with reservoir, pump & drip system. Easy access- I-10 & Vista del Norte. Potential for row crops, vineyard, etc. Call Ann Christensen (541)661-1798 taogfarms@yahoo.com



Minimum Wage Rates Increase and Overtime Thresholds Decrease on Jan. 1

With all the new employment-law changes going into effect on Jan. 1, it can be easy to forget the changes that were set in motion years ago. For that reason, we remind you that California's minimum wage is increasing (again) for all employers, and the overtime thresholds for agricultural employees working under Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order No. 14-2001 are decreasing. Here is a quick re-fresher:

Minimum Wage Rates Increase

In 2017, California's minimum wage began a series of increases intended to raise the state minimum wage to \$15.

The next increases take effect on Jan. 1, as the state minimum wage will increase to \$12 per hour for employers with 25 or fewer employees and to \$13 per hour for employers with 26 or more employees.

While these increases obviously affect employees earning minimum wage, these increases also raise the minimum salary requirement for exempt personnel. (To be classified as exempt from minimum-wage, overtime-pay and time-recordkeeping requirements, an employee must meet both a "duties test" and a "salary test.")

Effective Jan. 1, the minimum salary for exempt employees of employers with 25 or fewer employees will increase to \$49,920 per year (or \$4,160 per month), and to \$54,080 per year (or \$4,506.67 per month) for exempt employees of employers with 26 or more employees.

Wage Order 14 Overtime Thresholds Decrease

In 2016, Assembly Bill 1066 set in motion the gradual lowering of the daily and weekly hours of work thresholds for paying overtime to non-exempt agricultural employees working under Wage Order 14.

Effective Jan. 1, the overtime thresholds for non-exempt employees of employers with 26 or more employees will be nine hours per workday or 50 hours per workweek. For non-exempt employees of employers with 25 or fewer employees, the overtime threshold is still 10 hours per workday.

Overtime pay for work done on the seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek remains the same as in the past.

Determining If You Have 26 or More Employees

As previously explained, because the requirements depend on whether an employer has 26 or more employees, it is important to understand how employees are counted.

An employer's own direct-hire employees and any employees of a farm labor contractor provided to the employer must be counted together. In addition, if an FLC has 26 or more employees, then the FLC's employees are entitled to the large-employer rates regardless of how many employees are located at their jobsites.

Employers with questions about minimum wage or overtime thresholds, or about how employees are counted under these rules, are encouraged to contact Barsamian & Moody at (559) 248-2360. Given the substantial liability that can result from wage-and-hour violations, this is one area you absolutely want to make sure you are compliant with.

The goal of this article is to provide employers with current information on labor and employment law. Their contents should be neither interpreted nor construed as legal advice or opinion. The reader should consult with Barsamian & Moody at (559) 248-2360 for individual responses to questions or concerns about any given situation.

HUANGLONGBING DETECTION IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY EXPANDS QUARANTINE IN PORTIONS OF RIVERSIDE, ORANGE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

A quarantine has been declared following the detection of the citrus disease Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening, in multiple residential citrus trees within the City of Corona, Riverside County. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Riverside County, Orange County, and San Bernardino County agricultural commissioners, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) are working collaboratively on this project.

The 107-square mile quarantine area will link up with the east side of the existing quarantine in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino counties, creating a contiguous 1,127-square-mile area. The new portion is bordered on the north by Chino Airport, on the south by Black Star Canyon, and on the east by Interstate 15. HLB quarantine maps are available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/hlb/regulation.html>. Please check this link for future quarantine expansions in these counties, should they occur. Quarantines are already in place for HLB in portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

The quarantine prohibits the movement of all citrus nursery stock or plant parts out of the quarantine area. Provisions exist to allow the movement of commercially cleaned and packed citrus fruit. Fruit that is not commercially cleaned and packed, including residential citrus, such as oranges, lemons, grapefruits, and kumquats, must not be moved from the property on which it is grown, although it may be processed and/or consumed on the premises.

Residents are urged to take several steps to help protect citrus trees:

- Do not move citrus plants, leaves, or foliage into or out of the quarantine area or across state or international borders. Keep it local.
- Cooperate with agricultural officials placing traps, inspecting trees, and treating for the pest.
- If you no longer wish to care for your citrus tree, consider removing it so it does not become a host to the pest and disease.

HLB is a bacterial disease that affects the vascular system of the plants. It does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria as the pest feeds on citrus trees and other plants. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure, the tree will produce bitter and misshaped fruit and dies within a few years.

Riverside County Farm Bureau encourages all citrus growers to be informed please visit the following internet link on the best practices in fighting this invasive pest and devastating disease: <https://citrusinsider.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Voluntary-Actions-Best-Practices-COMLETE-FINAL.pdf>. This document is from the CPDPC, which is a subcommittee of the California Department of Food and Agriculture <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citruscommittee>.

House Passage of Immigration Bill

House representatives are receiving praise for passing a bipartisan bill that seeks to reform and expand the H-2A temporary worker visa program, which would allow workers to be part of a legal and stable workforce in a sector that has struggled with labor shortages.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019 would improve agricultural visa programs and accommodate immigrant agricultural employees already in the United States, while enhancing border security.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act passed in a 260-165 vote, gaining support from 34 Republicans and succeeding where other efforts to see a significant number of undocumented immigrants have failed.

Riverside County Farm Bureau Director Joyce Jong traveled with California Farm Bureau Officers engaging our local House of Representatives leaders to support this significant milestone.

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The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



To all our Farm Bureau Members
Wishing you a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2020

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



☞ January 20, 2020 - The Riverside County Farm Bureau will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

☞ January 21, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.; South Oxnard Senior Center; 200 E. Bard Road, Oxnard, CA 93033. CDFA and DPR will be hosting a public workshop to review the impacts of canceling the registration for the product, Chlorpyrifos, and reviewing their proposed 5-year alternatives plan.

☞ February 12, 2020 - Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m., Johnny Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Avocado crop should be much larger

Expect to see more California-grown avocados on the market. The California Avocado Commission projects a crop of 369 million pounds, up from about 215 million in 2019. Hot temperatures during crop development reduced California avocado supplies last year, but the commission says it expects a "great" 2020 crop. California farmers harvest avocados all year, with peak volumes anticipated in May, June and July.

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Strawberry supplies could set record

Record supplies of California-grown strawberries could reach market between Easter and Independence Day, according to a survey from the California Strawberry Commission. The survey indicates strawberry farmers will plant nearly 4% more acreage this year. That, combined with planting of higher-yielding varieties, should increase strawberry supplies compared to last year, if typical weather patterns hold.vegetables.

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