

# 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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**Welcome New Members**

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



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**

**RIVERSIDE SHERIFF NOTES -**

**Riverside Sheriff Office - Southwest Station**

Deputy Kenny Parrish reported that the department is dealing with thefts at local wineries and transients illegally entering properties to steal copper wiring. There were reports from the Rural Crime Taskforce in Northern California that an individual from the Riverside area is cutting off table grapevines at the crown and using them in terrariums, apparently selling the terrariums.

**Riverside Sheriff Office - Blythe Station**

Deputy Joshua Pfohlman reported that the department had a recent case where items and equipment were stolen from a Hemp farm. After following leads, the department recovered 90% of the stolen items, valuing at about \$450,000.

If you are experiencing theft or other crimes, please do not hesitate to contact Sheriff's Department or any member of the Ag Team. They will be happy to respond and start an investigation. Also, if you would like to have equipment stamped with an Owner Applied Number, please reach out to them. You can reach Sgt. Bob Epps on his desk phone at (951) 696-3184, or by email at [repps@riversidesheriff.org](mailto:repps@riversidesheriff.org).

**LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT - Farm Bureau joined a large coalition to support AB 2406 (Aguiar-Curry – D).**

This bill would prohibit an intermodal marine equipment provider from imposing per diem, detention, or demurrage charges on an intermodal motor carrier and beneficial cargo owners. Under ordinary circumstances, these fees are designed to encourage the efficient use of containers. However, during our recent and ongoing port congestion crisis, late charges have been imposed on California businesses by international ocean carriers even when containers cannot be returned due to circumstances not within the control of the importer, exporter or trucker. While detention and demurrage fees have increased across the globe, ocean carriers are charging two to ten times the fees in Los Angeles and Long Beach versus other major ports worldwide. The bill would help alleviate the pressure that these fees put on California businesses and attempt to address one of the many issues facing our ports.

**AB 1773 Williamson Act: subvention payments: appropriation**

(Patterson - R), passed the Assembly Agriculture Committee and will now be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee following recess. This bill would appropriate \$40 million for subvention funding for counties with lands enrolled in the Williamson Act. The bill was co-authored by Democrats and Republicans and passed out of committee unanimously.

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# Local growers honored as Citrus Family of the Year

*Gless Family's contributions to be highlighted April 22 in Ivanhoe*



Three generations of the Gless Family will be honored as the “Citrus Family of the Year” during a dinner program on Friday, April 22 at Farmer Bob’s World in Ivanhoe. Farmer Bob’s World is a non-profit 501(c)(3) agricultural education and founded by Bob McKellar, owner of McKellar Family Farms.

The Gless Family has been growing citrus and managing groves throughout California for 60 years, and their contributions to the industry will be the highlight of the fourth annual “Tree to Table: Dinner in the Groves” event that runs 5:30-8 p.m. Friday, April 22.

“Our mission is to convey that families are behind California produce,” McKellar said. “We want to dispel the notion in the minds of customers that oranges, and other citrus, come from ‘factory farms.’ In fact, citrus in the San Joaquin Valley is grown by families like the Gless Family who eat the same oranges they grow and sell.”

Gary Caviglia, board president of Farmer Bob’s World, said the Gless Family stood out among those nominated.

“Our board selected them as outstanding representatives of the growers in our valley,” he said. “The citrus industry is dominated by multi-generational family farmers who take great pride in producing food for our nation and the world.”

Second-generation farmer John S. Gless said the family is humbled to be named Citrus Family of the Year.

“I feel so blessed to work with my dad and my son,” he said. “The whole family has a work ethic that we were taught at an early age, and that is to work harder than everybody else. We are blessed to be working with great people, some of whom have been with us for 45 years. It’s all about having the right team.”

The Gless Family’s citrus-growing pursuits started in 1960 with 20 acres and today encompasses 10,000 acres in Kern and Riverside counties. They also manage acreage in Tulare County.

Janet and John J. Gless purchased the initial 20 acres in 1960 in the Woodcrest area of Riverside. Planting the grove himself, John accepted and ultimately won a \$100 bet from an Orange County farmer who was certain that citrus would never be viable in the area’s granite-filled soil. The groves thrived, and skeptics began to take notice. Investors sought out John’s expertise in planting and farming ground in the area, and John J. Gless Orchard Care was born. By 1978, a fruit stand was erected, enabling the family to sell direct to consumers. As a youth, John S. Gless designed a logo that is used today for Gless Ranch. Visitors can still buy fresh California citrus at this fruit stand in Riverside.



The family’s operations expanded to include Hemet and the Coachella Valley. But with development encroaching in Southern California, Gless Ranch decided to add acreage in Kern County. In 1992, the family purchased 160 acres after a devastating freeze forced many growers out of business. They soon began farm management for other growers in both Kern and Tulare counties, specifically in the Porterville and Terra Bella areas.

Historically, the family performs an important task: managing the orange grove at California Citrus State Historic Park in Riverside. The park interprets the citrus industry’s role in the history and development of California, and explains the complexities of the time when “Citrus was King” in Southern California.

Today, John J. Gless and Janet maintain an active role in the company.

John S. Gless lives in Bakersfield with his family and leads San Joaquin Valley operations. He is a board member of California Citrus Mutual, the California Ag Labor Association, and is a member of the California Citrus Advisory Committee. He is also a trustee at the Biosafety Level-3 laboratory for Huanglongbing Research at UC Riverside. Among the Bakersfield nonprofits the family supports are the Bakersfield Museum of Art, Edible Schoolyard Kern County, and the California Living Museum.

Following in the traditions of his grandfather and father, John C. Gless maintains operations in Southern California where he lives with his wife and children, who represent the fourth generation of Gless Ranch. That includes oversight of Gless Ranch Nursery in the Coachella Valley. The nursery was purchased in 2015 from Dowlin Young, who for years supplied Gless Ranch with the trees needed for their farming operations. John C. is active in industry organizations, including the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) and the Citrus Research Board.

## Wage and Hour Violations Can Now be a Crime

It is extremely important that employers comply with California laws by paying their employees and contractors properly, keeping accurate and complete time records, and classifying workers as exempt or non-exempt, lawfully to avoid being charged with wage theft.

As part of the 2022 labor law updates, the California Penal Code establishes a new type of grand theft for employers, effective January 1, 2022. Any employer who engages in intentional theft of an employee's wages can be charged with the misdemeanor of grand theft. Grand theft occurs if the employer deprives one employee of wages over \$950 or deprives two or more employees of wages over \$2,350 in the aggregate, within any consecutive 12-month period.

"Theft of wages" is when an employer intentionally deprives an employee or contractor of their wages, benefits, or other compensation by unlawful means, with the knowledge that the compensation is due to the worker. This crime is classified as a misdemeanor with a punishment of \$1,000 and up to one year in jail, plus restitution of wages and compensation.

The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) defines Wage Theft as the following actions by employers: paying less than minimum wage per hour; not allowing compliant meal breaks, rest breaks, and/or preventative cool-down breaks; and applying unauthorized deductions to any paycheck, among others. Please visit the DIR website to see a complete list of these examples, [https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Examples\\_of\\_Wage\\_Theft.html](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Examples_of_Wage_Theft.html).

If you have any questions or concerns about this new law and would like advice from a qualified Riverside County & Coachella Valley employment lawyer for employers, contact the Law Office of Karen J. Sloat, APC, (760-779-1313) today to schedule a consultation.

## Las Violaciones Salariales y de Carga Horaria Ahora Pueden Ser un Delito

Es extremadamente importante que los empleadores cumplan con las leyes de California pagando a sus empleados y contratistas apropiadamente, manteniendo registros de tiempo precisos y completos y clasificando, en forma legal, a los trabajadores como exentos o no exentos para evitar ser acusados de robo de salarios.

Como parte de los cambios a las leyes laborales del 2022, el Código Penal de California estableció un nuevo tipo de robo mayor en contra de empleadores, en cual comenzó a surtir efectos el primero de enero de este año. Cualquier empleador involucrado en robo intencional de los salarios de un empleado, puede ser acusado del delito menor de robo mayor. Robo mayor ocurre si el empleador priva a un empleado de sus salarios por más de \$950 ó por más de \$ 2,350 en conjunto por dos empleados o más, dentro de cualquier período de 12 meses consecutivos.

"Robo de salarios" ocurre cuando un empleador priva intencionalmente a un empleado o contratista de sus salarios, beneficios u otra compensación ilegalmente con el conocimiento de que la compensación se le debe al trabajador. Esto está clasificado como un delito menor con un castigo de \$1,000 y hasta un año de cárcel, más restitución de salarios y compensación.

El Departamento de Relaciones Industriales de California (DIR) define Robo de Salarios en las siguientes acciones por los empleadores: pagar menos del salario mínimo por hora; no permitir períodos para comer, descansos y/o descansos preventivos de enfriamiento; y aplicar deducciones no autorizadas en cualquier cheque de pago, entre otros ejemplos. Por favor, visite el sitio web del DIR para ver una lista completa de estos ejemplos, [https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Examples\\_of\\_Wage\\_Theft.html](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/Examples_of_Wage_Theft.html).

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud sobre esta nueva ley y desea recibir asesoramiento de un abogado laboral para empleadores del Condado de Riverside y del Valle de Coachella que esté calificado, comuníquese con el Despacho Law Office Karen J. Sloat, APC, (760-779-1313) hoy mismo para programar una consulta.

# Riverside County Fairgrounds, Indio

## 2022 Jr. Livestock Auction

On Saturday, February 26, President Richard Schmid participated as an auction buyer at the Junior Livestock Auction on behalf of Riverside County Farm Bureau and members that donated to our Auction Support Fund.

With two winning bids, the animals purchased were two lambs at \$1,250.00 on the "Buy Back" program, in addition, \$700 went towards student add-ons and a \$500 donation to Gift from the Heart, spending in total \$2,450.00 towards the students' projects.

Each year the Riverside County Farm Bureau participates as an auction buyer to support the auction prices during the Junior Livestock Auction at both the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio and the Southern California Fair in Perris. At these fairs, students of 4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Exhibitors raise animals as educational projects. They keep records and learn about the costs and challenges of producing food, as well as time management. During fair time, they will show and sell their market animals to the highest bidder at the Junior Livestock Auctions allowing these students to use their profits to start their next animal projects and save for college. The Riverside County Farm Bureau believes that successful auctions will encourage students to continue their interest in agriculture and as well as having a future aspiration of pursuing a career in the agricultural industry.

As with every year, the Riverside County Farm Bureau receives donations to our Auction Support Fund from our members to help with purchasing the market animals at these auctions, but without the donations, the Riverside County Farm Bureau would have only a small amount of funds to contribute.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the gracious donations and say **"Thank You"** to all of you for your continued support.

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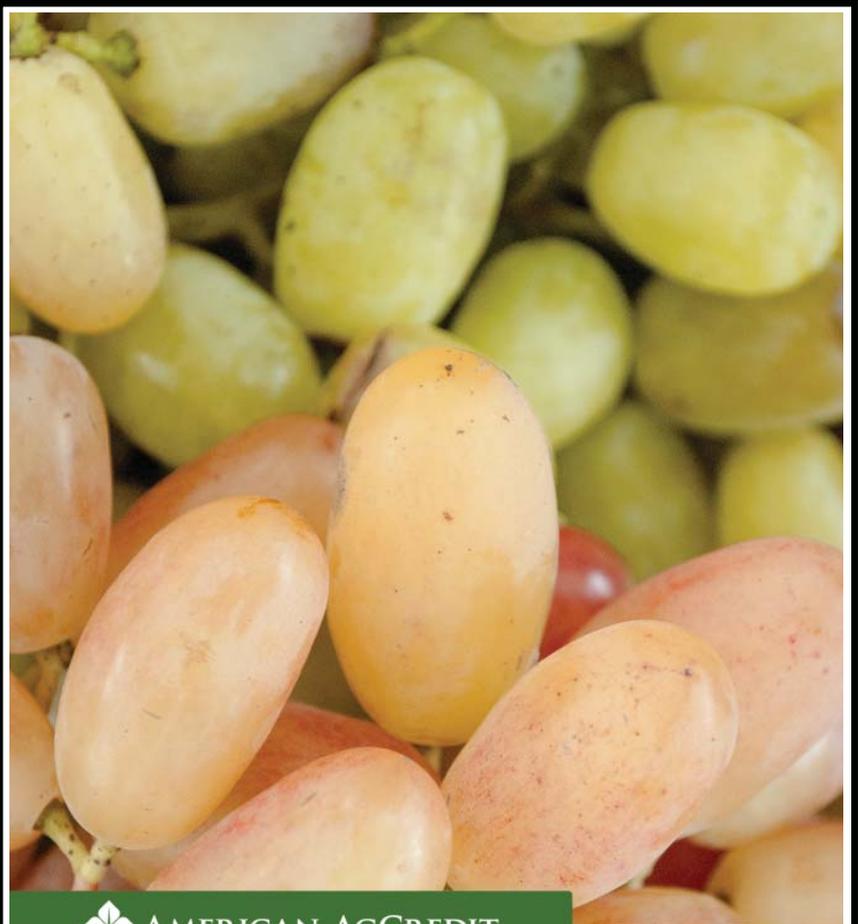
### UCCE Director for Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino Counties Named

Rita Clemons joined UC ANR as UCCE director in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. With Clemons assuming administrative responsibilities for the three counties, UCCE advisors Darren Haver, Janet Hartin and Chris McDonald and 4-H Community Education Supervisor Stephanie Barrett will be able to focus on their research and community outreach.

Prior to joining UC ANR, Clemons was the regional center director for Cambridge College-Southern California, creating visibility for the college by developing strong partnerships and relationships with local community organizations.

She holds a degree in paralegal studies at the Southern California College of Business and Law, bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Phoenix, and a master's degree in management with a concentration in leadership at Claremont Graduate University.

Clemons is based in Moreno Valley and can be reached at [rlclemons@ucanr.edu](mailto:rlclemons@ucanr.edu).



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## Janet Ruth Cramer

Janet Ruth Cramer passed away on March 27, 2022, at the age of 71 at home in Hemet, California. Janet is survived by her husband of 44 years, Bill; her brother Jim Hillmann (Becky); her son Paul Cramer (Laura), grandchildren Natalie and Hannah; her daughter Cheryl Miller (Adam), grandchildren Miriam and Juliette. Nephew, Joshua Hillmann (Dana) and niece, Mollie Hillmann.

Janet was born in Denver, Colorado on July 17, 1950 to Paul and Ruth Hillmann, She graduated from Porterville Union High School in 1968 and received a B.S., Education from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska in 1972.

Soon after graduation, Janet was called to teach at the Chapel School in Bronxville, New York where she taught the 2nd Grade. Her next call was to St. Paul Lutheran School in Orange, California where she taught the 1st Grade. Janet finished her teaching contract in 1977 at St. Paul's where she also met Bill Cramer and they later married. Janet then moved to Anza, California to be with her husband on his farm. In 1980, they moved to Winchester, California to a new farm as the business expanded and later moved to Hemet in 1991.

Janet resumed her teaching career in 1985 at St. John's Lutheran School in Hemet, California. She taught in many capacities there until she retired in 2016. Her emphasis at St. John's was helping children through various remedial reading programs.

For many years Janet was a dedicated volunteer and fundraiser for Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West which became Bethesda Lutheran Communities and is now AbleLight. This is a Christian ministry that serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled. Most recently, for eight consecutive years, Janet organized and directed the Jim Hillmann Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting this organization.

Luke 18:16 - But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God".

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: AbleLight (Formerly Bethesda) 600 Hoffman Drive Watertown, WI 53094 Memory of Janet Cramer or at <https://ablelight.org/donate/>

### Supreme Court to Hear AFBF and NPPC Prop 12 Case

California's Proposition 12 seeks to ban the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's arbitrary production standards, even if the pork was raised on farms outside of California. The Supreme Court just decided to hear a challenge to the law by Farm Bureau and the National Pork Producers Council. Travis Cushman, AFBF senior counsel for public policy, explained in Newsline that the decision is a significant milestone.

"It's a very exciting decision, it means the Supreme Court is interested in reviewing whether or not what California has done here is constitutional," Cushman said. "That's an incredibly high bar to reach, the Supreme Court takes less than one percent of cases a year that come before it."

### AFBF Welcomes Supreme Court Decision to Hear Prop 12 Case

AFBF President Zippy Duvall commented Monday on the U.S. Supreme Court decision to hear the case against California's Proposition 12 filed by AFBF and the National Pork Producers Council. The state law seeks to ban the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's arbitrary production standards, even if the pork was raised on farms outside of California.

"AFBF is pleased with the Supreme Court's decision to consider the constitutionality of California's law imposing arbitrary requirements on farmers well outside its borders," Duvall said in a statement. "We share California's goal of ensuring animals are well cared for, but Prop 12 fails to advance that goal."

### UCCE Advisor for Small Farms and Vegetable Crops for Riverside and Imperial counties

Philip Waisen joined UC Cooperative Extension as a vegetable crops and small farms advisor in Riverside and Imperial counties.

He is developing research and extension programs focused on pest and disease management and plant nutrient management in vegetable agroecosystems.

Prior to joining UCCE, Waisen was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he worked on Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education-funded research projects on nematode and soil health management in tomatoes, peppers, cucurbits, asparagus, banana and brassicas.

During 2021, Waisen served as a part-time lecturer teaching plant pathology, research methods, and horticultural sciences courses at his alma mater, the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

He earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in plant pathology/nematology, plant and environmental protection sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a B.S. in agriculture and plant disease at Papua New Guinea University of Technology.



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## Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition Outreach Meeting

### Via Zoom and In-Person Meeting in Coachella

The first in a series of grower outreach meetings covering the new Irrigated Lands Program.

April 20, 2022 ~ 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

City of Coachella Corporate Yard  
53-462 Enterprise Way, Coachella 92236.

The meeting will cover the new nitrogen fertilizer reporting templates, the surface water sampling program and plans for a groundwater quality trend-monitoring network.

Spanish language translation will be provided.

The meetings are sponsored by Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) (<http://cvilc.ag>) in cooperation with the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend to [lcooper@CVILC.ag](mailto:lcooper@CVILC.ag)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. More details will be announced at a later date.



The Riverside County Farm Bureau has long championed environmental stewardship. This Earth Day, we are pleased to offer you easy opportunities to love our planet. One simple way to divert waste from landfills is through the Mattress Recycling Council's (MRC's) Bye Bye Mattress program.

This program, whenever possible, leverages the existing solid waste infrastructure. For many Californians, this means your mattress is being diverted from waste to recycling whether your retailer takes it back with your new purchase, your city, a waste hauler picks it up at curbside, or you drop it off at a participating location.

More than 75% of a mattress can be recycled. The steel, foam, fibers and wood are turned into everyday products like carpet padding, industrial filters, construction rebar and garden mulch.

MRC's program recycles foam and innerspring mattresses, futon mattresses that can separate from the futon frame or base, as well as box springs. At collection locations, unit limits vary by location and residency restrictions may apply. We recommend contacting the location prior to drop-off.

This Earth Day, we hope you will visit [ByeByeMattress.com](http://ByeByeMattress.com) to learn how to recycle your mattress or share this information with a friend or family member.

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