

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 76th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVI, Number 8, August 2022.



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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 County Sheriff's Agriculture Team (AG Team)

With the recent increase in Agricultural thefts, it is important that you get your farm machinery, equipment and even household goods stamped with an Owner Applied Number (OAN). If you mark it the sheriffs have a better chance to recover it if it gets stolen.

The OAN is a unique number used to protect and identify equipment, tools, vehicles and other valuable items from a ranch, farm, dairy, winery, or any other agriculture related business. It is a 10-digit number that represents an individual agriculture business. Each business will be assigned their own unique OAN that can be imprinted on their equipment.

The Sheriff's Ag Team is happy to facilitate getting your OAN assigned to you and they are currently able to stamp it on a wide range of materials. This program is free to help combat agricultural theft. If you are interested in getting your own OAN, please call the Riverside County Farm Bureau at (951) 684-6732 and we will forward your information to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

AB-778 (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) would require 60% of the state's agricultural food products purchased by the state be grown or produced in California by December 31, 2025. Farm Bureau is in support.

AB-2146 (Rebeca Bauer-Kahan, D-San Ramon) would prohibit the use of neonicotinoids in non-agricultural settings with certain exemptions. Under the exemptions, applications would need to be predated by a declaration of an environmental emergency by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and a determination that softer alternatives chemistries are not available. Farm Bureau is opposed to this measure based on the precedent it would set in regulating agricultural and non-agricultural chemicals separately and not based on scientific findings. The bill has been sent to the Suspense File in the Appropriations Committee.

AB-2243 (Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella) requires Cal/OSHA to submit proposed revisions to the Heat Illness Prevention Standard and the Wildfire Smoke Standard for consideration of the Cal/OSHA Standards Board that would create new "ultra-high heat" procedures and require use of respirators when the Air Quality Index exceeds 300 but removes any requirement that poor air quality be associated with a wildfire. Farm Bureau opposes unless amended on the grounds that the bill's provision concerning conditions under which the agency must propose to the Standards Board that employers may use voluntary respirator rules are ambiguous and confusing. AB 2243 was referred to the full Senate with as-yet unspecified amendments.

SB-1084 (Melissa Hurtado, D-Sanger) would prohibit agricultural land from being purchased by a foreign government and require the Department of Food and Agriculture to develop a study identifying the amount of farmland in the State under foreign land ownership annually.

Go to <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> to view these bills.

Inside this Issue...

Insurance Cancellations	3
2022 CAITC Conference	4
New Citrus Virus in California..	5
Howie Award History	6
Howie Award Nomination Form	6
<i>Save the Date</i>	
105th Annual Dinner Meeting ...	8
Farm & Food News	8
Calendar	8

Insurance Cancellations, Farm Bureau Working on Solutions

California's farmers and ranchers face everyday challenges from overburdening regulations; reports for State Water Board irrigated land groups, dust control, air quality permits, food safety rules, CalOSHA, etc., the list can go on and on, but the newest challenge is from insurance companies. For the last few years, insurance companies including Farm Bureau partner Nationwide Insurance are sending "non-renewal" letters to farmers and ranchers because they are considered to be in a "wildfire zone". Many of these members have been customers for several decades, customers who have never had a wildfire claim are now being targeted because they are with-in a mile of an area that has been identified as a "wildfire zone" on a map.

Through California Farm Bureau, Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) has had a long-standing partnership with Nationwide Insurance (they purchased our previous partner CalFarm Insurance Company in 1985). Several months ago, we reached out to the Nationwide Board of Directors to discuss this huge disservice to our faithful members. Unfortunately, we did not get far, it seems there is a lot of finger pointing and misinformation within their organization with little hope of a solution. Leadership at Nationwide tells us that the local insurance agents are not using all their resources and can appeal to the adjusters with more information about the location and mitigation that is done for fire protection. However, we have yet to hear about a successful appeal and a customer's insurance being reinstated. This leads us to the next step in helping our members.

President Jamie Johansson of California Farm Bureau has been working with California Department of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara in expanding the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan) for property owners that cannot find coverage. However, the FAIR plan still has its limits and can be very costly. They are working on expanding coverage to commercial agricultural structures located in areas where insurance is not available.

The board members of the RCFB have been staying up to date on this issue because many of them have received this "non-renewal" letter as well. At a past board meeting Director Dan Hollingsworth discussed a time when California Farm Bureau owned its own insurance company, a time when farmers and ranchers faced challenges of getting coverage, a time like now. A motion was made and approved by the RCFB board to have President Richard Schmid send a letter to the California Farm Bureau Board of Directors asking them to do a feasibility study into Farm Bureau once again owning its own insurance company. At the most recent board meeting, California Farm Bureau Directors voted to have Treasure Mark Dawson lead the feasibility study.

The Riverside County Farm Bureau looks forward to hearing what the committee finds. Our staff will also continue to work with policy makers in finding adequate solutions and coverage for our members.



California Law Requires Beekeepers to Register Bees.

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2022 CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE

We're back!

For the first time in three years, educators will gather in person for the annual Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

Join us in Ventura, at the Ventura Beach Marriott on September 22-24, 2022, to make agriculture come alive in classrooms throughout California.

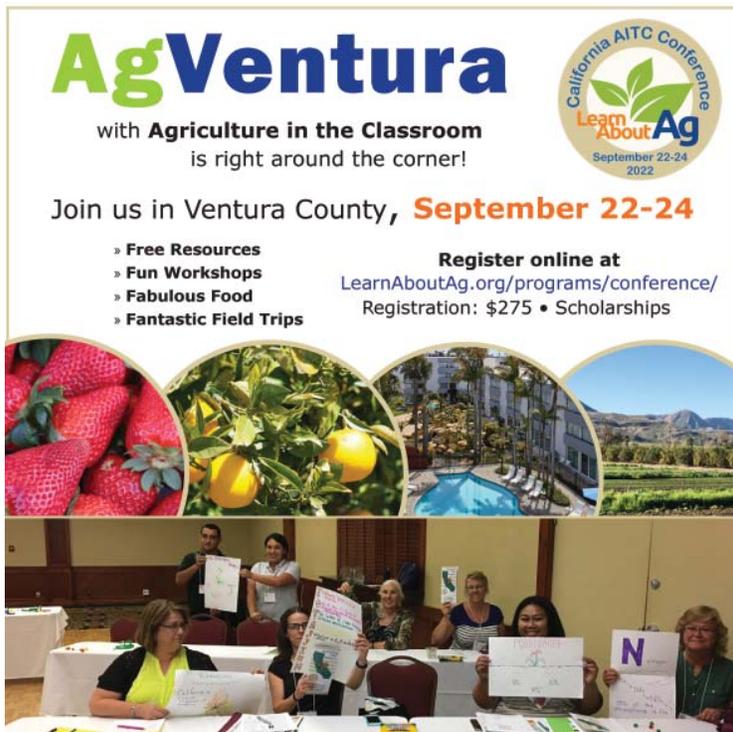
The goal: learn exciting ways to teach K-12 students where their food and fiber come from. The conference includes hands-on activities, farm and ranch field trips (sneak peek – this involves citrus and school gardens), the ever-popular farmer panel, exhibits, and collaboration with other educators. Dynamic presenters and speakers enhance the experience and make the Ag in the Classroom Conference a must-attend event!

"This has been the BEST conference I have been to. Best learning, most engaging, and welcoming!"
– 2019 Conference Attendee

"Why I enjoy Ag in the Classroom: for the expansion of awareness that is generated and that in turn enables the students to learn more about their environment (earth), and their place in it. Students always gain insights and appreciation for agriculture's role in our daily lives."
– 2018 Conference Attendee

Attendees will explore California's prolific food and fiber industry and enrich their current curriculum at the same time! Participants will receive teaching resources aligned to California Academic Standards. The annual event will energize classroom teachers, administrators, afterschool coordinators, and community volunteers to bring agriculture into their classrooms and programs.

The California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference aims to help educators teach K-12 students about the importance of agriculture to California's economy and environment and to their health and lifestyles. The conference is hosted by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's K-12 educators and students.



AgVentura
with **Agriculture in the Classroom**
is right around the corner!

Join us in Ventura County, **September 22-24**

- › Free Resources
- › Fun Workshops
- › Fabulous Food
- › Fantastic Field Trips

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LearnAboutAg.org/programs/conference/
Registration: \$275 • Scholarships

California AITC Conference
Learn About Ag
September 22-24
2022



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→ Webinars are FREE for members

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www.cfbf.com



Confirmation of New Citrus Virus in California



Photo credit: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSYV00/photos>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed positive identifications of Citrus yellow vein clearing virus (CYVCV) in the city of Tulare detected during California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) routine multi-pest survey. This is the first detection of CYVCV in the United States. CDFA is surveying for the disease in Tulare County residential and commercial properties and will survey in Fresno and Kings counties in the coming months to fully determine the extent of the disease's presence (which is currently limited to the city of Tulare). The survey results will inform the regulatory approach taken by CDFA and APHIS.

CDFA began initial delimitation survey work in March in a 1-mile core radius area around the initial find site. Since then, CDFA has conducted additional surveys in the surrounding areas, which have resulted in additional CYVCV confirmations in the city of Tulare, expanding the survey area. CDFA is conducting these surveys to gain knowledge on the extent of the infestation and potential impacts of CYVCV, and surveys will be ongoing for the near future. Since the detection of this virus is new to the United States, these learnings – CDFA's robust pest prevention system that focuses on exclusion and monitoring, as well as CDFA and USDA's experience responding to other vectored disease threats – will be critical in developing an appropriate regulatory response.

CYVCV can be spread by vectors as they move from tree to tree feeding on foliage. The vectors include citrus whitefly, green citrus aphid, melon or cotton aphid, and cowpea aphid, which are all known to be present in California. CYVCV can also be spread through grafting and the movement of infected propagative materials and rootstocks, or contaminated tools and equipment. While there is no treatment for CYVCV, as of now the best mitigation measure is to control the vector and sanitize tools and equipment. To the greatest extent possible, growers are encouraged to urge their field crews to clean and sanitize all their equipment thoroughly in between jobs or when moving between groves.

For any questions about CYVCV, please call the CDFA Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or contact your local Grower Liaison.

California Farm Bureau members are invited to submit photos that highlight California agriculture for the 2022 Photo Contest. Enter your photos for a chance to win the grand prize of \$1,000.



www.cfbf.com/photocontest

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Howie Award History

The Robert M. Howie Award is an annual award given by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to recognize outstanding service and dedication to Riverside County agriculture. With the first presentation in 1983, the award was established by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to honor Robert M. Howie, who retired in 1982 after serving 28 years as the County Agricultural Commissioner. Riverside County Farm Bureau presents this award to remind our industry each year the dedication that Bob Howie demonstrated also to recognize and encourage that kind of dedication in other people. This list of honorees is long and distinguished.

Past Howie Award Recipients

1983	Dr. Glenn Carman	1999	Howard Marguleas	2012	Andy Domenigoni
1984	Cherry Ishimatsu	2000	Mike Bouris	2013	Donald Domenigoni
1985	Don Bell	2000	Don K. Bean	2014	Patricia "Pat" Laflin
1986	Wally Shropshire	2001	Howard Cherniss	2015	Stephen J. Corona
1987	David G. Kelley	2002	James Wallace	2016	John Keck
1988	Leon Spaugy	2003	Linden Anderson	2017	Steven A. Pastor
1989	Dan Hollingsworth	2004	Robert Eli Perkins	2018	Ellen Lloyd-Trover
1990	Kay Cenicerros	2005	James Venable	2019	Deputy Arnold Iniquez
1991	Lee Anderson, Jr.	2006	Anton (Tony) Schmidt	2020	Dr. Peggy Ann Mauk
1992	Dana Fisher	2007	John Fricker	2021	Sheriff Chad Bianco
1993	Floyd McCall	2008	Ellen Sanders Way		
1994	John R. Harrison	2008	Rodger Siems		
1995	Richard C. Kelley	2009	Carl Garczynski		
1996	Cindy Domenigoni	2010	Ben Drake		
1997	John Gless	2011	Doug Kuney		
1998	Mark Draper	2012	William Dale Young		

If you would like to nominate someone for consideration, please fill out the form below and return it to the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

Howie Award Nomination Form

I nominate (name of candidate for Howie Award):

Your name and telephone number:

**Deadline for Nomination Form is
September 1, 2022.**

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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The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE

Riverside County Farm Bureau
to Celebrate

105th Annual Dinner Meeting

November 5, 2022
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Shields Date Garden
80225 US Highway 111
Indio, CA 92201



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Please Note: There will be no Board Meetings held in July and August. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

UC Davis scientists identify strawberry genes to fight Fusarium wilt

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, have discovered genes in strawberries that may help ward off a deadly soilborne disease. The soil fungus *Fusarium wilt* has long been a concern for growers in California, where the state's annual 1.8 billion-pound crop supplies nearly 90% of America's strawberries. Davis scientists, who screened thousands of strawberry plants, identified a gene that is resistant to the fungus. The discovery means breeders can introduce the gene into future strawberry varieties.

Driverless tractor future may be arriving, as manufacturers tout benefits

Could the portrait of a farmer on a tractor become a thing of the past? Probably not. But autonomous tractors are becoming more attractive to farmers looking to keep fields productive amid labor shortages. New driverless tractors can be monitored through smartphone apps or office computers. Live video feeds can be checked for issues in the field needing investigating. Manufacturers are also touting the autonomous machines for applying crop protection materials without worker exposure.

Winegrape assessment increased to fight deadly plant disease

California winegrape growers will pay a higher assessment this year to combat a deadly crop disease and the insect that carries it. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has approved a decision by the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Board to assess winegrowers \$1.25 per \$1,000 of value for their 2022 harvest. The fee had been set at \$1 per \$1,000 for the past three years. Pierce's Disease, spread by the sharpshooter pest, kills grapevines by clogging their water-conducting vessels.

"Farm Bureau Working for You"

Did you Know?

August is National Peach Month

Some Fun Facts: California produces more than 50% of the peaches in the United States (and grows 175 different varieties).

The term, "you're a real peach" originated from the tradition of giving a peach to the friend you liked.

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