

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 77th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVII, Number 9, September 2023.

106th Annual Dinner Meeting



Come celebrate with the
Riverside County Farm Bureau

November 5, 2023 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Monteleone Meadows
35245 Briggs Road
Murrieta, CA 92563**

The cost of the Dinner is \$60.00 Per Person

For Reservations, please call (951) 684-6732 by October 27, 2023

**Special Guest Speaker
Senator Kelly Seyarto**

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Welcome New Members

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



**Riverside County Sheriff's Agriculture Team (AG Team)
Owner Applied Number**

Marking your equipment

Why mark equipment? Marking leads to recovery of stolen property.

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 program is supported by numerous organizations and agencies including: the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force, the California Highway Patrol, California Farm Bureau, United Agri-Business League, and California State Grange.

This FBI established system allows state and county to be assigned a number, which is recorded in the NCIC (National Crime Information Center). A directory containing these numbers is available to each law enforcement agency for use in identifying the various state and counties.

It has been proven that thieves are hesitant to take items that can be readily identified. Placing signs, decals, and other visible information warning potential thieves that this equipment has been marked and registered with the local law enforcement officials my help to prevent a possible theft.

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.

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Organic growers seek to make voice heard in 2023 Farm Bill

As Congress hammers out the 2023 Farm Bill, growing interest in the impacts of agriculture on climate could give organic farmers more political sway as they advocate for funding and programs that help them. Organic farmers have long sought recognition for their role in mitigating climate change, saying their practices promote conservation and help improve soils that store carbon. They say expanding technical and financial assistance would help them further implement activities that build resilient landscapes. But many say they feel largely left out of the omnibus legislation.

CalOSBA Opens Round 1 of California Small Agricultural Business Drought and Flood Relief Grant Program

State funding supports small agricultural business impacted by severe drought and flood conditions

The first round of applications for the California Small Agricultural Business Drought and Flood Relief Grant Program is open, and will ultimately award up to \$95 million in drought and flood relief grants to eligible small agricultural businesses to cover part of costs incurred from California's extreme drought from 2019 to 2022 and 2023 storm flooding conditions.

"This single program represents the climate whiplash – from extreme drought to extreme flooding – that California has experienced over the past two years. The Newsom administration is investing not only in water resiliency and infrastructure improvements but in protecting the small businesses that power our agricultural supply chain," said Tara Lynn Gray, Director of the California Office of the Small Business Advocate.

Designed for small agriculture businesses most impacted by the recent drought and flood conditions, the program will provide the opportunity for direct grants of \$20,000 – \$100,000.

Round 1 for drought relief is open to two eligible groups that have been affected by severe drought according to the United States Department of Agriculture drought monitor: small agricultural businesses and small, socially disadvantaged farmers. Round 1 for flood relief is open to any small agricultural business within or serving a county that has a state or federal disaster declaration for flooding.

Any subsequent rounds will all be for qualified, small agricultural businesses.

The program is administered by the California Office of Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), an arm of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), through its intermediary, Lendistry, and a network of outreach partners who have all been meeting regularly since late July. Lendistry and key partner organizations will be available to provide program-related technical assistance to small agriculture businesses throughout the application period.

For more information on the application dates, grant requirements, eligibility, FAQs, and technical assistance, visit cadroughtfloodrelief.com.

Attention all Farm Bureau Members - We need your Help!

Over the course of many years, the Farm Bureau has contributed to the Junior Livestock Auction and a large portion of that comes from members like you.

Your money that is donated to the Auction Support Fund will go directly towards the purchasing of animals at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival and the Southern California Fair. These animals are entered into the Junior Livestock Auction by the members of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, and Grange students.

With all of the choices children have today, the FFA, 4-H, and Grange are wonderful activities worth supporting. These organizations teach young people important life skills, including time management, financial responsibility, and the importance of caring for others.

FFA, 4-H, and Grange students that profit from these auction sales use the funds to start their next animal project and to start saving for college.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Any amount that you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

Contribution: \$50 \$100 \$1000 Other _____

**Donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible as ordinary business expenses. Consult your tax preparer for information.*

Please make check payable to: Riverside County Farm Bureau
Memo Line: Auction Support Fund
Riverside County Farm Bureau
21160 Box Springs Rd, #102, Moreno Valley, CA 92557

MARY MATAVA NAMED SAN DIEGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU FARMER OF THE YEAR

The San Diego County Farm Bureau (SDCFB) has named Mary Matava of Oceanside, Calif. their 2022 Farmer of the Year. Matava has more than 40 years of experience assessing the agronomic suitability of Southern California soils and over 25 years of manufacturing organic soil amendments used by farmers throughout Southern California. Matava's professional experiences have contributed to her success in farming and the large impact she has had volunteering with a wide range of nonprofit organizations in agriculture.

Each year San Diego County Farm Bureau takes time to celebrate an active or retired farmer who has had a positive impact on our local agricultural industry. With more than 5,000 farmers in San Diego County alone, SDCFB is privileged to have some of California's most experienced farmers contributing to San Diego County's farming community. Matava is preceded in title by Neil Nagata, also a farmer from Oceanside, Calif.

Matava is an agronomist and the owner of Agri Service, Inc. which operates compost facilities in Southern California. Mary is a leading expert in soil assessment, sustainable soil amendment practices, green waste recycling, facility management and avocado farming. To date Agri Service has processed over 2 million tons of green waste and continues to advocate for improving Zero-Waste practices.

The Farmer of the Year celebration took place on September 7, 2023 at Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte, San Diego, Calif.

2023 ACP AREAWIDE TREATMENT SCHEDULE

Regular monitoring of citrus trees for new growth, applying areawide treatments, and treating when ACP populations reach the detection threshold is recommended by the University of California (UC). Here are the University of California (UC) recommendations for citrus orchard management and list of recommended ACP-effective materials, including both conventional and organic options. The 2023 Riverside County ACP areawide management treatment schedule consists of four applications: a spring, summer, fall, and winter AWM treatment. The summer treatment may be a perimeter spray, if the grower, grove manager, or PCA/PCO has scouted the orchard and determined that the center rows are free of ACP nymphs in the flush. Each organic treatment must consist of two applications applied 10-14 days apart. Two organic treatments are required because of their limited residual activity. Research shows that keeping ACP populations low in generally infested areas such as Riverside County reduces the risk of citrus trees acquiring the bacteria that causes the deadly HLB disease. Please consider removing citrus that is not worth the resources required to protect them from HLB.

Riverside County 2023 ACP Treatment Schedule*

- Spring Treatment – May 15 – June 30
- Summer Treatment – July 1 - August 31
- Fall Treatment – October 1 – November 15
- Winter Treatment – November 16 – December 31

*Note: The dates above are for non-Pest Control District areas. If your operations are in a PCD, your PCD Manager will provide the ACP treatment schedule.



ACP/HLB UPDATES

As of August 11, 2023, a total of 181 residential citrus trees have been confirmed positive for HLB in Riverside Co. for a total of 6,009 residential citrus trees statewide. New HLB tree detections continue to be found in the city of Corona. HLB quarantine maps



can be found in the Citrus Insider website. When moving citrus from, to, or within an HLB quarantine, please review the HLB and ACP regulatory protocols and contact the Riverside Co. Agricultural Commissioner's Office to submit the required mitigation forms. If you need a pest control or tree removal referral, please contact me, Sandra Zwaal szwaal2@gmail.com.

USCIS Releases New Form I-9

U.S. Customs and Immigration Service has released a new Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification) that is substantially different from the prior version. The revised Form I-9:

- Reduces Sections 1 and 2 to a single-sided sheet.
- Is designed to be a fillable form on tablets and mobile devices.
- Moves the Section 1 Preparer/Translator Certification area to a separate, standalone supplement that employers can provide to employees when necessary.
- Moves Section 3, Reverification and Rehire, to a standalone supplement employers can print for rehires or reverifications.
- Revises the Lists of Acceptable Documents page to include some acceptable receipts as well as guidance and links to information on automatic extensions of employment authorization documentation.
- Reduces the form's instructions from 15 to eight pages.
- Includes a checkbox where employers can indicate they examined Form I-9 documentation remotely under an alternative procedure authorized by U.S. Department of Homeland Security instead of by physical examination.

Employers may begin using the new form immediately, but the prior form may be used until only Oct. 31. As of Nov. 1, employers must use the "Edition 8/01/23" version (bottom left corner). You need not replace valid prior Forms I-9 with the new form, but you must use the new form as of Nov. 1.

You can find the new Form I-9 here, and instructions at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>

FELS Webinar: The In's and Out's of H-2A Farm Employee Housing in California:

As more California ag employers look to use the H-2A temporary agricultural employee visa program, provision of housing compliant with California's very specific employee housing regulations will be a challenge. Matthew Weise, Chief of Field Operations for the California Department of Housing and Community Development's Employee Housing Program will guide webinar participants through California-specific requirements for H-2A employee housing.

When? September 29, 2023, 10 AM

Where? Your desktop, laptop, tablet, phone, or favorite internet-enabled device!

Register at <https://www.fels.net>

FELS Webinar: Cal/OSHA Consultation: Resources for California Ag Employers:

The Cal/OSHA Consultation Program presents opportunities for California ag employers to learn from agency experts about pertinent occupational requirements with assurance that asking questions will not result in citations or questions from Cal/OSHA enforcement. Carmen Cisneros, Area Manager for Cal/OSHA Consultation Services, will educate webinar participants about resources California ag employers can access by working with Consultation.

When? October 6, 2023, 10 AM

Where? Your desktop, laptop, tablet, phone, or favorite internet-enabled device!

Register at <https://www.fels.net>



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Peach book guides growing quality fruit from planting to beyond harvest

Crisosto and team publish handbook for growing peaches and maintaining quality for canning



In an experimental orchard a few miles west of the UC Davis campus, Thomas Gradziel plucked a nearly ripe nectarine from one of the trees. He whipped out a pocketknife and sliced off juicy chunks for Carlos Crisosto to taste. Both are orchard crops experts in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences, and both love peaches.

The two made appreciative sounds as they pulled the fruit's flavor across their palates, discussed how the fruit compared to other varieties, and quickly turned to details of production and orchard management.

Crisosto and Gradziel have poured decades of experience with orchard fruits into creating "*Peach*," a landmark handbook on cultivation and postharvest considerations published by CABI. The book is part of the international academic publisher's Crop Production Science in Horticulture series.

Peach gives growers basic information that can reduce their production risks, boost profits and help them face issues such as climate change and a shifting world market, CABI writes in the book's description.

"This will still be the definitive text for probably the next 20 years," said Carlos Crisosto, who is one of the book's editors and authors. He is both a distinguished professor in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and UC Cooperative Extension specialist in consumer quality and postharvest technology in UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Chapters also cover rootstock, cultivars, water management, fertilization, fruit growth and thinning, testing for maturity, and supply chain management after harvest. Several more chapters cover pests and diseases, maintaining fruit quality, nutritional aspects and canning.

"This book was a pleasure to contribute to, as it includes information from expert colleagues plus exciting new ideas and applications from our recent researchers," said Gradziel, a UC Davis professor and plant breeder.

In California, farmers cultivated 36,800 acres of peaches, producing 505,000 tons of fruit worth more than \$378 million in 2021. While the crop ranks 23rd in the state, based on cash receipts, California is the No. 1 producer of peaches for the entire United States, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Crisosto teamed up with colleagues George Manganaris in Cyprus and Guglielmo Costa in Italy to edit this volume, which takes an international look at a growing industry.

Fun fact mentioned in *Peach*: Nectarines are a peach without the fuzz, a genetic variation. "Most people don't know that!" Crisosto said with a laugh.

Peach contains more fun facts: Peaches are a member of the rose family, China is the world's largest producer of the fruit (growing 60% of the global crop), and industry leaders yearn for trees with a flat canopy so the fruit would ripen all at about the same time and could be harvested easily by machine, reducing the pressure of finding people to pick the fruit by hand.

Peach is available as an e-book and in paperback. Both cost \$80 each.

To preview and order the e-book chapters, **visit bit.ly/PeachBook. Get a 20% discount with the code CCAB20 during online checkout.** The 424-page paperback can be ordered at <https://bit.ly/PeachPaperback>.

The publisher's sales staff for North America and South America are based in Herndon, Virginia, and can be reached at StylusMail@PressWarehouse.com, (703) 661-1581 or (800) 232-0223.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources brings the power of UC to all 58 California counties. Through research and Cooperative Extension in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, economic and youth development, our mission is to improve the lives of all Californians. Learn more at ucanr.edu and support our work at donate.ucanr.edu.

Delicious is in season

When it comes to avocados, the California variety may only be in season for a limited time each year, but the wait is well worth it!



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YF&R FARM PAC TRAP SHOOT FUNDRAISER



Benefiting the Fund to Protect the Family Farm (FarmPAC™)

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14**

Redlands Shooting Park
2125 Orange Street
Redlands, California 92374



REGISTER NOW

\$100 per person
\$450 for a team of 5
includes traps, ammo
and lunch
Limit to 100 shooters



EVENT TIMELINE

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
registration
9:30 a.m.
shoot
Lunch and awards to follow



PARTICIPANTS BRING

- Gun
- Ear protection
- Eye protection

For more information and to register, visit www.cfbf.com/farmpac.
Paid for by California Farm Bureau Federation Fund to Protect the Family Farm (FarmPAC™).
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October 11, 2023 ~ 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting. In person at Farm Bureau office and via Zoom Conference. Please call our office at (951) 684-6732 for more information.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Farm groups say new ‘waters of the United States’ rule remains problematic

After the U.S. Supreme Court set boundaries for what bodies of water the federal government can regulate, some farm groups say they’re disappointed a revised rule meant to conform to the court ruling fails to bring clarity and certainty to agricultural landowners. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a final, modified WOTUS rule last month. It took effect last week. Farm groups had hoped that the Biden administration would instead scrap its existing rule altogether and write a completely new one.

USDA announces \$800 million investment in rural infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced an \$800 million investment to help rural cooperatives and utilities improve infrastructure and increase electric grid reliability. The funding will also provide clean water and sanitary wastewater systems in rural areas. The USDA said the program will benefit communities in California, 35 other states and two U.S. territories.

Grant awards to support climate-smart demonstration projects

University of California Cooperative Extension scientists will be partnering with regional farms to demonstrate climate-smart agricultural practices. The project, to be led by the UC Agricultural and Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program, recently received a nearly \$2 million funding award from the UC office of the President. The effort will strengthen the California Farm Demonstration Network and support regional farms in practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, composting, hedgerow planting and optimized irrigation.