



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

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

101st Annual Dinner Meeting Riverside County Farm Bureau

*Save the
Date*

November 10, 2018

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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Welcome New Members

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

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt holds a roundtable meeting At the Riverside County Farm Bureau

On March 26, 2018, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt held a roundtable discussion here at the Riverside County Farm Bureau with Southern California farmers and agricultural representatives to discuss issues of interest to agriculture.



Pictured (L-R): RCFB President Richard Schmid, CFBF President Jamie Johansson, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Congressman Ken Calvert (CA-42). Photo/Eric Vance, EPA

One item of discussion was the "Waters of the United States" known as the WOTUS rule. The rule, finalized by the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Obama administration in 2015, would significantly expand the definition of waters regulated under the Clean Water Act and came under fire from farmers, ranchers, and landowners across the U.S. "The 2015 water rule was really not about water quality as much as it was about power and jurisdiction," Pruitt said, adding that his agency will be working towards rescinding the 2015 rule. He stated, "We

will provide a new definition going forward because at the end of the day, the agency needs clarity and the public across the country needs to know what waters are in and what waters are out."

With many ag leaders in attendance, and joined by Congressman Ken Calvert and California Farm Bureau Federation President Jamie Johansson, the focus was on issues faced by Southern California's agricultural industry, including regulations, limitations on pesticide use and the permitting process.

Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner Ruben Arroyo noted that California has "the most stringent pesticide program in the nation." The growers around the table touched on the Asian Citrus Psyllid and the Huanglongbing (HLB) disease it carries, indicating the threat could be extremely detrimental to our state's citrus groves and overall industry. Pointing out the need to identify crop-protection materials to control the pest and ultimately saving the industry.



Photo/Eric Vance, EPA



Pictured (L-R): CFBF President Jamie Johansson, Orange County Farm Bureau President Mark Lopez, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner Ruben Arroyo, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Congressman Ken Calvert (CA-42), RCFB Director Dan Hollingsworth, Ken Melban from California Avocado Commission, and RCFB Vice President Andy Wilson. Photo/Eric Vance, EPA

Commissioner Arroyo also stated, "If we can control the insect, we can control the disease", and adding that HLB has a latency period of two to five years.

With the discussion coming to a close, Administrator Pruitt assured the group that "We're listening to stakeholders to make sure that we are making informed decisions."

The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to thank all those that attended the roundtable meeting and taking time out of their busy schedule to join us.

2018 Grow Riverside Conference

April 4, 2018



Riverside County Farm Bureau Booth: (L-R) Stephanie Bell, RCFB President Richard Schmid, and Dick Schmid.



Arlan Knutson Insurance Agency, Moreno Valley
Paula M. Muskey, Agency Owner



Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner Booth



GROW RIVERSIDE

GROW LOCAL  EAT LOCAL



ABOUT GROWRIVERSIDE

GrowRIVERSIDE is a multi-stakeholder initiative to cultivate food and agricultural activities across the Inland Southern California region. GrowRIVERSIDE will equip the public with tools and knowledge to create a strong marketplace for local food systems, generate opportunities for community and economic development, advance public policy related to food and agriculture, and provide a venue for stakeholders to network.

The Riverside County Farm Bureau was pleased to be a sponsor and participant at the 5th Annual GrowRiverside Conference.



2018 Grow Riverside Conference host Joyce Jong and Volunteers

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**Deadline for Nomination Form is
July 6, 2018.***

Send your nomination to
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or Fax to 951/ 782-0621**

*Any forms received after July 6, 2018 will not be considered for the award.

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

Thirty Years Later Farmers Continue to Struggle CA Ag Mediation Program is Still Here to Help

Congress Helps Farmers in 1987. In 1987, Congress passed the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 as a lifeline for producers who have seen their interest rates turn double digit, lost export markets, watched their land values crash and who in some cases took their own lives because they saw no other exit strategy. The Act authorized each state to certify a mediation program to help farmers and ranchers resolve problems with farm loans, credit issues, adverse decisions from the USDA, and several other challenges.

Still Strong 30 Years Later. Today, forty-one states have established agricultural mediation programs and they continue to be a resource for producers. Yet even thirty years later, farmers are still struggling, especially in the dairy sector over the last few years as well as other sectors due to continuing water shortages and devastating freezes. Once again, we are seeing articles about how lives are impacted due to circumstances beyond anyone's control as producers search for ways to preserve their legacy and their lands in an uncertain world.

A Free Resource for Producers. Despite the fierce independence of the farming community, data shows that when farmers know about resources, they use them. The California Agricultural Mediation Program (CALAMP) is an important resource for farmers to know about. CALAMP is confidential, voluntary and FREE for any farm loan or credit issue or adverse decision from the USDA. We also can address certain federal farm and conservation programs; wetlands determinations; grazing permits on national forest system lands; and rural housing loans. If we are not authorized to mediate a case for free under the Act, we will work on ways to make the cost reasonable. Maintaining positive business relationships with lenders, creditors, and USDA personnel is key. We can facilitate conversations that have become difficult and help you gather the information necessary to make an informed decision about the best path forward.

Where can I get more information? Requesting mediation is easy. Visit www.calamp.org and click on "request mediation" or call (916) 330-4500 and dial ext. 101 for Matt Strassberg, 103 for the Southern California Program Coordinator Mary Madison Campbell, or 104 for the Northern California Program Coordinator Julia Rose Golomb. You can also email CA Agricultural Mediation Program Staff at matts@emcenter.org; maryc@emcenter.org; and juliag@emcenter.org.

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FARMERS



Barn Bash

WELCOME TO FARMERS BARN BASH 2018!

Farmers Barn Bash is a 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2013. It has been the goal of this organization to help raise awareness and funds to improve the facilities and equipment for the livestock department at the Southern California Fair. These improvements have, and will continue to, benefit the Junior Livestock Exhibitors as well as the public who visit this department at the fairgrounds.

Last year the 2017 Farmers Barn Bash raised over \$35,000. With that money we were able to make improvements to the hog barn, beef barn, provide pens for the animal nursery, new equipment for the rabbit and cavy show, and new stools for the auctioneers along with a high-performance printer for the auction. Enclosed is a full list of all past improvements your donations and support have enabled the Barn Bash to purchase. Our goal for the 2018 barn bash is to raise enough money to install fans in the livestock barns, purchase all new sheep pens, a new show arena with ample holding pens, provide shade on the East and West side of the barns for the comfort of the livestock and a new loading ramp. 100% of all monies raised will go toward these and other future projects to improve the health, safety, and educational value of our exhibitors, their project animals, and fair visitors.

Our 4th annual fundraising event will be **Saturday, May 12th, 2018!** It will be held at Harrison Hall on the SoCal Fairgrounds in Perris, CA.

Come enjoy a night of great food, good music, Live Auction and Silent Auction and Door Prize Drawings.

Gather your friends, family, and associates for a night to remember.

****Doors open at 5:00 p.m. - Happy Hour - Dinner served at 6:00 p.m. - Auction at 7:00 p.m.****

As we get ready to kick off this event, we are asking for your help to make this year a success. We are looking for items to be auctioned off in the live auction, silent auction, and raffle prizes, cash contributions, and donations of services. If you have questions or are interested in donating to this year's Farmers Barn Bash, please feel free to contact any one of our representatives.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at "The Bash"!

Barn Bash Representatives:

Debbie Smith: 951-537-8592 - **Jessica Long:** 951-833-4132
Penny O'Brien: 951-275-3253 - **Jana Muth:** 951-514-6766
Linda Kershner: 951-204-2656 - **Gene Skala:** 951-315-7999
Lauren Oostdam: 909-721-2752

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Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Work in Riverside labs helps protect citrus trees

As California citrus farmers work to fend off a tree-killing disease, a key part of the effort takes place in laboratories in Riverside. There, experts check citrus plant material to assure that newly planted trees don't spread the fatal tree disease HLB. The disease, carried by an insect called the Asian citrus psyllid, has ravaged citrus groves in Florida and elsewhere, but has been kept out of California groves so far.

Scientists study how citrus psyllid spreads tree disease

Researchers report another small step forward in finding a way to protect citrus trees from a fatal tree disease. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says scientists have learned more about how the bacterium that causes the disease enters the insect that carries it, the Asian citrus psyllid. The chairman of the California Citrus Research Board says learning more about how the disease moves could eventually help reduce its threat to citrus groves.

Land for Lease

71 acres in Banning Bench is available. Currently looking for someone to farm it. Previously a peach orchard several decades ago, but now lies fallow. Open to any reasonable offer for leasing, crop sharing, etc.

Land is not for sale.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- * May 9th - RCFB Board of Directors meeting, Russo's Italian Kitchen, Banning at 5:30 p.m.
- * May 21 - 23 - CFBF Statewide Managers Meeting, The Westin Sacramento, Sacramento, CA
- * May 28th - RCFB office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

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