

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 74th Year of Publication: Volume LXXIV, Number 2, February 2020.



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Welcome New Members

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

Top 5 Considerations for Direct to Consumer Producers

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

Consumers increasingly want to know where their food comes from. This trend paves the way for direct-to-consumer sales and bringing consumers peace of mind. For producers, the benefit of direct-to-consumer sales include diversification of the operation and the ability to enter profitable niche markets. Before selling directly to consumers, however, keep the following tips in mind:

- 1. Watch your step** – Selling at a farmer's market or roadside stand can be a great way to attract a variety of customers to your products and establish your brand. Be mindful of your space and what tripping or slipping hazards are present. Give the space where you interact with customers the same amount of care and caution that you would at your own home operation.
- 2. Be attentive to your industry** – The food processing industry is complex but being aware of what is happening on a commercial scale is important. For example, subscribe to industry newsletters to keep up to date on recent food safety requirements and recalls so you are prepared to talk about your product when others have questions. Build a relationship with your county extension agent to stay abreast of recent research and to discuss your questions.
- 3. Keep track of your receipts** – Accounting for what you earn and spend informs important business decisions that you make, or that others recommend for you. For example, an insurance agent might use this information provide you with the resources you need to be successful. Knowing whether selling directly to consumers is an incidental expense or if it makes up a large portion of your income will inform decisions like what insurance you need.
- 4. Know your process** – Be able to communicate what you do with people who are less familiar with how food is grown. Keep detailed records of everything you do to produce your product and why. This information will help you communicate with customers as well as other stakeholders, including lenders and insurance agents. Being able to explain your process will give stakeholders an idea of how you operate and what potential risks are associated with it.
- 5. Plan for the worst** – Although you may be aware of the risks associated with your business, you may not be properly prepared. Don't make the mistake of falling into the mindset that something won't happen to you. Assess your risk by walking through everything that could go wrong. Then, take the appropriate steps to protect yourself against those risks. Talk to an insurance agent to make sure you have appropriate coverage to protect yourself in the event something undesirable happens.



Selling directly to consumers provides wonderful opportunities to diversify your operation and give consumers a glimpse into the food and agriculture industry. Make sure the reward is worth the risk by talking to a Nationwide insurance agent today about what type of coverage you may need to protect yourself and your livelihood.

Products underwritten by Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company, Crestbrook Insurance Company, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Allied Property and Casualty Insurance Company and AMCO Insurance Company. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle and Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2019 Nationwide

USCIS Issues New Form I-9

Bryan Little, Farm Employers Labor Service

U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a new version of the I-9 employment eligibility verification form. The new version is dated 10/21/2019 but will not become mandatory until May 1, 2020.

Until that time, employers can choose to use the previous version dated 07/17/2017 or the new version. USCIS publishes a paper I-9 Form and an electronic, fillable I-9 Form. The new version of the paper form has no changes from the prior version.

The Form I-9 is used to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals hired for employment in the United States. All U.S. employers must properly complete the Form I-9 for each person they hire for employment in the U.S., including both citizens and noncitizens. New hires and employers, or their authorized representatives, must complete the form. Employers must retain the completed forms for a designated period and make them available for inspection when called to do so.

While the paper version of the Form I-9 is unchanged, the .pdf-based fillable version of the form features several changes:

- Clarification as to who can act as an authorized agent for the employer in situations where employees are being hired at a remote location;
- Clarification as to documents that are acceptable for use on the Form I-9; it is no longer necessary enter "N/A" in the unused columns of the form for List B or C documents if the employee uses a Green Card, U.S. Passport or other List A document to demonstrate both actual identity and eligibility to work on the U.S.;
- Clarification that an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) or I-766 (issued to some non-H-2A aliens granted temporary permission to work, like refugees and asylees) is to be used as a List A document demonstrating identity and work eligibility, rather than as a List C document.

You can find the paper and fillable .pdf version of the Form I-9, a Spanish version of the paper Form I-9 (note: you cannot use the Spanish version of Form I-9 anywhere in the U.S. other than Puerto Rico, but you can use that form to help workers understand the English-language version of the form), and Form I-9 instructions in English and Spanish at www.uscis.gov/I-9.

University of California Cooperative Extension
Citrus Production Course for New Growers

March 17, 2020 – May 5, 2020 (8 Week course)
 Tuesdays, 9:30am -11:30am
 Location: 4500 Glenwood Dr # A, Riverside, CA 92501
 (Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District building)

Cost: \$325
 Cost includes class materials:
 UC ANR Citrus Production Manual – *second edition* (retail at \$75)
 UC ANR Integrated Pest Management for Citrus—*third Edition* (retail at \$40)
 UC IPM Weed Pest Identification and Monitoring Cards (retail at \$25)

Please register at: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=28699>

Coffee, water, and snacks will be provided at every class



Syllabus- Spring 2020

Date (Tuesdays)	Topic	Speaker	Email Contact
March 17, 2020	California Citrus History	Ms. Sonia Rios	sirios@ucanr.edu
March 17, 2020	Physiology and Phenology	Dr. Asheuf El-Kereany	ashrafe@ucr.edu
March 24, 2020	CCPP Program/grafting	Dr. Georgios Vidalakis	georgios.vidalakis@ucr.edu
March 24, 2020	Field Establishment/Soils	Dr. Gary Bender	gsbender@ucanr.edu
March 31, 2020	Nutrition	Mr. Craig Kallsen	cekallsen@ucanr.edu
March 31, 2020	Pruning	Mr. Craig Kallsen	
April 7, 2020	Post-Harvest	Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia	mlarpaia@ucanr.edu
April 14, 2020	Invasive pests/ACP/HLB	Dr. Mark Hoddle	
April 21, 2020	Field Trip of UCR citrus variety collection	Dr. Tracy Kahn	tracy.kahn@ucr.edu
April 21, 2020	Tour Nat'l Citrus Clonal Germplasm Repository	Dr. Marylou Polek	marylou.polek@usda.gov
April 28, 2020	9:30-10:10-Diseases	Dr. Peggy Mauk	peggy.mauk@ucr.edu
April 28, 2020	10:10-10:50- Nematodes	Dr. Ole Becker	obecker@ucr.edu
April 28, 2020	10:50- 11:30 -Weeds	Dr. Travis Bean	trbean@ucr.edu
May 5, 2020	Irrigation	Dr. Robert Krueger	robert.krueger@usda.gov

Please contact Sonia Rios, if you have any questions sirios@ucanr.edu; (951) 683-6491 EXT 224

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALSAVERS: CALIFORNIA'S RETIREMENT PAYROLL DEDUCTION PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES

By: Manuel Ignacio

Beginning on June 30 of this year, most California employers who do not offer an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan will need to register with the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program. The new program, referred to as "CalSavers," is designed to help California employees set aside money for retirement. However, the program does not create any new costs for employers and employees can choose to opt out of the program if they wish.

Three-Year Rollout Period for Employer Registration

The CalSavers program was created by the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act. The law requires all businesses with five or more employees (including seasonal and agricultural employers) to either offer an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan or register for CalSavers. The registration requirement for employers will be phased in over a three-year rollout period based on the number of employees. Employers with more than 100 eligible employees must register by June 30, 2020. Employers with more than 50 eligible employees must register by June 30, 2021. Employers with 5 or more eligible employees must register by June 30, 2022.

Employers Who Are Required to Register

Employers with at least five California-based employees, at least one of whom is age eighteen, and who do not sponsor a tax-qualified retirement plan, must register for the program and establish or participate in a payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement.

Registration Process

The registration process is fairly straightforward, involving the provision of basic employee roster information to CalSavers. From there, CalSavers works directly with employees to make them aware of the Program and provide the employee opt-out form.

There is no waiting period to be eligible to participate. However, employee contributions to the Program do not begin until the first payroll following the 30-day notification period. Therefore, depending on the length of employment, some short term employees may not be able to make contributions. Employers need only facilitate the employees' contributions and are not required to administer the program or incur additional costs related to the program. The State is required to designate an open enrollment period at least once every two years. **CONT. ON PAGE 5.....**

Detection of Huanglongbing Triggers Quarantine Expansion in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

A quarantine expansion has been declared following the detection of the citrus disease Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening, in two citrus trees in Colton. This is the first time the disease has been confirmed in Colton, and the detection came on the heels of the first detection in San Bernardino County in November 2019. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the San Bernardino County and Riverside County agricultural commissioners on this project.

The expanded 51 square mile quarantine area will link up with the existing quarantines in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, putting more than 1,275-square miles of Southern California into the HLB quarantine area. The expanded portion is bordered on the north by West Fifth Street and East Fifth Street; on the east side of Highway 210 near Redlands by West Highland Avenue and San Timoteo Canyon Road in San Bernardino County; and on the south by Pico Visto Way in Riverside County.

HLB quarantine maps for San Bernardino and Riverside counties 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.

.....CONT. FROM PAGE 4. **Penalty for Non-Compliance**

Employers who do not provide an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan are required to register with CalSavers. The penalty for failing to register is \$250 per employee, if the employer remains noncompliant 90 days after receiving a notice of noncompliance. The penalty increases to \$500 per employee for if the employer remains non-compliant 180 days after receiving a notice of noncompliance.

Employers Not Held Liable for Employees' Decision

Under the new law, employers cannot be held liable for an employee's decision to participate in, or opt out of, the Program.

Effect on Seasonal and Agricultural Employees

There is no exclusion or exemption for seasonal or agricultural workers or employees who work for multiple employers. Employees can enroll in the CalSavers program for each employer that they work for. They may choose to opt out of contributions through any employer or contribute through multiple employers at the same time. This does not affect each employer's obligation to have a payroll deposit retirement savings arrangement in place for all eligible employees (if they do not provide an employer-sponsored retirement savings program as an alternative).

Farm Bureau is working with Nationwide for a solution to Multiple Employer Plan (CalSavers)

We will be holding a work shop in Temecula Monday February 24th at 1pm. Please contact the Farm Bureau office for more information (951) 684-6732.

What you need to know about company sponsored retirement plans will be discussed in this informational session. CalSavers, the new mandatory State-sponsored retirement program will be rolled out over the next 3 years and all employers with 5 or more employees will be required to participate in the program. The California Farm Bureau Federation and Nationwide have collaborated to provide a solution to this requirement. We'll share alternatives designed to provide you and your employees with maximum flexibility in your retirement planning process. Learn how a customized plan will benefit you and your team in building the best possible outcomes for retirement and how the process can engage your participants.



Left: In partnership with the Community Settlement Association and the Riverside Community Health Foundation the East-side Eagles 4-H Club participated in the National Youth Science Day Activity titled "Hack your Harvest" Hack Your Harvest is an unplugged activity where kids will use CS concepts like automation optimal efficiency to solve and create logic puzzles related to agriculture—or any topic kids can think of.

The 4-H Corner



Above: The Riverside County 4-H Ambassadors did a presentation on Food Waste Southern Youth Summit at Pathfinder Ranch in Mountain Center.

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU AUCTION SUPPORT FUND

Riverside County Farm Bureau is a buyer and sponsors of an Auction Support Fund to support prices at the Junior Livestock Auction at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio and the Southern California Fair in Perris.

We invite you to make a contribution of \$50 or more. All money contributed to this Auction Support Fund will be used to buy animals at the Junior Livestock Auctions. Your contribution will help maintain auction prices and benefit agricultural students.

Since 2000, the Farm Bureau has directed over \$65,000 into the Date Festival Jr. Live Stock Auction and \$51,000 at the Southern California Fair towards the purchase of animals, including nearly \$21,000 from member donations. We would like to say thank you to all past supporters.

To contribute to the Auction Support Fund, make your check payable to Farm Bureau and mail it to Auction Support Fund, Riverside County Farm Bureau, 21160 Box Springs Road, #102, Moreno Valley, California 92557.

**Donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible as ordinary business expenses; consult your tax preparer. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.*

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Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Protein appears to control plant growth

Discovery of a protein that controls plant growth could ultimately help crops withstand challenging conditions. Researchers at the University of California, Riverside, found the protein while studying plant cells. They say the protein, called IRK, sends a signal to root cells on when not to divide. Knowing how to control the protein might allow plants to grow under conditions they might not otherwise.

Oak trees may hold answer to devastating citrus disease

Scientists have found that applying oak leaf extracts inhibits the bacterium that causes the devastating citrus crop disease huanglongbing, or HLB. The disease has reduced Florida's citrus crop by 90% and led to plant quarantines in Southern California after being found in residential citrus trees. Scientists from the University of Florida and the U.S. Department of Agriculture investigated oaks after farmers observed citrus trees planted near oaks survived HLB.

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February 17, 2020 - The Riverside County Farm Bureau will be closed in observance of President's Day.

February 21, 2020 - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Growers Forum Healthy Soils Workshop (RFSA 0771), West Valley Transfer Station/MRF, 13373 Napa Street, Fontana, CA92335. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/growers-forum-healthy-soils-workshop-rfsa-0771-tickets-92074040935>

February 14 - 23, 2020 - Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Indio. Jr. Livestock Auction is February 22, 2020, starting 10:00 a.m..

March 11, 2020 - Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m., Johnny Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

USDA predicts worldwide citrus production

Worldwide production of most citrus crops will likely decline in the current harvest year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A USDA report projected reduced global crops of oranges, tangerines and mandarins, and lemons and limes. But the report said worldwide grapefruit production could set a record high. USDA said orange harvests in the U.S. and China should increase, but a smaller crop in Brazil will bring global supplies down.

Desert vegetable harvest picks up momentum

Winter vegetable harvest in the California desert has picked up the pace after something of a slow start. Farmers say rains in late December and early January delayed planting and harvest in the Imperial Valley. Occasional cold weather has meant farmers had to wait until midmorning to begin their daily harvests. The desert valleys of California and Arizona produce most of the nation's lettuce, spinach and other vegetables during the winter.