

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 73rd Year of Publication: Volume LXXIII, Number 4, April 2019.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training ~ May 10, 2019

Grapevine Short Course May 8 - 9, 2019

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A PEST CONTROL HEADQUARTERS
SAFETY AND STORAGE SITE INSPECTION WORKSHOP - MAY 2, 2019

An Ear for Music

Distinguished Service Medal

2019 Agricultural Tractor & Mobile Equipment
Survey



Top 10 things to Consider when Expanding
your Farm Operation

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(USPS 466-900) Published monthly by Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc., a non-profit organization serving farmers and ranchers at 21160 Box Springs Road, #102, Moreno Valley, California 92557. Telephone 951/684-6732. Subscriptions: \$1 per year of membership dues. Periodicals postage paid at Riverside, California 92507, under act of March 3, 1887. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 21160 Box Springs Rd., #102, Moreno Valley, CA 92557. For advertising information, Telephone (951)684-6732 - Printed by Layton Printing, La Verne, California.

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Welcome New Members

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



The entire Rubidoux FFA family is heartbroken to hear of the passing of Don Smith. He was a great man who gave a lot of support to the local fairs we attend, and FFA and 4H in general. He will be greatly missed by many. Thank you, Mr. Smith, for always being a cheerleader for our students and helping them succeed!



Grapevine Short Course May 8-9, 2019

What is the Grapevine Short Course?

Plan to join us for this integrated vineyard management short course featuring UC faculty, Cooperative Extension specialists and farm advisors who will provide an in-depth, comprehensive study of all phases of grapevine culture and production.

The program is based on the latest information and research and will cover the fundamental principles that form the basis for practical decisions and include Q&A for each session, quality time with instructors and networking opportunities.

Who should attend:

New and experienced growers as well as other

industry members interested in commercial grape production.

Register to learn more about:

- Vineyard planning, design and development
- Grapevine variety and rootstock selection
- Evaluation and modification of water and soils
- Grapevine training, pruning and canopy management
- Physiology of the grapevine
- Irrigation scheduling
- Proper use and maintenance of irrigation systems
- Mineral nutrition and fertilization
- Integrated pest management of insects and diseases
- Precision viticulture
- Quality & harvest concerns
- Impact of climate change on grapevines

The registration fee of \$550 includes breakfasts, lunches and coffee breaks during the course, and two days of instruction with over 20 presentations.

South Coast Winery

34843 Rancho California Road, Temecula, CA

Registration link: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=27109>

If you have any questions, please contact by email anrprogramsupport@ucanr.edu, or Sherry Cooper, 530-750-1256 or Clin Xu, 530-750-1257

Bill would aid tracking of rural crime

Aiming to slow rural crime and collect more data about the problem, a bill in the state Legislature would create a new category in the Penal Code: agricultural grand theft. Fines collected from persons convicted of agricultural grand theft would support rural crime-prevention programs. A California Farm Bureau policy advocate says the new category would also allow better tracking of crimes affecting farms and ranches.



May 10 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Embassy Suites Valley Wine Country
29345 Rancho California Road
Temecula, CA 92591

FSMA Produce Safety Training Safe Food Alliance is honored to partner with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, as their designated training provider for Central and Southern California, to conduct the required Produce Safety training for growers at a discounted rate of \$35 per attendee. Who Should Attend Produce growers, buyers, and others interested in learning about: produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.....Find out more and register » <https://safefoodalliance.com/event/produce-safety-alliance-grower-training-3/>

Growers, Private Applicator Certificate Holders, Pest Control Advisers

What to Expect during a Pest Control Headquarter Safety and Storage Site Inspection

The Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is conducting a meeting on what growers should expect during a Pest Control Headquarters Safety and Storage Site Inspection. The meeting will occur on May 2, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform employers of Laws and Regulations related to employee safety and record keeping.

The meeting will be held at the James Simpson Community Center (auditorium), which is located at 305 E. Devonshire Avenue in Hemet, California.

Please contact the San Jacinto District Office by email at emendoza@rivco.org or Ishinnette@rivco.org to confirm attendance; please include the name(s) of the person(s) that will be attending.

Two hours of Continuing Education in the category of Laws and Regulations have been applied for with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

What to Expect During a Pest Control Headquarters Safety Inspection

- I. Introductions
- II. Headquarters Inspection Requirements of Employers
 - A. Record Keeping
 - B. Hazard Communication / Training Program
 - C. Respirator Protection Program
 - D. Medical Supervision Program
 - E. Notice Prior to Application
 - F. Pesticide Storage
 - G. Qualified Trainers
 - H. Enforcement Response to Violations
- III. Questions

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USDA Launches New Farmers.gov Features to Help with H-2A Applications, Managing Loans

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched two new features on www.farmers.gov to help customers manage their farm loans and navigate the application process for H-2A visas.

"Customer service is our top priority at USDA and these new features will help our customers as they manage their farm loans and navigate the H-2A temporary agricultural visa program," said Secretary Perdue. "In my travels across the country, I have consistently heard people express a desire for greater use of technology in the way we deliver programs at USDA. As we adopt new technology, we are introducing simple yet innovative approaches to support our farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters as they support the nation every day. It's my goal to make USDA the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government, and farmers.gov is a big step in that direction."

In 2018, Secretary Perdue unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where customers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions and manage accounts.

An Ear for Music

March/April 2019 California Bountiful magazine, Story by Kevin Hecteman, Photos courtesy of Marlene Nunez and Celeste Alonzo.



The corn Celeste Alonzo's family plants each winter is ready for harvest just in time to sell at the Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals in the spring. Photo courtesy of Marlene Nunez

One of the biggest hitmakers at the renowned Coachella music festival in recent years has been Junior Enterprises of Thermal.

They don't make any music, but they do make a mean baked potato. And their sweet corn has been a chart-topper for years at the two-weekend festival of rock, dance, hip-hop and electronic music, as well as at Stagecoach, the one-weekend country music festival preceding it.

How big of a hit?

"During peak hours, we had Stagecoach customers waiting up to 45 minutes to buy corn," said Celeste Alonzo, daughter of farm founder Luis Alonzo Jr. "We even have some customers who go all three days to buy corn."

The back-to-back festivals take place every April, which is around the same time the family is harvesting corn and potatoes on their Coachella Valley farm. So they figured, why not sell the fresh produce to festival-goers?

Their menu of grilled corn, baked potatoes and chicken quesadillas proved so popular, they've been invited back every year since 2010. Corn is grilled with the husk on, Alonzo said, and can be served plain; Mexican style with mayonnaise, parmesan and butter; or with any one of the three toppings. Baked potatoes come with butter, sour cream, chives and bacon as options.



Vidal Mendoza grills the corn before it's garnished with the customers' choice of toppings. Photo courtesy of Celeste Alonzo

Alonzo said her father plants corn around mid-December so it will be ready for the festivals. The family also grows bell peppers, green beans and squash. Junior Enterprises promotes the farm-to-festival bonafides of its food.

"We make sure to tell everyone they are getting fresh sweet corn from the valley," Alonzo said. "My dad has his workers pick the boxes every morning daily to make sure we are giving our customers the best product we have."

Customers have responded by buying more corn each year.

"Sales have been steadily increasing," Alonzo said. "We had a couple who said that it's one of the things they look forward to when they go to Stagecoach, and that made me very happy."

Like their farm, the festival food operation is a family enterprise, with both of Alonzo's parents and her two brothers pitching in. It takes about 20 people total to staff the stand.

Participating in the festival is one of the ways the three-generation family farm seeks to ensure an enduring future, said Alonzo, who serves as office manager.

"My grandpa came here from Mexico, came to Coachella Valley, and he started farming," she said. "My dad followed him, learned from him, and we're following in my dad's footsteps and learning from him."

Alonzo remembers going out to visit the ranch with her father and her twin brother, Luis III, when they were little. She said she and her brothers plan to take over the company when their father retires.

"I can see the three of us being here, working and trying to continue what my dad started," she said.

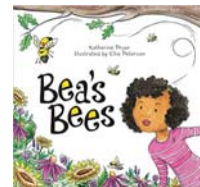
That's almost certainly music to Dad's ears—not to mention the legions of the farm's hungry fans.

Distinguished Service Medal



On April 12, 2019 Deputy Arnold Iniguez received the Distinguished Service Medal for his ongoing service to the Agriculture community in the east end of the Coachella Valley.

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to members of this department who have demonstrated exceptional service over a prolonged period. This award is not intended to recognize length of service. Demonstrated achievements and exceptional performance of duty are clearly above that which would normally be expected and has contributed materially to the mission of the department.



Bea's Bees

SchifferPublishing, Ltd. would like to introduce *Bea's Bees* by Katherine Pryor, illustrations by Ellie Peterson.

"A sweet introduction into the magic of science in the natural world, *Bea's Bees* shows kids they can find answers, solve problems, and make a difference." - Kelly Jones, author, *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*.

Beatrix discovers a wild bumblebee nest on her way home from school and finds herself drawn to their busy world. When her bees mysteriously disappear, Bea hatches a plan to bring them back. Can Bea inspire her school and community to save the bees? Bees provide us with valuable resources, and some types of bees are in danger of disappearing forever. But ordinary people (and kids!) can help save them. Filled with fascinating facts about bumblebees and ideas to help preserve their environment, *Bea's Bees* encourages kids to help protect bees and other pollinators. Available at Amazon.com

2019 Agricultural Tractor and Mobile Equipment Survey

The California Air Resources Board (CARB), with the support of the California agricultural community (including California Farm Bureau Federation), is requesting your participation in a new 2019 agricultural equipment survey.

The 2019 agricultural survey covers all mobile agricultural equipment, including tractors, combines, balers, agricultural use ATVs and forklifts, and many more. The survey is intended for the agricultural sector, including producers in the field, custom operators, and first processing facilities, and covers equipment using any type of fuel or electricity, of any horsepower. The survey is similar to the 2008 survey of agricultural equipment in which you may have participated. Just as with the previous survey, all responses are completely confidential and identifying information will never be seen by CARB or any government body. The 2008 survey results were relied upon to determine the distribution formula for the FARMER program funds (for voluntary diesel equipment replacement); this led to a larger program dollar distribution for Riverside County.

CARB contracted with CalPoly San Luis Obispo to handle and completely anonymize all survey data, which includes removal of all identifying information. As a new option, CalPoly will administer a web-based survey. This survey may be completed on a computer or phone in just a few minutes. If preferred, an identical paper version may be used. CARB will be working with industry representatives, groups, and local farm bureaus to make paper surveys available.

The survey should be quick and easy to complete. Results from the previous survey helped determine allocations for millions of dollars in equipment turnover programs across California, from federal and air district incentive programs. CARB's goal is to collect information on the State's agricultural equipment inventory and usage to inform incentive spending and determine statewide emissions from agriculture.

The survey period ends May 15, 2019. CalPoly will collect all completed and returned paper surveys. These, along with the electronic submittals, will be anonymized – CalPoly will remove all contact information from every survey. This will ensure complete data confidentiality.

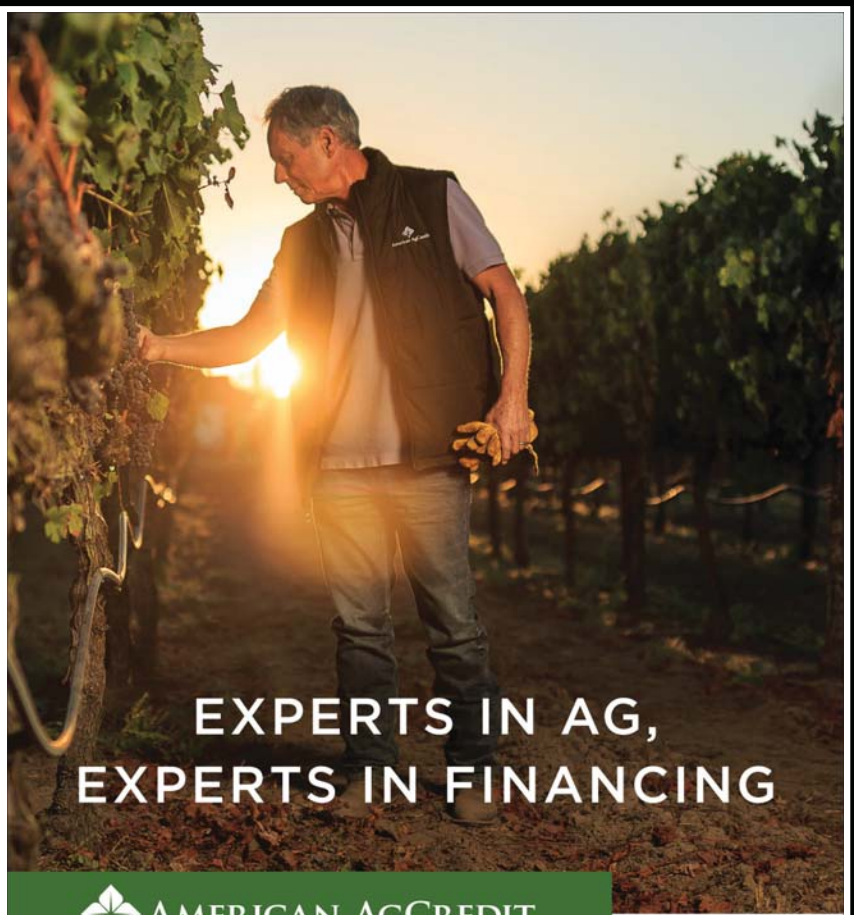
To take survey go to:
<https://agb.calpoly.edu/2018-equip-survey>

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Top 10 Things to Consider when Expanding your Farm Operation

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

Farmers and ranchers are innovative businesspeople who are not afraid to take risks. Many operators are always thinking about ways to increase revenues. Sometimes that means expanding into areas that can include commercial activities, like seed conditioning, hauling other peoples' grain, custom spraying, or even agritourism or a farm stand.

We've compiled a list of the Top 10 things you should consider whenever you have a discussion about expanding your farm or ranch business. The bottom line: It's important to do your homework and be sure to contact your insurance agent.

1. Check federal, state and county laws and ordinances

Check to see what building codes, permits or licenses may be needed prior to starting any new business or adding new construction

2. Environmental impact

Be a good land steward and consider any impact your expansion could have on the environment. Check with your local Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Transportation (DOT) and county engineers on how you can protect the environment as you grow your operation.

3. Consider your neighbors

Will an expansion of your operation impact your neighbors in any way? If you think the answer to that question may be yes, consider informing them early of your plans.

4. Increased traffic

Inviting the public onto your property brings with it special liability concerns. You will need to post signs to warn visitors of any potential dangers. Are your premises ADA compliant? Will you provide restroom or hand-washing facilities?

5. Product safety

You may need to initiate proper controls and safe handling programs for any product you are processing or selling to prevent property damage or bodily injury to others.

6. More employees

If the expanded operations will require hiring additional employees, you may need to provide training and safety materials. If the additional employees increase your operation to over 50, you will need to comply with OSHA standards. Be sure you've obtained adequate insurance to protect both your employees and your operation.

7. Safety and security

Consider if you need to take additional steps to protect your property or operation from burglary, theft or other crimes.

8. Manage outside risks

Be sure to obtain signed contracts and certificates of insurance for any expansion operations that involve other businesses coming onto your farm or ranch or for businesses you hire to do work for you and your operation.

9. Have a contingency plan

If your operation suffers a setback, have a plan in place with steps to follow that allow you to continue your operations. Having a documented contingency plan can help you get your operation back up and running more quickly.

10. Review your insurance

Depending on the type of operations you're considering, your farm insurance policy may no longer be adequate; you may need a general liability policy. Invite your insurance agent out to review your operations and talk through your expansion plans. Your agent can help address any new coverage needs or gaps and provide guidance. Reviewing your insurance is a critical step to help ensure you're protecting your assets as you expand your business.

Nationwide has been protecting agriculture for more than 100 years, including commercial agribusinesses. For more information about steps to take when expanding your farm or ranch operations, contact your insurance agent or visit WS4U.com/farmers-ranchers.

Farm and ranch products are not available in: Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

This information was obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and its employees make no guarantee of results and assume no liability in connection with any suggestions or information contained herein. Furthermore, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety method is included in this article or that specific circumstances may not require additional methods or alternative safety suggestions. Also, nothing contained herein is meant to represent or indicate compliance with applicable standards or requirements mandated by federal, state or local jurisdictions.



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South American Palm Weevil Meeting

21 May 2019

Shield's Date Garden,

80225 US Hwy 111, Indio, CA 92201

<https://www.shieldsdategarden.com/>



Agenda

9:00am Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside. Overview of palm weevil invasion into San Diego, weevil, biology, ecology, and impacts

9:45am Ivan Milosavljević, UC Riverside. Review of weevil trapping methods for detection and control, summary of field experiments assessing the efficacy of different types of traps, baits, and yeast. Use of videography for determining and identifying differences in trap type efficacy.

10:30am Erik Lindberg, Tree Care Science. Review of pesticide evaluation trials for protection and control of palm weevil infestations in ornamental Canary Islands date palms in San Diego County.

11:15am Michael Lewis, UC Riverside. Overview of using drones for palm surveillance. This will cover relevant FAA regulations, software for programming flight paths, software for image analyses, and pertinent safety measures.

12:00pm Lunch at "The Café at Shield's"

1:00pm Drone demonstration: Michael Lewis will fly the DJI Phantom 3 drone used for palm surveillance in San Diego County in the Shield's date garden. The demonstration will review flying tips, software, image capture, and safety procedures that were covered in the earlier presentation before lunch



An application for Continuing Education Credits has been made

[Register on line](http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=27117)

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=27117>

Due to space restrictions the meeting will be limited to 40 attendees



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FB CALENDAR OF EVENTS FB

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

May 18, 2019 ~ Farmers Barn Bash, Harrison Hall on the Southern California Fairgrounds, 18700 Lake Perris Drive, Perris, California 92571, Doors open at 5:00 p.m..

May 23 - Jun. 30, 2019 ~ The 15th Annual Lavender Festival. Hosted by 123 Farm at Highland Springs Ranch & Inn, 10600 Highland Springs Ave., Cherry Valley, California 92223. 10 AM - 6 PM (Thursday & Sunday) 10 AM - 8 PM (Friday & Saturday). Visit the website at <https://hsresort.com/thelavenderfestival/>

Satellite imagery could be harnessed for fire warnings
It wasn't feasible a few months ago, but a University of California professor now believes it's possible to create an early-warning system for wildfires, using existing satellite imagery. The UC Berkeley professor says data from a weather satellite and other systems can now be synthesized into a single application that could alert public-safety agencies and residents to wildfire movement.

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