



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FARM LAND IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

By

Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

Last month, several newspapers including the Los Angeles Times, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, and the Press Enterprise wrote articles that discussed the overwhelming growth in the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) as well as the San Joaquin Valley. The articles did not, however, fully discuss why Inland Empire farmers and ranchers are selling their land for development.

According to the newspaper articles, the numbers were astonishing. In the Central Valley alone, 166,364 acres of farmland was converted to homes and other development. According to the Press Enterprise, for example, the City of Murrieta in southwest Riverside County, added 15,000 people from April 2000 to July 2003. This population increase in Murrieta "...added the second-largest number of residents among California cities with populations less than 100,000 according to U.S. Census Bureau figures..." The population of Murrieta surged 29 percent during this time period from 50,866 to 60,729. The City of Murrieta annexed 3,200 acres in the Murrieta Hot Springs and French Valley areas. The Cities of Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County "...were two of the 10 fastest-growing cities in the nation." The population of Rancho Cucamonga grew 18.7 percent while the City of Fontana's population grew 17.8 percent or 22,966 new residents. The City of Beaumont in Riverside County "...was the forth-fastest growing, booming by 30 percent in three years." Statewide, from 1990 to 2002, a total of 3.2 million acres were taken out of farming and ranching.

The desert communities of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties were not immune from the huge population shift to the Inland Empire. The City of Indio's population, for instance, grew 18.6 percent from April 2000 to July 2003 according to the Census Bureau. Other desert communities that saw large growth during the same time period were La Quinta, Palm Desert, Ranch Mirage, and Indian Wells.

Unfortunately, when cities gain population in the Inland Empire, agriculture in the region loses. According to the Los Angeles Times, "The Inland Empire, the state's fastest-growing region for more than a decade, continued its breakneck conversion of agricultural and vacant land to urban uses. Together, those two counties accounted for nearly 22% of all farm and vacant land converted (in California) during the 1990's, with Riverside County alone accounting for 14%. And the story was the same for 2000-02, except San Bernardino County surpassed Riverside County in urbanization." Riverside and San Bernardino Counties converted 20,000 acres (about 31 square miles) of agricultural land to urban uses from 2000 to 2002. The two counties are slowly transforming from an agricultural based region to a "sprawling megalopolis." From 1990 to 2000, Riverside County converted 66,000 acres of farmland to urbanuse.

CONT. ON PAGE 4....

Inside This Issue...

News in Brief	3
Disappearance Cont.	4
Grilling Safety Tips	5
Calendar of Events	8

Board of Directors

President
Cindy Domenigoni

Vice Presidents
Brad Scott
Bruce Scott
Sid Sybrandy

2002 Past President
Andy Domenigoni

Directors
Lee Anderson, Jr.
Linden Anderson
Grant Chaffin
Howard Cherniss
Stephen J. Corona
Ben Drake
Dan Hollingsworth
Richard C. Kelley
Larry Minor
Randy Record
Richard Schmid
Darl Young, Jr.
Greg Young
David Zeiders

Treasurer
Anton Schmidt

Executive Director
Corporate Secretary
Steven A. Pastor

Office Manager
Stephanie Bell

*For advertising information,
Telephone 951/684-6732
Toll-free 888/383-5684
or Fax 951/782-0621.*

Visit www.RiversideCFB.com

Riverside County Farm Bureau assumes no responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "Riverside County Agriculture," nor for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or articles showing authorship by an officer, director or employee of Riverside County Farm Bureau.

Printed by Layton Printing, La Verne,
California.

RCFB Board of Directors 2004 Endorsements

U.S. President

George W. Bush

State Senate

Jim Battin - 37th

Bob Dutton - 31st

Dennis Hollingsworth - 36th

Congress

Mary Bono - 45th

Ken Calvert - 44th

Darrell Issa - 49th

Jerry Lewis - 41st

Assembly

Bill Emmerson - 63rd

Bonnie Garcia - 80th

Ray Haynes - 66th

Todd Spitzer - 71st

You're the Winner with Chad Hensley at ...

RACEWAY FORD

5900 Sycamore Canyon Blvd. • Riverside
Phone (909) 248-6414 • Fax (909) 248-6446
E-Mail to cardog2@msn.com

You Must Be a Farm Bureau Member for at Least 30 Days To Be Eligible for Cash Back Offer

News in Brief...

PRICE INCREASE HEARTENS GRAPE GROWERS

Rising prices for a key grape variety encourage raisin producers, who have suffered through several years of losses. Wineries have started offering higher prices for Thompson seedless grapes, which are crushed to be blended into wine or fruit drinks. Thompson seedless grapes are also sold fresh and are dried into raisins. Raisin prices have been depressed for several years, and growers expect improved demand from wineries to help reverse that.

FARM TO RETAIL GAP IN TREE FRUIT PRICES

California farmers who grow peaches, plums and nectarines are receiving prices far less than their production costs. Retailers are selling fruit at an average price nationwide of \$1.79 a pound, while farm prices range between 25 and 35 cents. Hot spring weather hindered fruit sizes. Some farmers are leaving fruit on trees, rather than incur picking costs. Industry observers say farmers had hoped for a good year after several poor ones, and they predict the situation will force some growers out of business.

BAGGED SALADS ATTRACT CONSUMERS

A fast growing sector of agriculture is production of packaged fresh salad mixes. Consumers like the convenience, and farmers like the

guaranteed income contracts with the processors provide. Processors use special packaging to keep salad mixes fresh. They take pride in the cleanliness of their processing facilities, which insures consumer confidence in the packaged salads.

COVER CROP HELPS TOMATOES

Federal agricultural researchers say tomatoes grown using a legume cover crop lived longer and produced more fruit than those grown on the traditional black polyethylene mulch with chemical fertilizer. Results of the research, which spanned five years, are published in the current issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Scientists believe the cover crop helps the roots of the tomato plant to produce a hormone that allows it to live longer and produce greater yields.

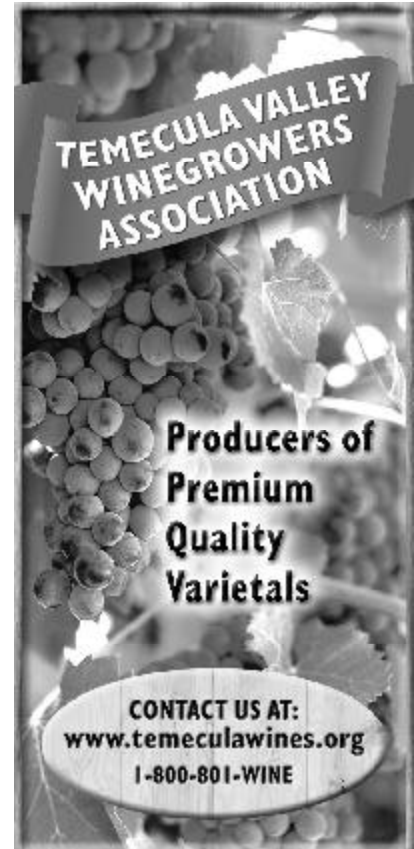
STUDY SHOWS MORE HEALTH BENEFITS OF MILK

New research about the health benefits of milk encourages dairy marketers. A study published this week concludes that drinking the equivalent of a glass of milk a day reduces the risk of colorectal cancer. The study says the calcium in milk can lead to a 15% reduction in cancer risk, when people drink about 8 ounces a day. Representatives of California dairy groups say the study shows again that people never outgrow the need for milk.

HELP FOR FARMERS EXPLORING AGRITOURISM

Many farmers are researching the idea of adding tourism to their farming business. The University of California Extension Service provides information for farmers seeking methods to develop a new aspect of their business. Some growers have developed bed and breakfast operations, while others have opened produce stands selling directly to consumers. Produce stands have existed for 40 years or more.

-- News items credited to California Farm Bureau Federation.



	<p>Hay, Got Land? For all your real estate needs</p> <p>Call Chris Hogan (909) 551-0995</p>	
--	--	--

....CONT. FROM FRONT COVER.

This was the most acreage converted in Southern California. Since 1984, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have been on the top ten "urbanization" counties list.

Why are farmers and ranchers selling their land for development? What does all this mean not only to the agricultural community but also to the public in general? It means, somewhere down the line, we will have "shot-ourselves-in-the-foot." Why? Simply put, it is becoming harder and harder for farmers and ranchers to make a profit. Each year, the federal and state governments continue to "hammer" agriculture as well as other types of businesses with new laws and regulations, which usually translates into additional taxes and fees for farmers and ranchers. For example, SB 700 and PR 1127 take away agriculture's exemption from the state's air quality standards that farmers and ranchers have been exempt from for over twenty years. In return, new additional permit fees are slapped on the farmers. In addition to these fees, there are fees and taxes to regulate water quality, endangered species, and hazardous materials, just to name a few.

On top of all this, farmers must also deal with California's high minimum wage laws, workers compensation rates, high water and fuel costs, and the nation's unfavorable agricultural trade laws. Increased regulations impede farmers and ranchers capability of producing quality food and fiber and to secure a strong and steady food supply for our state and nation. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, America's farmers and ranchers pay an estimated \$25 billion annually to comply with federal regulations. Overall, private individuals and businesses, including agriculture, spent approximately \$843 billion to comply with federal regulatory laws. No wonder so many farmers and ranchers are willing to sell their land to developers. How can they possibly make a fair profit otherwise with the huge increase in taxes and fees they must pay to the state and federal governments? Somewhere along the

line our lawmakers forgot that it is extremely important to protect the farmer and rancher. Farmland is the most important tool a farmer or rancher has to operate his or her business.

CONT. ON PAGE 6....



FLEETPRICING!
2004 MODELS ARE HERE!





2004 Ram 3500

Order yours today!
Why pay retail prices when you can deal direct with Frahm Dodge's Fleet Manager: Kim Melanson.
Save thousands off the regular purchase price!
Over 300 Dodge Trucks In Stock!

Call Kim Melanson direct at:
909.817.5542 or 909.272.3110 Ext. 342
Email: kimm@advmail.com

Lifetime oil changes with scheduled maintenance

APR Rates
as
low as
0.0%
on select
models!



1983 Hamner Avenue • Norco
Member of AQHA • CRHA • NRHA

You must bring this notice with you to receive Frahm's Fleet Pricing

Sales Hours:
Mon-Sat 8:30 am - 9:00 pm
Sun 10:00 am - 7:30 pm

Robert Shea Perdue
Real Estate Appraisal

Real Estate Appraisals for Commercial, Residential & Agriculture

Robert Shea Perdue, M.A.I.

1519 Monroe Road, Suite A
Riverside, CA 92504-2909

Te. (951) 694-6914

Grilling safety tips: How to fire up the barbecue without getting burned

It's barbecue season, and whether you're king of the coals or a first-time burger flipper, it's easy to get fired up about firing up the grill.

But the fun of a barbecue can quickly be raked over the coals if you ignore good grilling safety techniques.

Follow these tips when barbecuing, and you won't have to worry about serving up a grilling mishap with your coleslaw and potato salad.

Before you grill:

Protect yourself when barbecuing by wearing a heavy apron and an oven mitt that covers your forearm. Keep your grill on a level surface and away from the house, garage and other objects that could potentially catch fire. It's also important to keep children away from the grill.

Using the grill:

If you're using a charcoal grill, only use starter fluids designed for such grills, never gasoline. Begin with a limited amount of started fluid and add more charcoal or rekindle with dry kindling if the fire gets too low. Never add more starter fluid or you could suddenly end up with a flash fire on your hands.

If you opt for a gas grill, make sure the gas cylinder is always stored in a spot that is outdoors and away from your home. Keep the valves turned off when your not using them and regularly check for leaky connections by using a soap and water mix that will show bubbles in spots where gas escapes.

When you're done grilling:

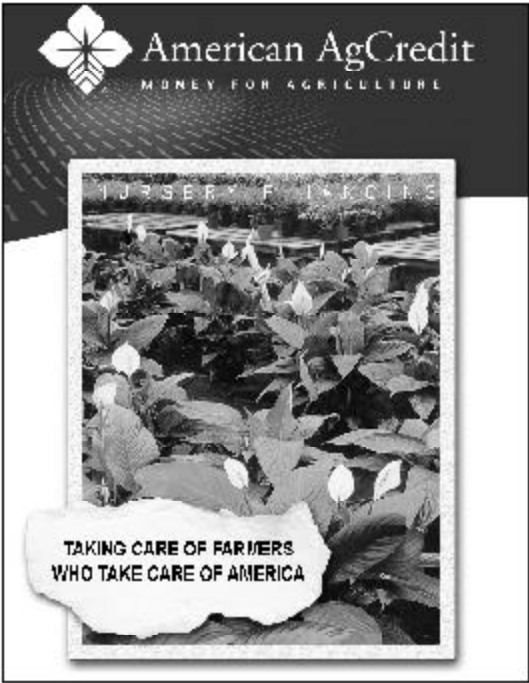
Soak coals in water before you put them in the trash, and remember that grills stays hot long after you're done cooking on them.

In case of a burn:

Run cold water over the burn for 10-15 minutes. Never put butter or salve on a burn because they will seal in heat, which causes further blistering. If you think the burn is serious, get medical attention as soon as possible.

Source: Insurance Information Institute

Courtesy of John Valentine, Director, Sponsor Relations, Allied Insurance



American AgCredit
MONEY FOR AGRICULTURE

TAKING CARE OF FARMERS
WHO TAKE CARE OF AMERICA

In a business dedicated to making things grow,
you can depend on us to help you flourish. From seed money to greenhouses
we will be there with the financing your nursery needs.

Riverside (909) 781-8100
(800) 800-4865 ◆ www.agloan.com
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

Jackson | DeMarco | Peckenpaugh

A L A W C O R P O R A T I O N

....CONT. FROM PAGE 4.

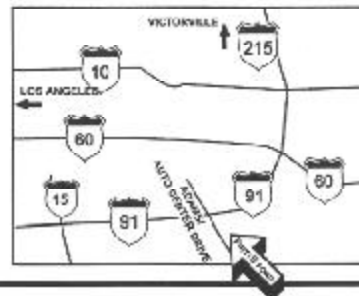
Until the general public as well as our elected officials wake-up and realize that we are slowly chipping away at the "backbone" of our economy (in 2003, agriculture in Riverside County generated \$1,067,367,300 in total gross valuation which has a financial impact of three times that amount or \$3,202,101,900) we will continue to urbanize throughout Riverside County and California. Until politicians finally realize that unnecessary bills that help "chip-away" at agriculture are stopped (SB 700, and PR 1127 to name a few) it will continue to be extremely difficult to make any type of livable profit in agriculture, hence, farmers and ranchers will continue to sell their land for development. Agriculture is slowly being regulated to the brink of extinction in California. When a farming company cannot make a profit, and pass added taxes and fees on to the customer like other industries, the American public will be doomed. Sooner or later, if we continue on the path of selling off our agriculture land for development, we will become more and more dependent on foreign food suppliers. The United States, specifically California, has the safest food supply in the world. Will we be willing to sacrifice our safe and abundant food supply by importing more food from third world nations? I certainly hope not.

REMINDERS

There will be no Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Director's meeting in August. Effective July 17, 2004, the Area Code for RCFB changed to 951.



SPONSOR OF \$1000.00 FFA SCHOLARSHIP



We were here for you then.....We're here for you now!

California Farm Bureau Members

Save when you buy through our Fleet Department

Open 7 Days a Week

Visit our show room and see our large selection of Commercial trucks.
From Rangers, F-Series, E-Van plus the all new F650 and F750.

Additional Savings Available
for Farm Bureau Members
When You Buy From...

**FRITTS FORD
FLEET CENTER**

**7990 Auto Drive
Riverside, CA 92504
Exit Adams/Auto Center
Drive off the 91 FWY.
Enter driveway marked
Fleet Department**

(909) 353-8800

Earning the trust of California farmers and ranchers for more than 50 years.



- *California's leading farm and ranch insurer*
- *50+ years serving Farm Bureau members*
- *Claims service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*
- *5% discount on farm and business auto insurance*
- *Rated A+ Superior by A.M. Best & Co.*

Allied Insurance understands what's important to farmers and ranchers. And as part of the nation's leading agribusiness carrier, we offer coverages specially tailored to meet your insurance needs. At Allied, we combine our passion for outstanding customer service with a tradition of serving Farm Bureau members for 50-plus years. Give California's leading farm and ranch insurer the opportunity to earn your business.

Find your local Allied agent in the Yellow Pages or visit www.alliedinsurance.com today!



**Allied
Insurance**

A Nationwide® Company
On Your Side™



California
Farm Bureau
Federation

Farm Bureau and the FB designs are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation used under license by Allied Property & Casualty Insurance Company

Riverside County
AGRICULTURE

The official publication of
Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.
www.RiversideCFB.com

A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

Our 58th Year of Publication: Volume LVIII, Number 07, July 2004.

(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 or Fax 951/782-0621. 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.



**YOUR GRANDFATHER
 RELIED ON US, TOO.**

For over 60 years, State Fund and the Farm Bureau have worked hard for California's farmers and ranchers. Together, we've created a solid and stable workers' compensation program that has provided safety education and training to each new generation.

To see what we can do for you, today, talk to your insurance broker or give us a call at 1-800-773-7667. Of course, if you want to check us out with gramps first, that's just fine with us.




State Compensation Insurance Fund is a member of the State of California.



**JULY / AUGUST
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- ☼ July 20th - 9:00am - 12:00pm, Membership Forum, RCFB Office, Moreno Valley.
- ☼ **There will be no RCFB Board of Director's meeting in August.**
- ☼ Aug. 24th - 10:00am, RCFB Budget Review Committee, RCFB Office, Moreno Valley.

Carey Pastor
 REALTOR®



California Realty
 3810 Vista Way, Suite 106
 Oceanside, CA 92038
 Bus 760 336-1900 Fax 760 414 9101
 Cell 858 336-0666 cpastor@prud.com

An Equal Opportunity and Equal Housing Lender of The Prudential Real Estate Services, Inc.
Servicing Riverside and San Diego Counties.

**Temecula
 Valley
 Pipe &
 Supply**

Wholesale & Retail
 -- We Deliver --

- *PASTURE SYSTEMS
- *DRIP IRRIGATION
- *SPRINKLERS
- Toro & Rainbird
- Hunter & Richdel
- *PLUMBING
- *ELECTRICAL
- *PIPE & FITTINGS
- *TIME CLOCKS
- *INFILTRATOR SYSTEMS

**RANCHO CALIFORNIA
 INDUSTRIAL PARK**

28074 Del Rio Road
676-5678
 7-6 WEEKNIGHTS, 8-1 SATURDAY

CRABTREE & ASSOCIATES, CPAs

10020 INDIANA AVENUE, SUITE 211
 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92503
 TELEPHONE (909)352-0255 - FAX (909) 352-8686

Serving the Inland Empire Farming Community

- Financial Statements
- Tax Return Preparation
- Tax Planning & Estate Tax Strategies
- Export Tax Deferrals

