



Riverside County

# AGRICULTURE



The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## BRAD SCOTT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Brad Scott, a fourth generation dairy farmer from San Jacinto, has been elected president of the Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) at the Annual Meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Brad was first elected to the RCFB Board of Directors in 1997 to represent the San Jacinto Valley. He was later elected vice president in 2001. He was appointed as an advisor to the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) in 2002 while serving as the state chairman of the Young Farmers and Ranchers. He has served on various Farm Bureau committees both locally and

at the state level including the Dairy Advisory Board and as chairman of CFBF's Animal Health and Welfare Committee.

Currently, President Scott serves on many boards including the California Beef Council Board; the California Milk Producer Council Board; is a State Director on the Dairy Herd Improvement Association; is a director on the Agricultural Advisory Committee at San Jacinto High School; and is a current director of the Southern California Fair, 46<sup>th</sup> Agricultural District.

Brad graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1985 and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo from 1985 to 1988. He majored in Dairy Science. He is a graduate of the California Agriculture Resources Training Program, Class 7, and the Young Dairy Leaders Institute, Class 3.

In his spare time, Brad serves as a director and an active Rescue Team. He was awarded Outstanding Young Farmer in 1995 by the Hemet and San Jacinto Jaycees.

Brad and his wife, Sally, have two daughters; Jill and Janna.

In the coming year, the new president will be working on uniting various production agriculture and agricultural commodity organizations to work for the common good. "With the ever challenging times that all property owners and farmers are facing," Brad said, "it is now more important than ever that

member on the Riverside Mountain

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# News in Brief...

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## **MORE CONSUMERS SEEK OUT 'HEIRLOOM' TURKEYS**

For turkey farmers, the period before Thanksgiving culminates a year's worth of work. California farmers marketed more than 400 million pounds of turkey last year ... and a small, but increasing share came from old-fashioned varieties that have returned to favor. Consumers have been seeking out the "heirloom" turkeys such as those raised at the Diestel Turkey Ranch near Sonora. Its owner says his production of heirloom turkeys has grown rapidly the past three years.

## **BILL RESTRICTS LAND SEIZURE FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT**

Seeking to ratchet back the use of eminent domain powers by local governments, the House has passed a bill that discourages states from seizing land for private economic development. Farm groups were among supporters of the measure, which was introduced in response to a Supreme Court ruling that allows local governments to seize property for private development. The bill specifies that Congress considers such action a threat to farmland and other rural property.

## **FLORIDA, NEW ENGLAND FARMERS COPE WITH LOSSES**

In other parts of the country, farmers continue to cope with the aftermath of hurricanes and floods that hit their regions last month. In Florida, the state agriculture commissioner says the damage from Hurricane Wilma will be worse than any other storm he has ever seen. Meantime, New England growers have flood damage caused by nearly two weeks of heavy rain. Those floods came as farmers were petitioning for drought relief following an extremely dry summer.

## **DATE GROWERS REPORT EXCELLENT-QUALITY CROP**

Harvest got off to a late start in Southern California groves of date palms, but farmers report excellent quality as harvest begins. The first heavy volume of date production occurred in late October, about two weeks later than average. Farmers say the crop appears to be fairly light, for a second straight year. Dates don't all ripen at the same time, so harvest begins on the outside of the grove and works toward the middle.

## **VIRUS-RELATED HORSE DEATHS HAVE DECLINED**

As the weather cools and mosquito activity slows, it now appears that California may lose fewer horses to West Nile virus than it did last year. State officials report no horse deaths to the virus the past week. In all, 199 California horses have died from West Nile virus this year. But that's down 12 percent from the same time last year. Veterinarians have urged horse owners to vaccinate their animals against the disease.

## **OLD FARMERS ALMANAC PREDICTS WARM DRY WINTER**

Warm and dry is the Old Farmers Almanac's weather prediction for 2006 for much of California. Representatives of the almanac claim their forecasts are 80 percent correct, although they admit they missed last year. The Colorado River Basin will also have below average precipitation. They say a shift in a Pacific Ocean current that has occurred, usually causes drier than average weather for the Southwestern states. Above average solar activity may cause wild weather swings worldwide this year.

## **LEANER BABY CARROTS PROVE POPULAR**

In order to make their product even more bite-sized, carrot marketers have made baby carrots smaller. Several producers now offer baby carrots that are thinner in diameter. Marketers say the slim baby carrots have been especially popular as a snack in school lunchboxes. Baby carrots account for more than two-thirds of all carrots sold. California leads the nation in carrot production, with Kern County accounting for 60 percent of the state's harvest.

## **DEMAND FOR FRESH SWEET CORN SETS RECORDS**

Improved quality, sweeter varieties and new packaging have combined to propel demand for sweet corn to record levels. The U.S. Agriculture Department says the typical American eats more than 9 pounds of fresh sweet corn a year, the highest figure on record. Production of corn-on-the-cob in California has nearly doubled during the past 10 years. California ranks second, behind Florida, in sweet-corn production.

## **DAIRY FARM TO DEMONSTRATE NEW POWER PLANT**

Energy commissioners, government officials, dairy group representatives and other people will gather at a Tulare County farm to tour a new waste-to-energy plant. The plant, known as a "methane digester," converts the solids in cow manure into a biogas, which can be burned to generate power. The project produces enough power to supply 90 percent of the dairy's electricity. Dairy groups say the digesters benefit both the electricity grid and the environment.

..... CONT. FROM FRONT COVER


various production agriculture and agricultural commodity and support groups unite in protecting our livelihood. The Riverside County Farm Bureau needs to identify all concerned groups and make a strong effort to unite these various parties so that agriculture can speak as one united voice. No matter if the issue is air quality, water quality, endangered species, taxation, property rights, or any other important agricultural issue, the Farm Bureau needs to help promote the unification of various agricultural groups so that agriculture in Riverside County can remain strong. Too many times individual groups spend valuable time and money duplicating information and research that has already been completed by the Farm Bureau or other agricultural groups. If we can unite these groups through better communication and understanding, agriculture, as a whole, will be stronger as we try to get our message across to government and other non-agricultural organizations.

One united voice will always prosper when fighting burdensome regulations and restrictions that are being placed on our business and private property. Please help us in this battle and do whatever you can to bring everyone to the table so that we can unite and proceed into the future.”


Other officers elected to the 2005 -2006 Board of Directors were Vice President Bruce Scott, Vice President Sid Sybrandy, and Vice President Grant Chaffin. New directors included; Lee Anderson, Linden Anderson, George Cordero, Stephen Corona, Andy Domenigoni, Cindy Domenigoni, Ben Drake, Mark Draper, Dan Hollingsworth, Richard Kelley, Larry Minor, Randy Record, Richard Schmid, Greg Young, Darl Young, Jr., and David Zeiders.




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# 88th Annual Dinner Meeting

The RCFB's Annual Meeting was a great success. Held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, we had over 182 members and guests attend this years meeting. President Cindy Domenigoni turned over the gavel to RCFB's new president, Brad Scott. Brad's goals for the 2005-2006 year will be to help unite various production agriculture groups as well as agricultural support organizations so that agriculture can speak as one.



This year's Howie Award went to former county supervisor, Jim Venable. Jim said he was honored to receive the Howie Award. We want to thank Jim for his dedication to Farm Bureau while he was the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor.

Outgoing President Cindy Domenigoni was honored with a California Legislature Assembly Resolution presented to her by Assmeblyman Ray Haynes for her dedication to Riverside County agriculture.



Thank you to Cindy Domenigoni, Steve Corona, Nanette Scott, Richard Schmid, and Stephanie Bell for all their hard work putting the Annual Meeting together.

Farm Bureau would like to thank our many sponsors who made the Annual Meeting possible.

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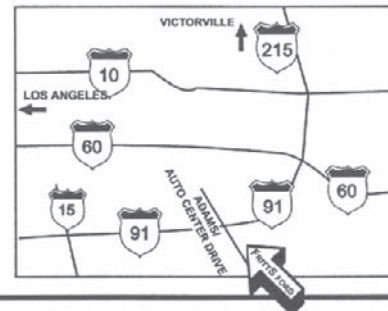
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### NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* Nov. 24th and 25th - RCFB office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- \* Dec. 4th - 7th - CFBF Annual Meeting in Monterey.
- \* Dec. 14th - 10:00am, Western Riverside Ag Coalition Technical meeting in the Nuevo Water District Board room.
- \* Dec. 26th - RCFB office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday.
- \* Jan. 11, 2006 - 6:30pm, RCFB Board of Directors meeting, Sizzler Restaurant in Banning.
- \* Jan. 18, 2006 - 10:00am, Ag Crime Task Force, O.C. Sheriff Department.

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