



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

Agricultural Commissioner Planning Groundwater

The new Groundwater Protection Regulations and Wellhead Protection Regulations took effect on May 27, 2004. The new regulations have designated 220 Ground Water Protection Areas (GWPA) in Riverside County, all in the western portion of the County (Riverside and San Jacinto Districts). Each GWPA represents one square mile.

The seven following pesticides (all herbicides) are currently listed as "ground water contaminants" and will require Restricted Material Use Permits when used within GWPA: Atrazine (Aatrex), Simazine (Princep), Bromacil (Hyvar, Krovar), Prometon (Pramitol), Norflurazon (Solicam, Zorial, Predict), Bentazon (Basagran), and Diuron (Karmex, Krovar). When growers receive their permit, they will also be asked to designate one of several management practice options, depending on which option best fits their individual needs. Other requirements will apply if pesticides are applied to certain right-of-ways inside GWPA and to canals, ditch banks and artificial recharge basins inside and outside of GWPA.

Ground Water Protection Areas are classified as either "runoff GWPA" or "leaching GWPA":

*Runoff GWPA require proper soil management, such as disking, prior to the pesticide application; incorporating

Protection Outreach

the pesticide after application; or storage of runoff water after the pesticide application. The goal of these management practices is to prevent pesticides from getting into ground water through poorly sealed water wells, drainage wells, or similar conduits.

*Leaching GWPA require careful and proper irrigation practices, especially in coarse soil conditions, in order to prevent pesticides from moving downward with irrigation water, and thereby contaminating the ground water.

In addition, new Wellhead Protection requirements are now in place. Within 100 feet of a well, the following activities are not allowed, unless the wellhead is sited or protected to prevent runoff contamination: mixing, loading, storing of pesticides, rinsing of spray equipment or containers, maintenance of spray equipment, and the application of **any** pre-emergent herbicide.

If a permittee decides that he or she does not wish to use one of the seven GWPA pesticides due to the additional regulatory burdens, a list of potential alternative pesticides will be available for consideration. Please consult your local

Agricultural Commissioner's Office or your Pest Control Advisor to ensure that the alternative pesticide is labeled and registered for your intended use.

In order to facilitate the transition to these new regulations, the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is planning an informational outreach meeting for affected growers, pest control advisors, pest control operators, and any other impacted industries such as those in non-agricultural settings.

The Agricultural Commissioner's staff is planning to host a meeting in mid to late October and have applied with the California Department of Pesticide Regulations for two hours of continuing education in the Laws and Regulations licensing category. A meeting notice will be sent to those affected as soon as the meeting date and locations are confirmed.

...Courtesy of John Snyder, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner.

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California Farm Bureau Voter's Guide 2004 GENERAL ELECTION • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The California Farm Bureau National Council of Governors, released the following recommendations on statewide ballot measures. For candidate endorsements, please see the CFB Web site, www.cfb.com.

Proposition	Yes	No
Proposition A - Local Government Revenue Add to local government the public education, health care, and other state and local government services.	X	
Proposition AB - Public Pensions, Open Market Require public pension funds to invest in California state bonds and other investments that are subject to the same risks as the investments of the state.	X	
Proposition 20 - Election Rights of Political Parties Allow political parties to solicit signatures for candidates from non-California residents and to solicit signatures from non-California residents for candidates for office. Allow political parties to solicit signatures from non-California residents for candidates for office.		X
Proposition 20A - Multiple Choice Voting Allow voters to mark multiple choices on the ballot for candidates for office.	X	
Proposition 31 - Children's Complete Child Care Require the state to provide child care for all children under the age of 6.	NO VOTE	
Proposition 32 - Voter Choice Open Primary Elections Permit voters to vote in primary elections for candidates for office in a primary election that is open to all voters, regardless of party affiliation.	X	
Proposition 42 - Income Tax Increases for Renters Increase the state income tax for renters by 1 percent.		X
Proposition 45 - Reduce Political Limits, Open Reduce the number of terms that a person can serve in the state legislature or in the state senate.	X	

Proposition	Yes	No
Proposition 46 - Local Government Finance and Fees Require local governments to pay for the cost of the state's public education, health care, and other state and local government services.		X
Proposition 47 - Limits on "Three Strikes" Law Limit the number of times a person can be sentenced to prison for a crime.		X
Proposition 47 - Tripartite System for Emergency Medical Services Require emergency medical services to be provided by a tripartite system of state, county, and local governments.		X
Proposition 48 - Retail Gambling Licenses Allow the state to issue licenses to retail gambling establishments.		X
Proposition 49 - State Revenue Bonds Require the state to issue revenue bonds to finance the construction of public facilities.	X	
Proposition 50 - Tribal Gaming Compact Require the state to negotiate a gaming compact with the tribes.		X
Proposition 51 - Blank Cell Thousands Bonds Require the state to issue blank cell thousands bonds to finance the construction of public facilities.		X
Proposition 52 - Health Care Coverage Requirements Require health care coverage for all residents of the state.		X

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News in Brief...

WEATHER WATCHERS MONITOR NEW EL NIÑO

Parched regions of Central and Southern California could see some relief this winter, if warming water in the Pacific Ocean affects the state's weather as it has in the past. State climatologists say an El Niño current is developing in an area of the Pacific that appears to influence California precipitation patterns. They say that could portend average- to above-average wintertime precipitation for Central and Southern California and the Colorado River Basin.

FARMERS SEND PRODUCE TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

Some 15 tons of fresh produce, donated by Salinas-area farmers, is on its way to hurricane victims in Florida. Ag Against Hunger, a nonprofit group based in Salinas, worked with the local Red Cross chapter to coordinate the donation. The truckload of food includes packaged salad plus broccoli, cauliflower and other vegetables. Ag Against Hunger also provides fresh produce to food banks in California and other Western states.



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RESEARCH SHOWS HOW 'COVER CROPS' AID DESERT FARMS

Instead of leaving fields bare during their off-season, more farmers along the California-Arizona border are planting "cover crops" to enrich the soil between seasons. University of California researchers say the technique boosts yields and incomes for farmers growing lettuce and melons in the desert. Farm advisors say the cover crops fertilize the soil naturally. They also reduce erosion and dust during the summer.



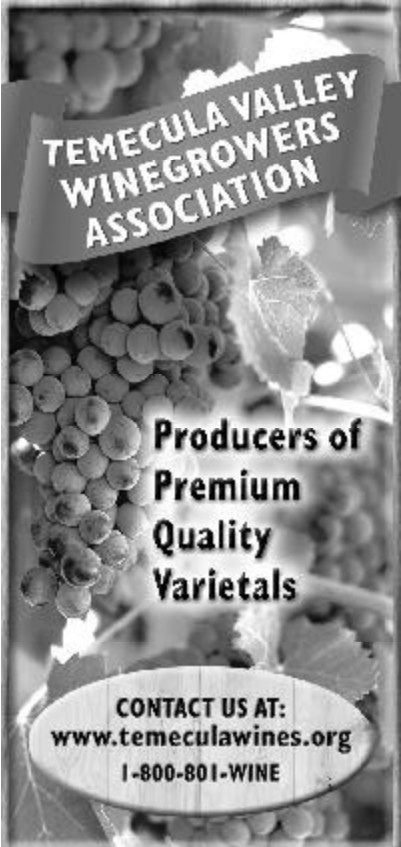
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ☼ Oct. 19th - 1:00pm, AQMD Public Workshop (Rule 102), AQMD auditorium, Diamond Bar.
- ☼ Oct. 26th - 9:30am, TMDL meeting, EMWD.
- ☼ Nov. 5th - 6:30pm, RCFB's 87th Annual Dinner meeting, Mission Inn, Riverside.
- ☼ No RCFB Board meetings in November and December.
- ☼ Dec. 5th - 8th, CFBF's 86th Annual Meeting, Sparks, Nevada.

WEEDING RULES MUST ALLOW FLEXIBILITY

Because California farmers already follow the toughest worker-safety standards in the world, the California Farm Bureau says a new state regulation on hand weeding may be a difficult balancing act for farmers. The regulation prohibits hand weeding unless there is no "readily available or reasonable alternative." A Farm Bureau spokesman says most farms will not be affected, but farmers who grow vegetables and other affected crops need the flexibility to weed crops by hand when necessary.

-- News items credited to California Farm Bureau Federation.



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Get to know your FB Directors: This Month Featuring

Director Grant Chaffin

Grant Chaffin is the General Manager at Chaffin Farms. Chaffin Farms was founded in 1946 with the first purchase of 80 acres in the Palo Verde Valley. Grant's grandfather, Dr. Lawrence Chaffin, purchased those 80 acres for approximately \$70/acre.

Dr. Chaffin was born in Farmington, Utah in 1892. Although Dr. Chaffin was educated back East as a physician his farming background stems from his childhood growing up as the son of a farmer. Today, Chaffin Farms actively cultivates and irrigates over 3,000 production acres of agricultural ground. The principal crops include Alfalfa, Cotton and Wheat.



Grant, a fifth generation Californian, was the first in his family to live and work full time on the family farm in Blythe. After graduating from the University of Southern California in 1990 Grant worked with a general contracting firm in Los Angeles. "In 1995 an opportunity presented itself to live and work on the farm," stated Chaffin. "I jumped at the chance."

Managing the farm is no easy business. I must concentrate on production numbers, expense figures and a solid long-term growth plan. I have learned over the years that the same crop, in the same field, will never look and develop in the same way. Each year is dynamic and every year presents changing variables in the growing as well as the marketing aspects. Genetically modified cotton has allowed us to once again grow full season cotton; a practice, because of pink bollworm, virtually prohibited 10 years ago.

As well as increasing the acreage of the operation, Grant has been able to purchase the necessary equipment to complete all of the farming operations. Not having to rely on custom operators allows you to additional control costs.

Eighty percent of the alfalfa Chaffin Farms produces enters the retail horse market. Chaffin supplies several of the Southern California race tracks as well as feed stores



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....Cont. from Page 4

from Santa Barbara to San Diego. We produce approximately 20,000 tons of alfalfa with 10,000 tons of barn storage capacity. This allows us to offer our customers a value added benefit; with one stop they can purchase a variety of alfalfa products.

We are blessed to farm in the Palo Verde Valley. Although the weather is hot in the summer, it's predictable and the water supply is readily available.

"Each day I wake up at 5:00am and am excited for what the day will provide," states Chaffin. Each day starts with a management meeting so he can evaluate and assess daily, weekly and monthly projects. "We have a great group of men and women that are the backbone of our organization" comments Chaffin.

**Riverside County Farm Bureau Voting Members
Nominating Committee 2004 - 2005
Chairman, Dan Hollingsworth,
Andy Domenigoni and Lee Anderson**

Officers

*Cindy Domenigoni as President.
Brad Scott as Vice President.
Bruce Scott as Vice President.
Sid Sybrandy as Vice President.*

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George Cordero	Richard Schmid
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Andy Domenigoni	Greg Young
Ben Drake	David Zeiders

In accordance with the Bylaws of Riverside County Farm Bureau, election of officers and directors will be held in a meeting of voting members at 6:30 p.m. on November 5, 2004, during the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Board of Directors for election for the 2005 Membership Year:

Grant is currently a council member with the University of California Riverside, Chancellor's Agricultural Advisory Council. This group reports to the Chancellor on current agricultural issues. Grant is also a Director for the 54th District Agricultural Association (Colorado River Fairgrounds) in Blythe.



Grant and Courtney, his wife, have two children. Calista, 5 years old, and Ryan, 2 years old. Grant enjoys waterskiing, snow skiing, fishing and horseback riding. They live with their extended family: 5 dogs, 3 horses, 3 cats and 1 guinea pig.

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