

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

## The Riverside County Farm Bureau Celebrates Its 92nd Year

The Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) celebrated its 92nd year at its Annual Meeting on November 8th. The meeting, held at Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta, was attended by over 87 members and guests.

Grant Chaffin from Blythe was re-elected as the RCFB president for a third term. Richard Schmid and Darl Young, Jr. were re-elected as vice-presidents for a third term and Ellen Lloyd-Trover from Coachella was elected as a new vice-president. Directors elected to serve for one-year were Lee Anderson, Jr., Linden Anderson, George Cordero, Steve Corona, Andy Domenigoni, Cindy Domenigoni, Ben Drake, Jeff Elrod, Dan Hollingsworth, Larry Minor, Marlene Salazar-Pongs, Alex Sanchez, Tony Schmidt, Greg Young, and David Zeiders.

This year's Howie Award was presented to Carl Garczynski of Indio. Carl worked over 42 years for the National Weather Service and spent the majority of his time in agricultural and fire weather meteorology. He retired from the National Weather Service in 1996 and went on to serve as the Chief Meteorologist for the Desert Weather Services in Indio.

Mr. Garczynski was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and raised in Milwaukee. He served four years in the U.S. Navy as a meteorologist and received his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in meteorology from San Jose State University. He spent two years of meteorological research in the Antarctic from 1958 to 1960. He was named the Chief Meteorologist for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Later, he was named the Chief Meteorologist for the 1988 Yellowstone Fires. Mr. Garczynski was also the meteorologist/climber for the American 1992 Mt. Everest Expedition. Carl has also climbed most of the higher mountains in North America plus the highest mountains on each of the seven continents, however, he also says, "...but not quite to the summits of Everest, Tibet or Vinson Massif, Antarctic." Most recently, in the summer of 2007, Carl climbed Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus Mountains of Southern Russia which is the highest mountain in Europe.



L-R: Director Linden Anderson, Carl Garczynski, and Andy Domenigoni.



L-R: Andy Domenigoni, Carl Garczynski, and Assemblyman Brian Nestande.

Assemblyman Brian Nestande also presented Carl with a Resolution from the State Legislators honoring Carl for his many years of service to agriculture in Riverside County.

Carl has been a resident of the Coachella Valley since 1966. He has

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Printed by Layton Printing, La Verne,  
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**Welcome New Members**  
We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part  
of the Farm Bureau Family.

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## **Attention** **Navel Orange Growers**

Recently an entirely new federal crop insurance program has been made available to navel orange growers in California, the Navel Orange Actual Revenue History (ARH) program. What this means to growers is additional choices and more affordable options which are based on your individual actual production and revenue history.

The new program, ARH, is a significant improvement over the previous citrus dollar program. It provides more coverage and is designed to be a better risk management tool for your operation. With accurate past production and revenue records, it insures a grower against losses from weather, pest and disease as well as declines in revenue caused by covered perils. But most importantly it uses the revenue you have historically received as the basis for coverage. Provisions are available for organic/transitional practices and non-contiguous ranches.

Here's why this new program is important to you, ARH allows you make better financing decisions knowing your operation will have a revenue floor. This adds a whole new layer of financial security when it comes time to discuss pre harvest financing with a lender or budgeting for next year. For the upcoming (2011 crop

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year) this pilot program is available to Navel orange growers in Fresno, Madera, Kern, and Tulare counties only. It is expected that following this initial pilot phase Navel ARH will be expanded to all citrus growing counties in California. For diversified citrus/navel operations in Ventura, Riverside and San Diego counties, the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) program is available, and provided a similar revenue floor as well.

Loss of revenue & crop damage sometimes unfortunately occur, that's why risk management programs such as these are designed to help your operation make it through. For additional information about ARH, call or visit Golden State Crop at [www.goldenstatecrop.com](http://www.goldenstatecrop.com) (888) 252-9797 or the USDA Risk Management Agency web site. <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pilots/2010pilot.html>

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## **New law to test citrus for pests**

### **Nurseries will have to check out young trees.**

Published online on Wednesday, Nov. 04, 2009

**By Robert Rodriguez / The Fresno Bee**

California's citrus nursery industry will be required to test young trees for harmful diseases as part of a new law signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro, grew out of concern over protecting against citrus greening, a tree-killing disease that has ravaged Florida's orange industry.

The disease, also known as "huanglongbing," can be carried by the Asian citrus psyllid, an aphid-sized bug that has been found in Southern California. The most recent discovery of the bug was in rural San Diego County.

So far, citrus greening has not been found in a California grove, and officials want to keep it that way. The state's citrus industry is valued at \$1.6 billion

The new law calls for a mandatory testing program for citrus nursery stock and gives the California Department of Food and Agriculture the authority to add new pests and diseases to the program.

"I'm pleased we were able to take action quickly to help protect nurseries throughout the state from these deadly pests," Corbett said. "The state's agriculture industry is vital to our economy and we must do everything we can to protect it."

The law takes effect once state agriculture officials develop the regulations for how the program will be operated. Steve Lyle, CDFA spokesman, said that process will start very soon.

Don Dillon Jr., vice president of Four Winds Nursery in Fremont, supports the new law, saying that the industry is currently only obligated to test for tristeza, a serious viral plant disease.

"This is an important step for the citrus industry," Dillon said. "There are lots of diseases that we will have to keep on top of."

The mandatory testing program will be funded by the citrus nursery industry, a fact that isn't an issue for Dillon. The actual cost to the nurseries has not been determined. "What we don't want is for someone to produce trees with [huanglongbing] and spread that across the state," Dillon said. "The cost of that would be astronomical. We have to make sure our nursery stock is clean."

Taken out of the bill was a provision requiring mandatory screen houses for new citrus trees. The cost for one of those structures can reach as high as \$1 million, prompting some of the state's smaller nurseries to say such a requirement would put them out of business.

THE REPORTER CAN BE REACHED AT [BRODRIGUEZ@FRESNOBEE.COM](mailto:BRODRIGUEZ@FRESNOBEE.COM) OR (559) 441-6327.

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.....CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER.

five children and ten grandchildren. The RCFB would like to thank Carl for his years of dedicated service to Riverside County agriculture and congratulate him on receiving the 2009 Howie Award from the RCFB.

The top Allied/Nationwide and Health Net Insurance agencies who produced the most new members for the RCFB in the 2008 - 2009 fiscal year were also honored at the Annual Meeting. The top producers were Holt Insurance Agency, Desert Empire Insurance Services, Inc., and 1st Community Insurance Service.



L-R: Andy Domenigoni and Bryan Little of the Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS) donated items and draw tickets for the door prizes.

The RCFB would also like to thank its many sponsors for helping make this Annual Meeting a success. The Gold Sponsors were; Agri-Empire, Domenigoni Brothers Ranch, Jackson, DeMarco, Tidus and Peck-enpauh, Attorneys at Law, State Compensation Insurance Fund, and W.D. Young & Sons/Cocopah Nurseries. Silver Sponsors were Arlan Knutson Insurance Agency and the Star Milling Company. A donation was given by Heating Air-Conditioning Service Company (HASCO) and door prizes were given by Farm Employers Labor Service (FELS), Shields Date Farm, Chaffin Farms, and Kallisto Greenhouses (Jim and Kathy Rietkerk).



L-R: Andy Domenigoni and CFBF District II Director Kathy Rietkerk (also of Kallisto Greenhouses) donated items and draw tickets for the door prizes also.

The RCFB would also like to thank the Annual Meeting committee consisting of Cindy Domenigoni, chairwoman, Steve Corona, Richard Schmid, Darl Young, Jr. and the RCFB office manager, Stephanie Bell.

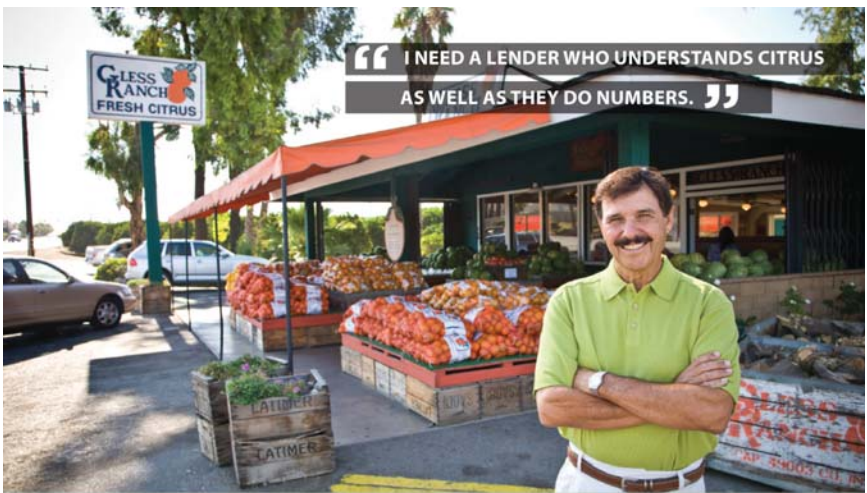
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# Riverside County Farm Bureau files suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Riverside County Farm Bureau (Farm Bureau) and the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) have filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) over the delisting of the Stephens Kangaroo Rat (SKR). The suit follows two formal written requests by the Farm Bureau to delist the Stephens Kangaroo Rat.

The Farm Bureau's first petition to delist the SKR was submitted on May 1, 1995. At that time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had 90 days to determine whether the petition had merit. The FWS never responded to the Farm Bureau's petition. On February 25, 2002, the Farm Bureau submitted a second petition to the FWS to delist the SKR. Once again, the FWS had 90 days to respond according to the Endangered Species Act. To date, the FWS has not made a ruling on either petition.



The Farm Bureau argues that the information gathered by the FWS to place the SKR on the endangered list, which the FWS did on September 30, 1988, was flawed and that "... the threats to the SKR's survival were overestimated by roughly a factor of ten, while the available habitat was underestimated also by roughly a factor of ten."

In the fourteen years since the first petition was submitted by the Farm Bureau, the FWS has failed to determine if either Farm Bureau petition had merit. Therefore, the Farm Bureau's Board of Directors believes it has given the FWS ample time to do its studies and determine if the SKR should or should not remain on the Endangered List. It is now time to settle this question through the court system.

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## ***Farmers, ranchers honored for safety records***

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

More than 300 California farmers and ranchers who had perfect safety records during 2008 are being honored for their efforts by State Compensation Insurance Fund.

The annual safety awards program is conducted jointly by State Fund, the California Farm Bureau Federation and the CFBF Rural Health and Safety Committee. Policyholders with premiums of \$20,000 and above were eligible for the awards. The 311 winners, who are all Farm Bureau State Fund Group Insurance Program participants, had 0 percent loss ratios on their farming operations.

The announcement was made during National Farm Safety Week—Sept. 20-26. The award winners will each receive beautifully engraved plaques recognizing

ing their efforts to promote on-the-job safety.

All of the policyholders in the Farm Bureau group traditionally do very well with safety, but the award winners did a truly outstanding job, particularly when one considers that agriculture is designated by Cal-OSHA as one of the high-hazard industries along with construction. State Fund is proud to honor these individuals and we congratulate them for their outstanding safety efforts. We hope this program inspires others to safety excellence.

"These recipients are the best of the best—farmers and ranchers who devote extra time and attention to safe agricultural practices—and we are proud to honor them," said Danielle Rau, California Farm Bureau Federation Rural Health and Safety Program director. "These honorees are examples of successful farmers who recognize the importance of making farms and ranches safe places to live and work. Let's face it, farming and ranching can be dangerous occupations, but declining accident

rates underscore the effectiveness of diligent safety training and awareness."

Since 1943, the CFBF and State Fund partnership has provided farmers with affordable worker compensation coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the SCIF Web site at [www.scif.com](http://www.scif.com).

## ***Riverside County Safety Award Recipients***

The Riverside County Farm Bureau is proud to announce the following Safety Award recipients. ***Congratulations!***

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Riverside County

# AGRICULTURE

The official publication of


Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

[www.RiversideCFB.com](http://www.RiversideCFB.com)

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

## Our 63rd Year of Publication: Volume LXIII, Number 11, November 2009.

(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.




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## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* November 26th & 27th – the RCFB office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- \* December 7th – 9th CFBF Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Call for details.
- \* December 14th – Coachella Valley TMDL TAC meeting – 1:30 pm at CVWD.
- \* December 10th – Bureau of Reclamation to hold a Santa Margarita Watershed stakeholders meeting. The time has yet to set by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- \* December 16th – WRCAC meeting, 9 am, Nuevo Water District.
- \* January 13th – RCFB Board of Directors meeting at the Farm House Restaurant in Banning. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm.

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