



Riverside County

# AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

## SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED UPDATE

By Steven A. Pastor, Executive Director

As the January 1, 2011 deadline to comply with the Agriculture Waiver Monitoring Plan in the Santa Margarita Watershed (watershed) approaches, many Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) members in the watershed have asked me what the RCFB has been doing to help its members comply with this law.

First, the RCFB has been studying this issue in great detail. RCFB representatives attended a meeting with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) staff in San Diego on August 20th to learn more of what is expected in the watershed. On September 1st, the RCFB also attended meetings in Riverside with the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. We have also had discussions with the San Diego Irrigated Lands Group (October 13, 2008) in order to fully understand their role in complying with the Agricultural Waiver Monitoring Plan.

Please keep in mind that this issue is an extremely complicated problem. There are several issues that must be considered and dealt with before any recommendations or solutions can be presented to the agricultural community. Unfortunately, there are no simple solutions.

For example, what is agriculture's responsibility for the watershed? How can we work with the various cities, government agencies (Cal-Trans and the Forest Service for instance), Rancho Water District, and others to consolidate monitoring sites and keep the cost down for all the stakeholders, especially agriculture?

As of today's date, the RWQCB in San Diego has not completed the Agricultural Waiver Monitoring Plan. It should be completed by October 14, 2009. This means that we still are not clear as to what we have to monitor for; how many monitoring sites will be required; who will be doing the monitoring; how much will it cost the stakeholders; and can we work with others to keep costs low?

Furthermore, we are unsure who will be responsible for organizing any landowner coalition and who will be responsible for the administration and reporting of the testing sites. Even though we have fairly good records of who the agricultural operators are in the Riverside County portion of the watershed, we do not know all of the individuals who must be involved.

All the information gathering takes time, people power, and money. Rest assured that the RCFB will continue to obtain as much information as possible and continue to work with the RWCQB.

Second, after the RCFB feels comfortable with the information and facts it has uncovered regarding the Santa Margarita Watershed, we plan to have an informational workshop in the Temecula area for agricultural stakeholders within the watershed. All RCFB members in the watershed will be notified.

We will have the RWQCB explain the situation in the watershed to the stakeholders. We will also be asking the landowners how they wish to proceed with the next step – that being how do the landowners want to solve the problem. Do landowners want to form their own coalition in order to have landowners comply with the law and pay their fees; or do the landowners want to join an established coalition? Do the landowners wish to deal with the RWQCB on their own and pay for their own monitoring? These are just some of the questions the RCFB will need to know in the near future.

In summary, the RCFB is working very hard to gain as much information as possible before we invite landowners to a workshop. We will keep are members posted as to our progress. Meanwhile, if any of our members have questions, please call the RCFB office at 951.684.6732.

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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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## Meet Vonny Barlow Ph.D



Vonny Barlow Ph.D. has just been assigned to the Blythe office of the ANR Cooperative Extension program in Riverside County. He comes to us having received a B.Sc. Degree in Biological Sciences with special emphasis in Entomology from San Jose State University, a M.Sc. in Plant Protection & Pest Management from the University of California at Davis, and a Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. He has just completed a post-doctoral research position at North Carolina State University where he was working on mating disruption of codling moth. His background is in biological control and integrated pest management of invasive insect pests of crops. He is a native of California having grown up in San Jose. He will be working in the Blythe area with other researchers in developing improved methods of pest management in field crops, vegetables and tree fruit.

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## Avocado Field Person

**Index Fresh is a major shipper, packer and marketer of avocados from California, Chile and Mexico.** Based in Bloomington, California, Index is looking for a Field Person to run our California avocado business in San Diego and Riverside Counties. Specifics of the job are:

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# Slow Food Temecula Valley



**Good, Clean, Fair** food: ask your average person off the street what that means, and you'll get all number of amusing answers. Ask President of the Temecula Valley Slow Food chapter, Leah Di Bernardo, and she'll tell you it stands for everything Slow Food is about.

## **Good:**

While a general term to most, good means specific things to those in Slow Food. To them, the idea of good means delicious food prepared with care and produced from healthy plants and animals. In addition to the palate pleasures good food provides, it can also help to build community and celebrate culture and regional diversity.

## **Clean:**

Clean food means nutritious food that is as good for the planet as it is for our bodies. It is grown and harvested with methods that have a positive impact on our local ecosystems and promotes biodiversity. Clean foods supports clean bodies and a clean planet.

## **Fair:**

We believe that food is a universal right. Food should be accessible to all, regardless of income, and produced by people who are treated with dignity and justly compensated for their labor.

Our Mission for Temecula Valley Slow Food is a big one. We have been working collaboratively with our local schools in creating Edible, Organic & Academic gardens for our children for the past three years. When we began, there was but one (albeit thriving) garden when we started. Today, Temecula Valley is home to a budding twenty-one school gardens – elementary schools, middle schools and private academies alike!

The garden programs work to connect young people with their food at it's very source. It is one of the most important steps we can take to ensure a future full of good, clean, and fair food for our children. Agriculture in the classroom creates meaningful relationships between youth and food by placing emphasis on hands-on experiences, community interaction, and the pleasures of the table. Slow Food Temecula President Leah Di Bernardo is a strong believer; "By being involved in our schools, we are helping to strengthen the food communities of tomorrow by engaging youth today". Obviously, there are many in Temecula Valley that agree.

Students at Hillcrest Academy in Temecula have taken the garden program one step further by starting their own student body Slow Food chapter on campus. Hillcrest is the first middle school in our nation to have a Slow Food chapter on campus! We are proud to have Hillcrest leading the way for many other schools to come.

Temecula Valley Slow Food has a lot of big plans for this year! Food-centric gatherings for our



members will occur monthly, introducing our membership to the finest in food, wine and agriculture in our valley. Whether our events take our members on a farm tour, to a school garden to play in the dirt, to wine and cheese pairing or preserving classes, or just to kick up their heels at our monthly wine & food social – eating locally grown food and sharing in conversation will always be present. Gathering at the table to break bread with family, friends and neighbors is key in our mission to emphasize the importance of food to our lives, community, and society

as a whole.

Coming up in October, Slow Food Temecula Valley is having a special gathering at Stone Brewery in Escondido. The event will take place on October 20th from 6:00 -8:00 PM, and we will learn about (and taste!!) many of Stone’s local brews! In January, we will host our famous Hundred Mile Dinner where all ingredients for each course will be sourced from no further than one-hundred miles from the event. Each course will feature a different local chef and be paired with local wines. This event will educate guests on our local agricultural bounty and showcase our local ‘rock stars’ – our farmers!

Please visit our web site at [www.temeculavalleyslow-food.org](http://www.temeculavalleyslow-food.org), to learn more about our events and membership information. Go Slow!

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## Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of Riverside County Farm Bureau, election of officers and directors will be held by voting members at the Annual Meeting on November 8, 2009 at Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Board of Directors for election for the 2010 Membership Year:

<u><b>President</b></u> Grant Chaffin	<u><b>Vice President</b></u> Richard Schmid	<u><b>Vice President</b></u> Darl Young, Jr.	<u><b>Vice President</b></u> Ellen Lloyd-Trover
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### **Directors**

Lee Anderson, Jr.	Linden Anderson	George Cordero	Stephen J. Corona
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Dan Hollingsworth	Larry Minor	Marlene Salazar-Pongs	Alex Sanchez
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## STATE COMPENSATION FUND WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

State Compensation Insurance Fund has joined forces with Cal/OSHA and the California Highway Patrol to present two workshops for Farm Bureau members. The first workshop is entitled "Are You Prepared?" This will be an informative class on how employers can reduce their chances of a Cal/OSHA Enforcement Complaint, accident or programmed inspection at their facility.

This workshop will be given at the San Bernardino Regional Office of State Fund Insurance, 375 W. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, on October 27th beginning at 8:30 am. The second workshop will be presented on October 29th at the Embassy Suites in Palm Desert. The address is 74-700 Highway 111, Palm Desert. This class will also begin at 8:30 am.

State Fund will also present two workshops entitled "Enhanced Driving Strategies." The California Highway Patrol will explain how to take actions to improve defensive driving and produce a model action plan for your in-house drivers' meetings. This will be an interactive workshop for fleet owners, managers, and/or supervisors. The classes will be on October 7th at the Inland Empire Policy Services Building, 375 W. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, beginning at 8:30 am. The same class will be given at the Embassy Suites in Palm Desert, 74-700 Highway 111, Palm Desert. This class will be held on October 8th. You may register for these classes at [www.scif.com/seminardetails](http://www.scif.com/seminardetails).

### **Attention all Farm Bureau Members - We need your Help!**

Over the course of fourteen years, the Farm Bureau has funneled well over \$55,000 into the Junior Livestock Auction and a large portion of that comes from members like you.

Your money that is donated to the Auction Support Fund will go toward the purchasing of animals at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. The animals are entered into the festival and fair by the members of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, and Grange students.

With all of the choices children have today, the FFA, 4-H, and Grange are wonderful activities worth supporting. These organizations teach young people important life skills, including time management, financial responsibility, and the importance of caring for others.

FFA, 4-H, and Grange students that profit from these auction sales use the funds to start their next animal project and to start saving for college.

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## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* September 29th – Coachella Valley Farmers group meeting and luncheon – call Jose at 760.342.2467 for details.
- \* October 14th – RCFB Board meeting – 5:30 pm at the Farm House Restaurant in Banning.
- \* October 15th – Progressive Farmers meeting and luncheon in Blythe – Call Vonny at 760.921.5064 for details
- \* October 10th to 18th – Southern California Fair at the Perris Fairgrounds.
- \* October 17th – Animal Auction at the Perris Fairgrounds beginning at 10 am.
- \* October 31st – Howl-O-Ween celebration at the Living Desert in Palm Desert beginning at 9 am.

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