

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 73rd Year of Publication: Volume LXXIII, Number 6, June 2019.

**Produce Safety Alliance
Grower Training ~ August 20, 2019**

SAVE THE DATE
November 10, 2019
Riverside County Farm Bureau
102nd Annual Dinner Meeting

SPOTTED LANTERN FLY



**10 Ways to Help Prevent Work-Related
Accidents and Injuries**

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Welcome New Members

We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part of the Farm Bureau Family.



UC Riverside is testing whether a sesame seed-sized wasp can control a pest that could seriously damage California crops including wine, walnuts, and avocados.

The pest, a sap-sucking spotted lantern fly, is originally from China and was first detected five years ago in Pennsylvania. Since then, large populations have spread rapidly to grape vines, apple trees, and other plants in New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.

Experts believe the lantern fly is likely to make its way to California soon.

Mark Hoddle, director of the Center for Invasive Species Research at UC Riverside, explains why the lantern fly is so harmful.

"It secretes copious amounts of "honeydew," a waste product that encourages black, sooty mold and damages a plant's ability to grow," he said. The honeydew also attracts undesirable insects such as ants and hornets.

The impacts could extend well beyond California. According to industry reports, the state is the world's fourth-largest wine producer, selling an estimated \$35 billion domestically and exporting \$1.5 billion annually.

Around 44% of nonnative insects arriving in California were first established elsewhere in the U.S. Given the speed with which the spotted lantern fly has spread, Hoddle realized the state needed a proactive approach to this predictable problem.

"Normally, when a bug shows up, we try to contain and eradicate it," Hoddle said. "But by the time the population is found, it tends to already be widespread and hard to handle."

The state Department of Food and Agriculture recently granted Hoddle \$544,000 to test whether a tiny parasitic wasp, also originally from China, could be the solution to the looming problem. Hoddle explained that the wasp has a needle-like appendage it uses to lay its own eggs inside the lantern fly's eggs. While developing, the wasp larvae eat and kill their hosts, and then emerge after chewing escape holes through the lantern fly eggs.

These wasps pose no threat to plants or people, but before they can be used to control the lantern fly, Hoddle must prove they won't cause unnecessary harm to other native insects. "We can't just release a Chinese parasite into the wild in California," Hoddle said. "Chances are low it will harm the wrong targets, but we have to be sure."

Safety testing will be conducted in a highly secure quarantine facility at UC Riverside. Native lantern flies, the subjects of safety testing, will be collected from natural areas in California and southern Arizona this summer.

Though the wasp is now being evaluated as a biological control on the East Coast, populations of lantern fly there have already grown large enough to cause significant concern for the grape industry, Hoddle said.

A spotted lantern fly's wingspan is about 1.5 inches, and at most, they can fly a few hundred feet at a time if they're assisted by the wind. The lantern fly has spread so fast in part because the females lay eggs on nonbiological materials, such as train cars, motor homes, wooden pallets, and trucks that inadvertently move them into new territories.

Anyone on the East Coast driving to California should be especially vigilant about checking their vehicle for egg masses before they make the journey," Hoddle warned. "Failing to notice them could have serious consequences."

Hoddle's testing will take roughly three years, and he estimates that this may be around the time when the wasps will be needed in California. "We hope to be ready to release these wasps immediately when the spotted lantern fly shows up, giving us a really strong head start on the invasion," he said.

UC Cooperative Extension Riverside Update

In our May 2019 issue, we ran an article on the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Riverside and the proposed cuts from the County of Riverside 2019-2020 Budget. We asked you to reach out to the County Supervisors to show your support for UCCE Riverside and their related programs. You did and we want to say THANK YOU!



The budget hearing was held on June 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., and during the public comment period, there were nearly fifty speakers of which twenty-five were from UCCE Riverside 4-H program that addressed the Board of Supervisors expressing their concerns and support for the UCCE Riverside.

In an update, you will be pleased to learn that the Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to NOT accept the staff proposal to cut the UCCE Riverside programs from the 2019-2020 County budget.



The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to applaud the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for giving everyone a chance to be heard and their confidence in UCCE Riverside's vital role in our communities to vote against the proposed cuts.

June is National Dairy Month

From the International Dairy Foods Association

National Dairy Month started out as National Milk Month in 1937 as a way to promote drinking milk. It was initially created to stabilize the dairy demand when production was at a surplus, but has now developed into an annual tradition that celebrates the contributions the dairy industry has made to the world. After the National Dairy Council stepped in to promote the cause, the name soon changed to "Dairy Month."

National Dairy Month is a great way to start the summer with nutrient-rich dairy foods. From calcium to potassium, dairy products like milk contain nine essential nutrients, which may help to better manage your weight, reduce your risk for high blood pressure, osteoporosis and certain cancers. Whether it is protein to help build and repair the muscle tissue of active bodies or vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse. Those are just a few of the reasons that you should celebrate dairy not just in June, but all year long.



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Who Should Attend

Produce growers, buyers, and others interested in learning about: produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.

The U.S. FDA's Produce Safety rule requires in § 112.22(c) that for each farm, "At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration." The PSA

Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy this requirement; it is the only course currently recognized by FDA.

What to Expect at the PSA Grower Training Course

The trainers will spend approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in these seven modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

Key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements are outlined within each module, in addition to learning about best practices in produce safety. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

Benefits of Attending the Course

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan.

After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course. To receive an AFDO certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course.

In addition to the standard curriculum, Safe Food Alliance will provide additional resources to attendees including:

- A decision tree and other materials to help determine how or if the regulation applies to your farm
- Templates for creating records required by the training
- A calculation tool to aid a small farm in determining if they receive a "qualified exemption"
- A list of allowable water treatment compounds provided by the Produce Safety Alliance
- Tools to assist in conducting water analysis calculations

Registration Includes ~ \$35 per attendee

- Course Materials
- Coffee and Lunch
- Certificate

August 20 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 PM

Farm Credit
485 Business Parkway
Imperial, CA 92251

Farm Employers Labor Service, an affiliated company of the California Farm Bureau Federation, is partnering with Safe Food Alliance to provide produce safety training required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). To register online, <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/fels-18383401284>.

Farm leader responds to tariff assistance package

Expressing appreciation for the Trump administration's broadened programs to ease the impact of retaliatory trade actions on American farmers, the president of the California Farm Bureau Federation reiterated the need to resolve the disputes at the root of the issue.

CBBF President Jamie Johansson was in Washington, D.C., today when the administration announced the tariff-assistance package.

"It's clear that the administration wants to do what's best for American farmers and ranchers," Johansson said, "and we appreciate this second round of assistance for those who have suffered loss of markets and crop value due to retaliatory tariffs." Johansson noted the new package provides assistance to more California-grown crops not previously included in certain programs, specifically direct assistance through the Market Facilitation Program for walnuts, pistachios, table grapes and potentially others.

"Farm Bureau worked in concert with members of Congress from California, advocating for inclusion of more fruit, nut and other 'specialty' crops in the assistance package. Adding those crops will help further buffer rural California from the impact of the trade disputes, and we thank the administration for doing that," he said.

Johansson noted that farmers are heading into a second straight harvest season in the middle of a trade war. "Ultimately, the best assistance for farmers and ranchers would be to resolve the trade disputes and open markets for California farm products," he said.

Johansson said Congress can also help improve foreign markets for agricultural products.

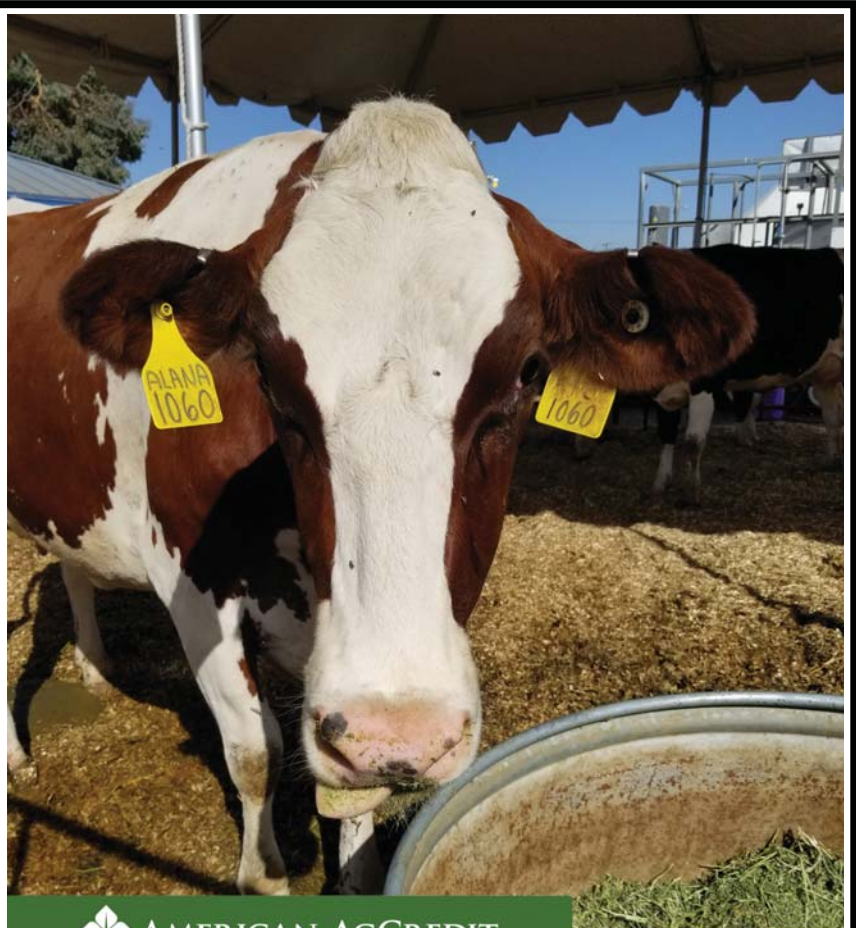
"The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement will solidify agricultural trade with two of California's top customers for farm goods," he said. "The USMCA deserves swift, bipartisan passage."

Help Draw the Lines!

Every 10 years, after the federal census, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect the population. The importance of drawing fair districts that represent us equally cannot be overstated. Unlike most states, Californians have the ability to serve as commissioners during this process. In 2008, California voters passed the Voters FIRST Act authorizing the creation of an independent Commission comprised of 14 members, including five Democrats, five Republicans and four who are either Decline-to-State or with another party, to draw the lines.

A commission that represents and reflects all of California is vital to ensuring our way of life is protected and it is imperative that the voice of agriculture is heard in this process. To make that a reality, the California Farm Bureau is encouraging its members to apply to serve on the commission. Commissioners who understand agriculture could be the difference in making sure our communities of interest, water districts, cities and counties etc. are not broken up and fall victim to representation that does not respect the work we do.

If you are interested in serving on the commission please visit <http://auditor.ca.gov/bsa/crc> to learn more about the requirements. The initial application period is open until August 9, 2019. Should you have any questions about the process or qualifications you can contact Mike Zimmerman at mzimmerman@cbbf.com or (916) 561-5617.



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10 Ways to Help Prevent Work-Related Accidents and Injuries

*The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.**

We should all strive to prevent work-related accidents and injuries. Here are 10 ways you can create a safety-conscious environment for your organization and help protect your employees:

1. **Make safety a top priority for your organization – from the top down.** Management should communicate safety expectations and lead by example. Establish written safe-work procedures that employees understand and follow.
2. **Develop an effective Health and Safety Program.** Cover all levels of employee safety and health. Encourage employees to report hazardous practices or behavior. Require and document attendance at safety meetings.
3. **Hire only qualified workers.** Make sure you place the right candidate in the right position.
4. **Educate employees and management.** Provide and document training covering all areas of your operations, such as proper use of tools, equipment and machinery, hazards and safety precautions.
5. **Investigate all accidents and near-misses to evaluate their causes.** Complete an incident report including recommendations to prevent recurrences. Make necessary changes to work procedures, processes or equipment.
6. **Provide the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).** Whenever possible, allow employees some choice in the type of PPE they use. Train employees on when PPE is required, how to use it properly and when to replace it. Regularly verify that PPE is being used.
7. **Consistently perform necessary maintenance on equipment and machinery.** Help keep equipment and machinery in good working order by repairing or replacing items as needed. Document all maintenance activities.
8. **Inspect vehicles and mobile equipment regularly.** Train workers to perform daily vehicle checks to help maintain safe operating condition. Be sure they also receive proper driver training.
9. **Maintain good housekeeping of your facilities, grounds and equipment.** Keep the premises clean and orderly. Assess your work environment daily and address slip-and-trip or fire hazards promptly.
10. **Conduct regular safety inspections.** Make sure all machinery and equipment safeguards are in place and in good working condition.

Nationwide's expert risk management consultants can assist in identifying potential exposures to help reduce claims and determine appropriate levels of workers' compensation insurance. Contact your local Nationwide agent to learn more.

Nationwide is the endorsed insurance and financial services provider for the California Farm Bureau. In 2017, we expanded our relationship offering workers' compensation coverage for farm and ranch members. Nationwide is the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.* and a leading provider of insurance and risk management solutions for commercial agribusinesses.

To learn more about Nationwide farm insurance and other commercial coverages: Nationwide.com/agribusiness. To find a local Nationwide agent: FarmAgentFinder.com. Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, OH, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S.



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All ages
Grand Prize - \$1,000
First Place - \$500
Second Place - \$250
Third Place - \$100
Honorable Mention - \$50
(six winners)

Budding Artists
(ages 13 and younger)
First Place - \$250
Second Place - \$100

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Snap a photo of any subject that celebrates California agriculture, such as:

- Fresh food-plated or in the field
- Rural scenery
- Animals, crops and harvests
- Life, work and family on the farm or ranch

Any amateur photographer who is a member of a county Farm Bureau in California or a contributing member of the California Bountiful Foundation can participate. Join at www.cfbf.com/join or www.californiabountiful.org.

To enter:
Submit up to five print or high-resolution digital photos. Enter online or postmark by Sept. 30.
See rules for details or call 916-561-5550.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There will be no Board meeting in July or August. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

Weather brings fewer but larger avocados

An intense heat wave 11 months ago has reduced the California avocado crop. Farmers who typically would harvest fruit into early July report they've already finished their harvest. Southern California heat last July damaged the developing fruit. But ample winter rains allowed the remaining avocados to grow to larger sizes. Forecasters estimate the avocado crop at 175 million pounds, about half the volume of a year ago.

Invasive species damage environment, economy

From the burrowing nutria threatening waterways to the small insect carrying disease to citrus trees, invasive species cause ecological damage and economic losses. As agencies commemorate California Invasive Species Action Week, they urge Californians to take care not to transport new species into the state. The University of California estimates a new invertebrate species establishes itself in California every six weeks, on average.

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