

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 11, November 2019.



The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to dedicate the November 2019 Issue to the memory of Howard Lee Cherniss.

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Welcome New Members

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

Howard Lee Cherniss

Howard Lee Cherniss, 89, passed away on Monday, October 7, 2019. He was born on Sunday, January 12, 1930 in Omaha, Nebraska to his parents, Leonard and Sadie Cherniss. Howard was a loving father and devoted husband. Howard spent 35 wonderful years married to Veda June Cherniss whom he married following the death of his first wife, Marylin Cherniss, in 1980.

Howard proudly served in the U.S. Navy in the early 1950's. After following in his father's footsteps as a printer he joined his brother in law in starting KC egg ranch in Hemet in 1960. At the peak of the operation, the farm had 120,000 laying chickens. In retirement, he operated another successful family business, a cut-your-own Christmas tree farm.

Throughout his life, Howard was active in many civic and professional organizations, serving as President of both the Riverside County Farm Bureau and San Jacinto Lions Club. His devotion to the San Jacinto Lions Club since 1973 is an example of his generosity with friends and family. He was always a willing volunteer at the group's events and fundraisers.

Howard considered everyone, with the exception of a few agricultural inspectors, his friend. He was a true friend indeed, whether you required someone in your corner, a loan or a job, or just someone to talk to, he had your back. He never had anything negative to say about anyone. He was also a rock of support for all his biological and step children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, providing whatever they needed and instilling in them a strong work ethic and an ability to think for themselves that sometimes caused lively political discussions at home.

In addition to enjoying friends, Howard and Veda enjoyed travelling. They took their motorhome across country and visited every state except Maine. They also loved going on cruises together. Howard also enjoyed social activities including bowling and cards. Winning at cards, especially 'Tic', was one of his favorite hobbies.

Howard had a huge heart and loved everyone in his life, with a sense of humor that always had everyone laughing. Howard will be missed by all that knew him, his faithful dog, and those not lucky enough to have met him.

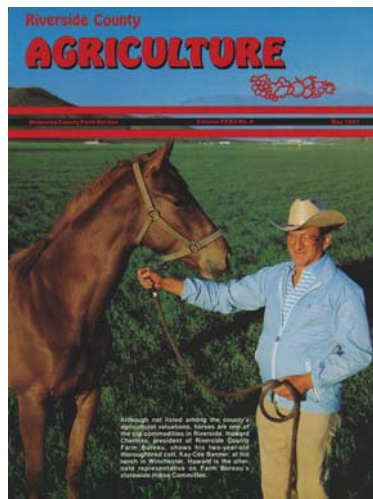
Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Sadie, his sister, Mildred, and his brother, Lloyd. He is survived by his wife, Veda, his children by Marylin Cherniss, David (Scott), Nancy (Peter), Jon (Michelle), and Jimmy, Tim, Janette and Laura, as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the San Jacinto Lion's Club.

Howard Cherniss actively served on the Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors from 1966 – 2005, he was President from 1979 – 1981 and Vice President from 1978 – 1979. In 2001, he received our Robert M. Howie award for his dedication to Riverside County Agriculture. Howard retired from the Riverside County Farm Bureau Board in 2005, however he continued serving as an Advisor to the Board of Directors.

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HOWARD CHERNISS (left) beams as County President **Bryant A. Chandler** presents the "Gong" to him in recognition of Fruitvale Center's efforts in the 1967 membership campaign while Membership Chairman **Dan Hollingsworth** (rt.) looks on. Fruitvale's membership stood at 105% of the 1966 membership, followed closely by Cherry Valley, Little Lake and Murietta — all over 100%.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS . . .

Election of Directors is Key Event at Annual Meeting

By **Howard Cherniss**
President, RCFB

Plans are being made for the 1981 annual meeting of the membership of Riverside County Farm Bureau. One of the main purposes of the annual meeting is to elect directors and officers for the coming year. Some Farm Bureau members may not be aware of how they can participate or how the county participates in statewide activities, so I'll explain.



The day-to-day business of Riverside County Farm Bureau is guided by the 20-member board of directors. These directors, all voting members, serve voluntarily, participating in monthly board meetings as well as committee meetings and other activities. They represent various districts throughout the county.

Members are nominated to the board of directors by a nominating committee made up of five to seven member farmers and appointed by me, the president, at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The nominating committee presents a list of candidates for the board at least 30 days before the annual meeting. This list of nominees is then sent to every voting member of the Riverside County Farm Bureau.

All voting members are invited to attend the annual meeting and participate in the election. During the election, there is a call for nominations from the floor, and if anyone wishes to challenge one of the candidates or to enter a previously unannounced candidate, he can do so at that time.

Riverside County Farm Bureau is a member of the California Farm Bureau Federation which holds its annual meeting in December. In a procedure similar to the county's, half of the 20-member board of directors of the California Farm Bureau Federation is elected at each annual meeting, with directors serving two-year terms.

Riverside and San Bernardino County Farm Bureaus are in District II and share a single representative on the CFBF board. Our current CFBF director is **Alvin Musser**, a dairyman from San Bernardino County.

It would be impossible for all individual Farm Bureau members to participate in the statewide annual meeting. Participation is by county delegations. Under state by-laws, Riverside may send three voting delegates to the annual CFBF meeting. In addition to electing CFBF directors, the county delegations decide Farm Bureau policies for the coming year, as well as passing resolutions which give directors and staff specific guidance.

Riverside's members participate in CFBF functions in other ways. Representatives of principal commodities in Riverside County attend statewide, and sometimes nationwide, commodity committee meetings. There are also policy advisory committees to recommend policies for consideration at the annual meeting.

Farm Bureau prides itself on being a grassroots organization, developing programs and policies from within the counties. Involvement by you, the members, is encouraged and welcomed.

If you'd like more information on Farm Bureau activities and how you can participate in them, contact the Farm Bureau office in Riverside.

Meanwhile, look for your invitation to the Riverside County Farm Bureau annual meeting, which will be in the mail soon, and make plans to attend.



Pictured: Howard Cherniss (left) accepts the award for all-time high membership for Riverside County Farm Bureau from Cal-Farm Executive Vice President Wendell Summers (right) as Lou Horn (center) manager of Membership Relations of California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF), reads the announcement at the awards dinner during CFBF Annual Meeting, Dec. 6 - 8, 1982. Cherniss accepted the award for then President Jerry Alexander, who was able to attend. Photo: Robert Perkins

Fruitvale, Little Lake Have Success At Farmers' Fair

Little Lake and Fruitvale Centers, which co-sponsored the multi-county fair booth at the Hemet Farmers Fair, captured first prize for booths in that particular category.

Cecil Clark reported to the board of directors that approximately 1,000 people had stopped in at the Little Lake's hospitality booth and 219 Farm Bureau members had registered, received hats and FB identification tags during the special Farm Bureau Day at the fair.

The two centers sponsored a hay bucking contest, egg toss, butter churning contest and milk drinking bout that day. The two center chairmen, Howard Cherniss and Harold Nordal, saw their opportunity to work County President Carl Allen a little that day and made him chief judge for all the events.

In fact, they intimated President Carl did such a good job they're going to recommend next year's chairmen make sure he's called on again.

In addition to co-sponsoring the multi-county booth, Little Lake entered one of its own in another category and took a blue ribbon.



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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU CELEBRATES ITS 102nd ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB) celebrated its 102nd Annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta. President Richard Schmid warmly welcomed those in the audience and gave recognition to several guests, and then took a moment of silence for the loss of retired RCFB Director Howard Lee Cherniss, whom passed in October. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

With over 100 members and guests in attendance, the Riverside County Farm Bureau re-nominated Richard Schmid as president to serve an eighth term. Ellen Lloyd-Trover, Andy Wilson, Paul Cramer were re-elected to serve once again as vice-presidents respectively, and the following Board of Directors were re-elected to serve a one year term; Celeste Alonzo, Linden Anderson, Grant Chaffin, Steve Corona, Andy Domenigoni, Cindy Domenigoni, John C. Gless, Dan Hollingsworth, Joyce Jong, Lauren Oostdam (newly elected), Brad Scott, and Greg Young. President Schmid noted that the board had a combined total of 332 years of RCFB experience with Director Dan Hollingsworth having served on the RCFB board for 59 years, now being the longest current serving director as Director Tony Schmidt has retired from the board.



The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to extend a special thank you to our special guest speaker Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco. Other guests in attendance were former California State Assemblyman & California State Senator David G. Kelley, Thomas Ketcham from Supervisor Kevin Jeffries office, Sharya Hernandez from Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's office, Beaumont City Councilman Lloyd White, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Ruben Arroyo, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures, Delia Cioc, and California Farm Bureau Federation 2nd Vice President Shaun Crook for their participation in this year's event.

President Richard Schmid gave recognition to Riverside Sheriff Deputy Sheriff Arnold Iniguez (Thermal) and family, along with Lieutenant Chris Frederick (Thermal), Deputy Sheriff Phillip Lorton (Thermal), and Deputy Sheriff Tina Contreras (Thermal). Deputy Arnold Iniguez was awarded the Riverside County Farm Bureau 2019 Howie Award.



Retired Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Ron Bray and retired Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Michele Tracy received an Appreciation Award from Riverside County Farm Bureau in recognizing their many years of service to Riverside County agriculture.

President Richard Schmid called upon Thomas Ketcham of Supervisor Kevin Jefferies office and Sharya Hernandez of Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's office to honor award recipients with their own proclamation signed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors

With the conclusion of the program, President Richard Schmid recognized the Annual Meeting Committee for all their hard work on the event and gave thanks to all those in attendance.

The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like extend our utmost gratitude to our sponsors American AgCredit, Arlan Knutson Insurance Agency, Big Horse Feed & Mercantile, Domenigoni Brothers Ranch, Francis Domenigoni Family Trust, Grimmway Farms, HASCO Air Conditioning and Heating Service Company, Jackson Tides, A Law Corporation, Junior Enterprises LLC, Nationwide Insurance, RDO Equipment Co., Star Milling Co., and Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association for their generous donations towards the Annual Dinner Meeting.

President Richard Schmid praised Mike and Hennie Monteleone of Monteleone Meadows for their "Outstanding service and food" and thanked them for "sharing their beautiful grounds" for our event.



Most of all, we would like express our special appreciation to Cindy Domenigoni for creating such amazing gift baskets for our sponsors and this year's wine basket door prize.

A background image of recycled base material (gravel) for an advertisement.

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Riverside Sheriff Deputy Arnold Iniguez receives the 2019 Robert M. Howie Award

The Robert M. Howie Award is an annual award given by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to recognize outstanding service to Riverside County agriculture. First presented in 1983, the Howie Award was established by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to honor Robert M. Howie, who retired in 1982 after serving 28 years as the county agricultural commissioner. This award is created to remind our industry each year of the dedication that Bob Howie demonstrated and to recognize and encourage that kind of dedication in other people.

President Richard Schmid presented this deputy Arnold Iniguez from the Riverside County dedication to Riverside County agriculture

Deputy Arnold Iniguez assignment to the position at the Thermal Station started in empty service to the southern Coachella areas.

Deputy Iniguez has worked diligently to Program with local farmers and equipment number to assist law enforcement in also spent numerous hours on local farms which would aid him in his investigations.

He collaborated with Riverside County als who were selling agricultural products

On several occasions, he would confiscate agricultural products including the seizure of 200-pounds of Medjool Dates.

He partnered with the Riverside County Commissioner's Office and conducted compliance checks at a local convenience stores. During one compliance check, he discovered 400 pounds of mangos of which were determined to be stolen from a local farm. During another investigation, he located an SUV with 400 pounds of mangos, which were also stolen from a local farm. These investigations lead to the arrest of three individuals.

Deputy Iniguez met with the offices of Los Angeles and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners for networking opportunities and toured farmers markets with local enforcement agencies, he worked with local inspectors exchanging information in the identification of stolen produce from the Coachella Valley.

In August of 2018, he conducted an enforcement stop on an individual transporting a suspicious load of lemons. His investigation determined the individual had just stolen 800 pounds of lemons from a nearby farm. This led to the recovery of the lemons for the farmer, and the prosecution of the individual for the theft.

During his time as the Agricultural Liaison, he earned four California High Patrol 10851 Awards, which included over 45 agricultural-related vehicles that were recovered and returned to the owners. Then there are the numerous other agricultural related investigations and arrests, that include copper wire, batteries, farm equipment, farm tools, watermelons, lemons, dates and mangos to name a few.

Deputy Iniguez's personality and enthusiasm helped him forged bonds with local farmers and facilitate training opportunities for patrol deputies to learn about the different agricultural products in the Coachella Valley. These training opportunities have enhanced skills for others and created opportunities to identify stolen agricultural products when deputies are on patrol.

The agricultural community is truly thankful for Deputy Arnold Iniguez and growing the Riverside County Sheriffs Agricultural Liaison position into what it is now.

The Riverside County Farm Bureau wishes to congratulate you "Deputy Arnold Iniguez" for becoming this year's recipient of the Robert M. Howie Award.



year's Robert M. Howie Award to Sheriff Deputy Sheriff's Thermal Station for his exceptional at the 102nd Annual Dinner Meeting.

Riverside County Sheriff's Agricultural Liaison July of 2016. For three years, he provided ex-Valley agricultural community and surrounding

grow the Owner Applied Number (OAN) operators. This program assigns a personal- the identification of stolen farm equipment. He learning how to identify agricultural products,

Code Enforcement and began citing individu- on the roadside without proper documentation.





INDUSTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

We all must work together in the fight to save California citrus from the Asian citrus psyllid and the fatal plant disease it can carry called Huanglongbing. The best way to stop the disease from spreading is to stop the Asian citrus psyllid.

PACKINGHOUSES SHOULD:

- ▶ Remain in compliance with all CDFA, county and federal regulations, including following quarantines and safeguarding all loads.
- ▶ Employ trusted farm labor contractors, transporters and others who also adhere to regulations.
- ▶ Require farm contractors to follow best management practices for controlling the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid.
- ▶ Check deliveries to make sure no leaves or stems have been brought to the packinghouse.
- ▶ Ensure bins leaving packinghouses are free of leaves and stems.
- ▶ Regularly host or sponsor "tailgate trainings" to educate farm labor contractors, crew bosses and harvesters on the Asian citrus psyllid and best management practices.
- ▶ Distribute posters, fliers, paycheck inserts or other materials to packinghouse workers.
- ▶ Reach out to grower members by including pest and disease information in company newsletters, websites, etc.

GROWERS SHOULD:

- ▶ Remain in compliance with all CDFA, county and federal regulations, including quarantines.
- ▶ Employ trusted farm labor contractors, transporters and others who also adhere to regulations.
- ▶ Inspect your trees regularly for the pest and disease using tap sampling and visual searches whenever there is new flush on the trees. If you think you have the pest or disease, contact your local agricultural commissioner or CDFA at 800-491-1899.
- ▶ Talk to your pest control adviser and ensure he or she is on the lookout for the psyllid and signs of HLB.
- ▶ Cooperate with area-wide Asian citrus psyllid treatment programs.
- ▶ Get to know your regional liaisons. Industry liaisons have been identified by CDFA to keep growers and industry members informed, and to help growers coordinate treatments using accepted protocols.
- ▶ Attend ACP and HLB informational meetings as available.

Stay up-to-date on Asian citrus psyllid and HLB developments by visiting CitrusInsider.org and signing up for the Citrus Alert e-newsletter.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There will be no Board of Directors meeting in November or December 2019. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.

November 28 & 29, 2019 - The Riverside County Farm Bureau will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

December 8 - 11, 2019 - California Farm Bureau 101st Annual Meeting, Monterey Conference Center.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Drought-tolerant plants could result from research

In work that could help plants resist drought, a research team at the University of California, Riverside, says it has developed a chemical to help plants retain water. Known as O.P., the chemical mimics a natural hormone plants produce in reaction to drought. Researchers say the O.P. chemical could ultimately allow farmers to treat plants that would otherwise wilt from lack of water. The treatment slows a plant's growth, so it won't consume more water than available.

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