

# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 75th Year of Publication: Volume LXXV, Number 8, August 2021.



Photo by Amy Nathan Dumlao on Unsplash.com



## Executive Officers

### *President*

Richard A. Schmid, Jr.

### *Vice Presidents*

Ellen Lloyd Trover

Andy Wilson

Paul Cramer

### *Treasurer*

### *2012 Past President*

Grant Chaffin

## Board of Directors

Celeste Alonzo

Linden Anderson

Stephen J. Corona

Andy Domenigoni

Cindy Domenigoni

Dan Hollingsworth

Joyce Jong

Lauren Oostdam

Brad Scott

Ellen Way

Greg Young

## Farm Bureau Staff

### *Executive Director*

### *Corporate Secretary*

Rachael Johnson

### *Office Manager*

Stephanie Bell

(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. 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. For advertising information, Telephone (951)684-6732 - Printed by Layton Printing, La Verne, California.

Riverside County Farm Bureau assumes no responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "Riverside County Agriculture," nor for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or articles showing authorship by an officer, director or employee of Riverside County Farm Bureau.

## Inside this Issue...

Newly Formed RSO Ag Team.....

A Letter from Sergeant Epps ..... 3

Spotted Lanternfly ..... 4

State Warns of Organic Pesticides . 5

Huanglongbing (HLB)..... 6

SAVE THE DATE ~ RCFB

104th Annual Dinner Meeting .. 8

Food and Farm News..... 8

Calendar ..... 8

## Welcome New Members

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

# California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom 2021 Virtual Conference



Save the Date  
September 24 - 25, 2021

For more information Visit  
<https://learnaboutag.org>



The Riverside County Farm Bureau has secured additional stock of disposable masks, please contact our office for availability and to arrange pick-up.

Call our Office (951) 684-6732

## COVID-19 Vaccine Information Riverside County

Riverside University Health System is now vaccinating all individuals 12 or older. A minor consent form is required for those that are 12 to 17 years old and is available online. For more information, please visit

<https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine>

### Additional Information:

- Email your questions about Riverside County vaccinations to [rivco.vaccines@ruhealth.org](mailto:rivco.vaccines@ruhealth.org).
- For information on Riverside County's COVID-19 Response, visit [www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus](http://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus).
- Please visit the CDC Essential Worker COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit to help educate your workers about important prevention tools and why vaccines are important. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/essential-workers.html>
- Follow Riverside University Health System – Public Health on Social Media for the latest updates
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/countyriversidedepartmentofpublichealth](https://www.facebook.com/countyriversidedepartmentofpublichealth)
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RivCoDoc>

# Newly Formed Riverside County Sheriff's Agriculture Team... ...A Letter from Sergeant Robert Epps



Hello. For those who do not know me, I am the supervisor of the Sheriff's newly formed Agriculture Team (AG Team). I have had the pleasure of meeting a few of you and looking forward to meeting many more. The Ag Team consists of myself and 6 deputies that handle all agriculture-related crimes or investigations in the west end of Riverside County. The Thermal and Blythe areas have their own teams. We are all excited to represent the Sheriff on this new team and provide the best possible service to the Riverside County agriculture industry.

Since becoming an official team in June, I have seen similar incidents arise and I would like to briefly share some useful information with you. It seems providing an employee with a residence of some sort is common with our agriculture partners. That is a valuable perk for the employee and the employer can provide something beneficial

to the employee while minimizing direct pay costs. In the short time since June, I have seen a few incidents where an employee was terminated and then refused to leave the property. The terminated employee's responses ranged from avoiding contact with management to being argumentative and one person was known to be aggressive when confronted.

The Ag Team is happy to help with these situations and we understand the legal technicalities might seem confusing if someone is not familiar with all of the rules. If you terminate someone who was allowed to live on your property as part of their employment, and they do not leave immediately, please do not hesitate to call the Ag Team for guidance.

## A Contract:

A rental contract can be either verbal or written. If you agreed to let an employee live on your property in an RV or some type of residence while they were employed by you, then that would be considered a contract. Even if it was only a verbal agreement, and the condition of employment was clearly understood by both parties, it is still considered a contract. Once they move in, they are considered tenants by law and they have a few rights. At the same time, you are considered the landlord and have some rights.

When an employee is terminated and they were provided with some type of housing as part of their employment, you will need to serve them with a written eviction notice. The shortest notice that can be given is a 3-day notice. This can only be used in certain circumstances, one of which is when the renter is not in compliance with the rental agreement. Therefore, when they are no longer an employee, they are no longer in compliance with the agreement or contract. We have copies of a 3-day eviction form that we can provide to you when requested.

## How to count 3 days:

The 3 days start on the first day AFTER the notice was served. If you serve them on Monday, then Tuesday would be day # 1. If they refuse to leave after three days, they will need to be evicted using the court process. Do not worry, we are happy to help guide you through this process. The process is called an "Unlawful Detainer Lawsuit" in the courts and it is considered a summary court procedure. This indicates the court will move quickly. In some cases, you can have someone formally evicted in about 30-60 days. If you think you may need to use this process, feel free to contact the Ag Team.

It is important to know that once someone has been evicted, they are not allowed to return to the property. Even in cases where they left personal property behind, they are not allowed to return without getting prior permission from the landowner. If they return without permission, they can be arrested for trespassing.

I hope you find this information helpful. The best advice I can give is, when you have questions about removing an employee from your property, do not hesitate to call the Ag Team. We will gladly take your call and, whenever possible, come to your location and help get you answers to any questions you may have.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the deputies on the Ag Team and they will be happy to help you. In the event you don't have their phone numbers, simply call me and I will direct one of them to you. If I don't answer, please leave a voicemail and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Office: (951) 696-3184/ Cell: (951) 218-1303/ Email: [repps@riversidesheriff.org](mailto:repps@riversidesheriff.org)

Best regards,  
Sergeant Bob Epps

Servicing Southern California and Arizona

## Quality Compost

- Blending of compost and gypsum available
- Compost helps get the most out of your irrigations and retains moisture
- Compost adds nutrients, organic matter, and helps with soil tilth.
- Compost is screened to a 3/8" minus
- Prompt bulk deliveries
- Dealers/Spreaders welcome

## Mined Organic Gypsum

- 75% and 90% purity available
- OMRI certified
- Adds calcium and sulfur, great for all crops
- Prompt bulk deliveries
- Dealers/Spreaders welcome

Call Jason Sears 562-832-8921 [jsears@ecologycomposting.com](mailto:jsears@ecologycomposting.com)

# CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHES QUARANTINE TO PROHIBIT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY INTO CALIFORNIA

A state exterior quarantine has been declared to prohibit the introduction of the spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, into California. Spotted lanternfly was first detected in North America in 2014 in Pennsylvania and has now spread to nine states.

The quarantine prohibits the entry into California of SLF, its host plants, and a variety of articles, including conveyances, originating from any area where an SLF infestation exists. Specifically, articles and commodities covered by the quarantine include the following:

- Spotted lanternfly, a harmful invasive species that threatens California's agriculture and natural resources,
- All plants and plant parts including firewood, if exposed to the environment,
- Outdoor industrial and construction materials, equipment, and waste,
- Shipping and storage containers including personal moving containers,
- Outdoor household articles,
- Conveyances of any type including but not limited to, cars, trucks, recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers,
- Agricultural equipment including but not limited to, tractors, harvesting equipment, and rigid containers,
- Any other article, object, materials, or means of conveyance when it is determined by a California State Plant



Quarantine Officer to present a risk of carrying or spreading any life stage of SLF.

All the articles and commodities covered above are prohibited entry into California from areas under SLF quarantine with the following exceptions:

- Certificate of Treatment issued by an authorized state agricultural official,
- If originating outside of a SLF infested area and moving through a SLF infested area during March through December, the regulated article must be in an enclosed vehicle or conveyance or completely covered,
- Any articles transported by a conveyance that has a GPS data report indicating that it did not travel through a SLF-infested area,
- Indoor articles not exposed to the environment, including, but not limited to, household articles, house plants, and indoor furnishings,
- Articles and commodities covered above that are accompanied by the appropriate permit, phytosanitary certificate, Compliance Agreement, or checklist for individuals moving from a SLF infested area into California.

The spotted lanternfly feeds on at least 103 species of plants (mostly trees) in 33 families. The immature stage (nymphs) is much more polyphagous than the adults, which strongly prefer tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and grapes (*Vitis* species). Other hosts include maples, birches, hickory, beech, ash, apple, stone fruit, oaks, and willows. Their feeding produces large quantities of fluid, referred to as honeydew, that covers stems and leaves and promotes the growth of sooty mold. The feeding weakens the plants, and the sooty mold that grows on the honeydew decreases photosynthesis, which may have a greater impact on the plant than the feeding itself. Infestations weaken the plants and can eventually kill them.

SLF can move between natural landscapes and agricultural production. SLF egg cases are deposited on trees (especially trees with smooth bark) as well as a wide variety of outdoor objects--natural and manmade--including vehicles, recreational vehicles, stone, outdoor furniture, and storage and moving containers. The most likely pathway for long-distance spread of this invasive species is the movement of SLF egg cases.

In addition to this quarantine, CDFA has taken the following proactive steps to protect California from SLF including, but not limited to, A-rating from the California Primary Entomologist, training for county regulatory staff through CDFA's Pest Prevention University, advisories to state/county staff, Border Protection Station inspections, air cargo inspections, dog teams in parcel facilities looking for unmarked packages, CDFA participation in national SLF Summit and coordination meetings, yearly visual survey for SLF in California, creation of a Science Advisory Panel to inform development of an SLF action plan to be used if SLF is detected in California, training module for UC Master Gardeners, host specificity testing, risk based maps and models, research on suitability of specialty crops, and biological control research.

More information on the SLF can be found here – [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PDEP/target\\_pest\\_disease\\_profiles/spotted\\_lf\\_profile.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PDEP/target_pest_disease_profiles/spotted_lf_profile.html)

More information on the SLF quarantine can be found here - <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/Regulations.html>

Checklist for individuals moving from a SLF infested area into California can be found here - [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/docs/Spotted\\_LF/SLFChecklistCA.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/docs/Spotted_LF/SLFChecklistCA.pdf)

If you believe you have seen the spotted lanternfly, please contact our Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-491-1899, via Report a Pest- <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest>, or by contacting your local County Agricultural Commissioner here - [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county\\_countymap/](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county_countymap/)



## State warns organic farmers to stop using W.O.W. Whack Out Weeds! and EcoMight-Pro pesticides

The state is warning organic farmers against the use of pesticides labeled as W.O.W Whack Out Weeds! and EcoMight-Pro distributed by EcoMIGHT, as lab tests show that these products labeled as organic, natural and glyphosate-free do in fact contain potentially hazardous chemicals.

Today, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued a notice to EcoMIGHT, LLC, a Florida-based company, that it may be in violation of state law by manufacturing, delivering or selling unregistered pesticide products in California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) issued a Stop Use Notice for organic growers about EcoMIGHT products. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) also notified EcoMIGHT that it may be in violation of federal law.

EcoMIGHT currently markets its products as “organic,” “natural,” “glyphosate-free,” and “non-toxic and safe.” However, state laboratory analyses of W.O.W. Whack Out Weeds! and EcoMight-Pro products sold in California found that the products tested contain potentially hazardous chemicals including glyphosate, bifenthrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, and carbaryl. California registered pesticides that contain these chemicals go through scientific review and have specific requirements for use and personal protective equipment that protect workers, communities and the environment from harmful pesticide exposure. W.O.W Whack Out Weeds! and EcoMight-Pro do not contain these safety instructions.

“It is critical that we notify California employers, workers and residents, who may be using EcoMIGHT products about these safety concerns to prevent potential injury,” said DPR acting director Julie Henderson. “This includes ensuring pesticides are properly registered and labeled so you know if you are handling benign ingredients or need to use protective equipment – like gloves, goggles or respirators.”

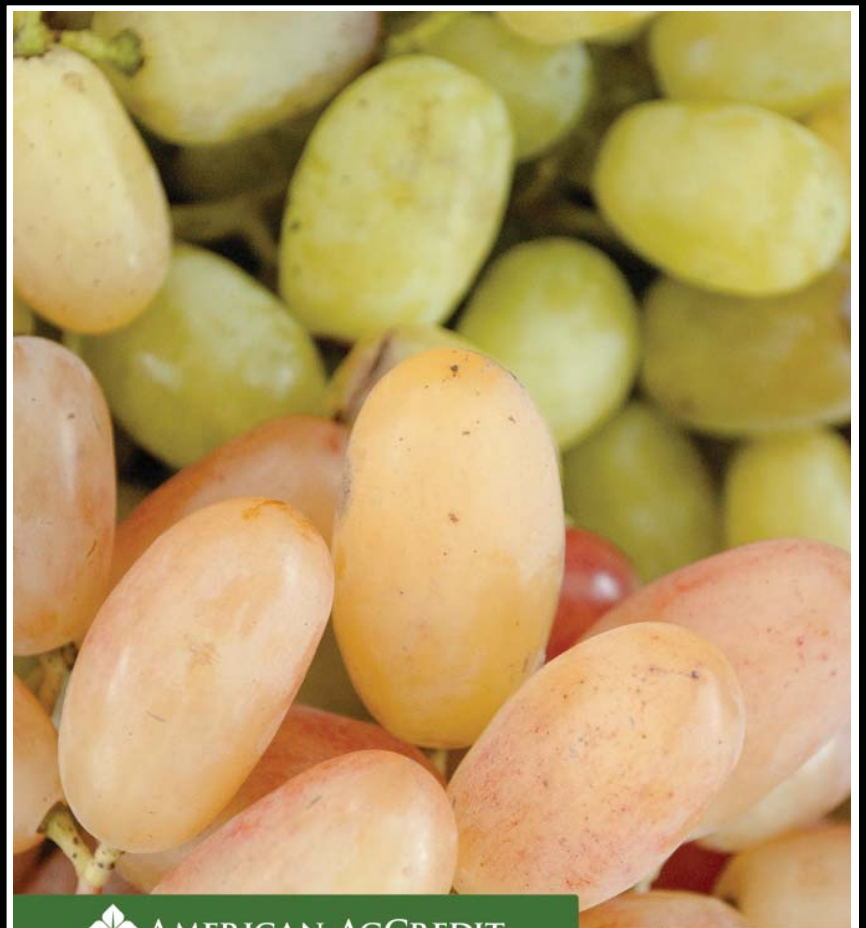
The synthetic chemical compounds CDFA laboratory analysis found in W.O.W. Whack Out Weeds! and EcoMight-Pro products are prohibited for use in organic production by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program. Additionally, these products pose a public health risk because the products were found to contain hazardous chemicals not disclosed on their labels.

“It is imperative that we alert California organic growers that these EcoMIGHT products contain substances that are prohibited in organic production, in order to preserve the integrity of the California organic label and to protect our growers,” said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

DPR and CDFA investigations began in San Diego and Ventura Counties in June 2021, when local County Agricultural Commissioners alerted state agency partners of a potential concern with the EcoMIGHT products. CDFA’s Sacramento lab analyzed samples and DPR, CDFA and additional state and federal regulators are reviewing the lab analyses for potential state and federal violations.

In addition to actions taken by California state agencies, U.S. EPA notified EcoMIGHT that it may be in violation of federal law by manufacturing, distributing or selling unregistered pesticide products. As part of its enforcement of the law, U.S. EPA registers pesticide products and approves label language before a pesticide can be sold or distributed. The agency’s goal is to provide clear directions for effective product performance while minimizing risks to human health and the environment.

If you are aware of illegal pesticide use or concerned about potential illness from pesticide exposure, please report your concerns immediately to 1-87PestLine (1-877-378-5463), anonymously report using DPR’s mobile app CASPIR or reach out directly to your County Agricultural Commissioner.



AMERICAN AGCREDIT

### AG IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

Money for agriculture. It’s what we know. It’s all we do.

**Call 800.800.4865 today or visit [AgLoan.com](http://AgLoan.com)**

A part of the Farm Credit System. Equal Opportunity Lender.

# Detection of Citrus Disease, Huanglongbing, in San Diego County Establishes New Quarantine Area

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has declared a quarantine in north San Diego County following the detection of the citrus disease Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening, in two citrus trees on one residential property in the city of Oceanside. This is the first time the plant disease, which does not harm people but is deadly to citrus, has been detected in San Diego County. CDFA is working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner on this cooperative project.

The detection will require a mandatory 60-square-mile quarantine area around the find site to restrict the movement of citrus fruit, trees and related plant material. The quarantine area is bordered on the north by Vandergriff Boulevard at Camp Pendleton; on the south by Carlsbad Village Drive in unincorporated San Diego County; on the west by the Pacific Ocean; and on the east by Melrose Drive in Oceanside. HLB quarantine maps for San Diego County are available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/hlb/regulation.html>. Please check this link for future quarantine expansions, should they occur. An HLB quarantine area currently exists in parts of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where more than 2,400 trees have tested positive for the disease and have been removed.

The quarantine prohibits the movement of all citrus nursery stock or plant parts out of the quarantine area. Provisions exist to allow the movement of commercially cleaned and packed citrus fruit. Fruit that is not commercially cleaned and packed must not be moved from the property on which it is grown, although it may be processed and/or consumed on the premises. This includes residential citrus, such as oranges, lemons, grapefruit and kumquats.

Residents are urged to take several steps to help protect citrus trees:

- Do not move citrus plants, leaves or foliage into or out of the quarantine area or across state or international borders. Keep it local.
- Cooperate with agricultural officials placing traps, inspecting trees and treating for the pest.
- If you no longer wish to care for your citrus tree, consider removing it so it does not become a host to the pest and disease.

HLB is a bacterial disease that affects the vascular system of citrus trees and plants. It does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria as the pest feeds on citrus trees and plants. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure; the tree will produce bitter and misshaped fruit and die within a few years.

CDFA staff are scheduling removal of the infected trees and are in the midst of surveying citrus trees in a 250-meter radius around the detection site to determine if any other trees are infected with HLB. A treatment program for citrus trees to reduce Asian citrus psyllid infestations will also be conducted within 250-meter radius of the find site. By taking this action, a critical reservoir of the disease and its vectors will be removed, which is essential to protect surrounding citrus from this deadly disease.

CDFA, in partnership with the USDA, local County Agricultural Commissioners, and the citrus industry, continues to pursue a strategy of controlling the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid while researchers work to find a cure for the disease.

## Incentive Funding for Electric Forklifts



up to  
**\$175,000**  
per forklift

Available now until Sep 22  
or until funding is exhausted

### Key Program Details

- Applies to forklifts with lift capacity of 8,000 lbs or greater
- May be anywhere in California and in any use or sector

### How It Works

- Must scrap old forklift with internal combustion engine (Tier 4 diesel or earlier, LPG forklifts eligible, LSI forklifts eligible.)
- Must replace with all-electric forklift (battery-electric, hydrogen fuel cell or grid-tied)

Applications accepted on first-come first-served basis  
Up to \$10 million per applicant. Up to \$34 million available Statewide.

For more information, visit the [program website](https://www.californiavwtrust.org/zero-freight-marine/) or reach out to us with questions.



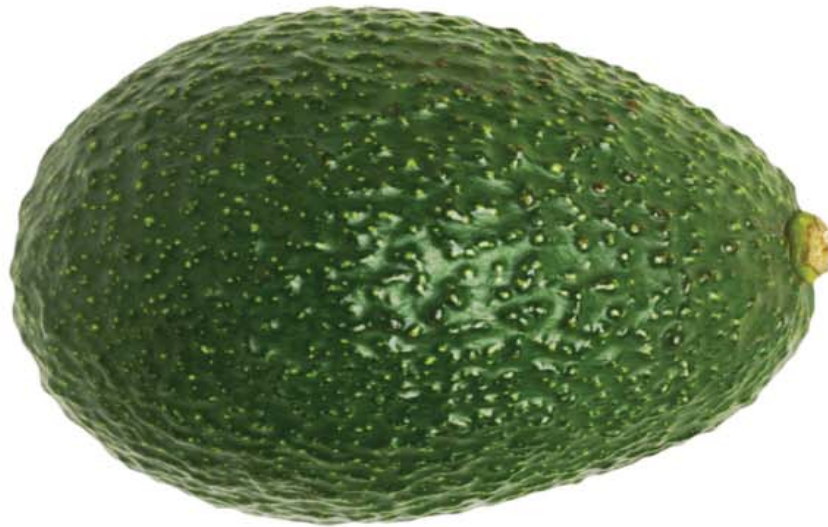
<https://www.californiavwtrust.org/zero-freight-marine/>



[CaliforniaVWTrust@baagmd.gov](mailto:CaliforniaVWTrust@baagmd.gov)



1-844-9VW-FUND



# BUMPY GOODNESS

When you work with Index Fresh you can count on a few bumps...on the avocados, that is. But when it comes to our grower relationships, we keep things running nice and smooth.



800.352.6931  
IndexFresh.com



# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



*Riverside County Farm Bureau cordially invites you to celebrate our 104th Annual Meeting*

**November 13, 2021  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**\$40.00**  
per person  
(children under 12 free)

**\$60.00**  
per Couple

**Special Guest Speaker  
Jamie Johansson**  
California Farm Bureau President

**Monteleone Meadows  
35245 Briggs Road  
Murrieta, CA 92563**

This will be an outdoor event.  
For reservations, please call  
Riverside County Farm Bureau at (951) 684-6732  
by November 5, 2021



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board of Directors meeting in August 2021. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. More details will be announced at a later date.

## Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

### *Farmers now eligible for new coverage*

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation to enable farmers and ranchers to use the state's insurer of last resort. Senate Bill 11, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, is intended to help farmers who lost insurance coverage due to wildfires. After record-setting fires, many found that obtaining new coverage was extremely costly or impossible. They can now be insured under the California FAIR plan, a fire insurance pool for high-risk properties.

### *Drought, winds yield smaller avocados*

Avocados from California are smaller this year and the seasonal harvest is expected to be down by as much as 30 percent in total pounds. According to the California Avocado Commission, that's the result of low rainfall totals over the last few years. Another factor is Santa Ana winds that struck avocado-growing regions in January. This year, growers are more likely to fill cartons with 60 smaller avocados rather than 48 larger ones.

### *Grants will help prepare more teachers in food and agricultural sciences*

New federal grants will help teachers across the country integrate food and agricultural science into their classes. Funds will also encourage students to explore career paths in food and agriculture and help them find mentors. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has invested \$6.2 million in these professional-development agriculture grants for teachers in kindergarten through grade 14.

*"Farm Bureau Working for You"*

**FRITTS FORD  
HERE FOR YOU THEN  
HERE FOR YOU NOW**



**951/ 353-8800  
WWW.FRITTSFLEET.COM**