

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 12, December 2021.



California Farm Bureau Farm Dog Award
Grand Prize awarded to Border Collie "Crystal". Story on Page 3.
Photo by Photographer Melissa Jewel.

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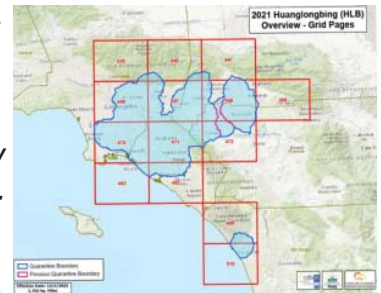
The Riverside County Farm Bureau has secured additional stock of disposable masks, please contact our office for availability and to arrange pick-up.

Call our Office (951) 684-6732

HLB Quarantine Expansion Connects Boundaries in Jurupa Valley and Riverside Areas

Effective Dec. 6, 2021, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has expanded the Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine boundaries in Riverside and San Bernardino counties in the Jurupa Valley and Riverside areas to create one quarantine area, connecting parts of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. A map of the boundary expansion can be found below and at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/hlb/regulation.html#maps>.

Additionally, effective Dec. 6, 2021, CDFA is expanding the Asian citrus psyllid bulk citrus quarantine zone 6 in Riverside and San Bernardino counties to reflect the HLB boundary expansion. A map of the proposed new boundaries can be found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/pests_diseases/acp/regulation.html.



For any questions regarding the regulations or quarantine area, please email Karina Chu at **Karina.Chu@cdfa.ca.gov** or call 916-274-6300.

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Border Collie Earns California Farm Bureau Farm Dog Award



Crystal, a 3-year-old border collie that works on her family's dairy in Riverside County, has earned the \$1,000 Grand Prize in the second annual California Farm Bureau Farm Dog Contest. The award was announced today during the 103rd California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Open to Farm Bureau members, with support from Nationwide, the contest asked entrants to submit photos and a brief story about their dog.

Eric and Dana Boersma and their four young-adult children run the dairy in San Jacinto. Faced with a burdensome staffing shortage, they adopted Crystal to help them herd the cows.

"Whenever she sees a cow, her ears perk up and she gets all excited, ready to go to work," Eric Boersma said in his essay. "Crystal is always by our side when we are in the corrals or pastures, looking intently for her next assignment."

But Crystal has brought much more than just practical help with the workload, he added.

"In one of the most difficult years we have ever experienced on our farm, Crystal has helped us not only to endure, but also to rediscover the joy that farm life brings," Boersma said.

First place in the contest, and a \$500 prize, went to Butte County cattle rancher Shirley Bohan and her Great Pyrenees mix, Hugo, who she said was a big help after the family lost pastureland to the Dixie Fire.

Second place, and \$250, was awarded to Tulare County citrus farmer Gary Caviglia and his German shepherd, Scout. Caviglia said Scout guards the farm and enjoys catching a ride on any moving vehicle.

Third place, and \$100, went to Monterey County Farm Bureau member Vanessa Ramirez and her Australian shepherd mix, Harper. Ramirez said Harper has worked by her side at several different locations, with water buffalo, goats and sheep.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 31,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 6 million Farm Bureau member families.

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Riverside County Farm Bureau Delegates attend California Farm Bureau's 103rd Annual Meeting in Garden Grove



RCFB President Richard Schmid (L) and Director Brad Scott (R)

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson opened the 103rd Annual Meeting with outlining how things can change if members don't stay involved and vigilant about protecting California agriculture and the over 400 crops grown across the Golden State. He reminded participants that, when California became the largest agricultural state in the nation in 1949, the biggest agricultural county was Los Angeles County.



Johansson said those who criticize California farmers for using too much water should realize that water gets used on behalf of the people in California. If the farms disappear in California, the state is less essential to this country and the world. Agriculture in California is essential.

He also pushed back on pesticide regulations that take away crop protection tools and hinder climate-smart solutions. Farmers need to be allowed to be efficient as they deal with climate change impacts and legislation coming down the pike. It is not a climate solution if you make farmers less efficient. Legislators should not take away crop tools that are needed.



Despite the challenges, California Farm Bureau had a number of legislative wins in California, including the defeat of a measure to increase property taxes, Proposition 15, which is described as a victory for agriculture and Gov. Gavin Newsom's veto of Assembly Bill 616, a card check measure that would have taken away farmworkers' ability to use a secret ballot when voting on union organizing and require worker contributions to the unions.

At the U.S. Supreme Court, California Farm Bureau also submitted an amicus brief in support of Cedar Point Nursery, an operation that was fighting against farmworker unions who wanted freed access to recruit workers on the farm. California Farm Bureau's comments from the amicus brief were used as part of the argument to strike down the case; the court ruled that the California regulation allowing union organizers to recruit agricultural workers at their workplaces violated the constitutional rights of their employers.

President Johansson knows regulatory, legislative and legal challenges will not be going away soon and asked his grassroots members to continue to be engaged.

President Johansson knows regulatory, legislative and legal challenges will not be going away soon and asked his grassroots members to continue to be engaged.



"It's time that California Farm Bureau put the boots back on the ground in real time, walking the streets of Sacramento and in the hallways of Washington DC and making a difference."

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and

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It is my privilege to submit the 2020 Riverside County Agricultural Production Report. This report is produced in accordance with Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, and summarizes the acreage, production and valuation of our County's agricultural commodities.

The gross value of all agricultural crops produced during 2020 in Riverside County is **\$1,418,220,000**. This total represents an increase of \$97 million (7.3%) from last year's total value. The largest increase (21%) was seen in nursery production followed by livestock and poultry production (18.5%) while vegetable crops saw a 5.6% drop in value.

Using historical economic values, the total agricultural contribution to Riverside County's economy is approximately \$3.9 billion.

This report is our yearly opportunity to recognize the growers, shippers, ranchers and other businesses instrumental to and supportive of agriculture in Riverside County. As such, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the industry for their continued efforts in providing the vital information that enables the compilation of this report. Special recognition goes to the Agricultural Commissioner's staff for their efforts in the production of this year's report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruben J. Arroyo
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

**To view the complete 2020 Crop Report, please visit www.riversidecfb.com
Click onto Ag Information/Magazine.**

RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT

2020



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Junior Enterprises, a Big Deal in Agriculture

Coming from two generations of agricultural workers, Luis Alonzo Jr himself began working in the agricultural industry in Imperial, Monterey, and Riverside Counties. Farming for his family was a vocation that had been passed down to him from his parents that worked in the agricultural fields of Michoacan, Mexico. In 2008, Luis took his family knowledge and pride and started his own business, Junior Enterprises, in Coachella Valley. His business operates over 800 acres of agricultural land, growing commodities like, bell peppers, potatoes, corn, green beans, and artichokes. In 2015, continuing the family tradition, Luis's twin children Luis and Celeste joined the ranks, and last year his youngest child Andres joined as well.

For Junior Enterprises, farming is a thing of pride, "knowing that we are feeding our people, our nation. Farmers and farmworkers take great pride in their work. We need food to live. I am glad the pandemic opened the eyes of our nation to see how essential farm workers are" Celeste Alonzo stated. This pride and basis on family values is evident by the support provided to the 25 year-round employees, and up to 200 contracted workers during harvest season. Through financial grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and personal protective equipment allocations from the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's office, including N95 respirators, face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, equipment that could not be found on the shelves at the time, employees had a better sense of security and comfort. The support provided by the governmental agencies allowed Jr. Enterprises to extend employees paid sick time above and beyond the two-week allotment given by the state, a promise vowed to employees by the business, to ensure that employees livelihood remained intact. The County of Riverside and the Growing Coachella Valley Program organized the first COVID-19 vaccination site for farmworker which added another layer of protection for his workers.

During last year's pandemic, many industries struggled to keep workers employed. For Junior Enterprises, this was not an issue. The support provided by the business paid its dividends as they experienced no employee turnover during that time. "They were really appreciative of my dad's vow. At the end of the day, we are all family, and we are going to take care of each other as family" Celeste Alonzo stated. The company supervisor, a gentleman named Prospero, has known Luis' father for over 40 years, and knew Luis before he was born. Prospero says that their future is uncertain. With rising water prices, short supply and increased demands for labor across the nation, the business has its work cut out for them, but this determination and value system they hold will surely help push this thriving business forward into the future.



CALIFORNIA'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES BY TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION

<u>2019</u>			<u>2018</u>		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Value (\$)</u>
1	Fresno	7,717,906,900	1	Kern	7,254,004,000
2	Kern	7,620,699,180	2	Tulare	7,039,709,000
3	Tulare	7,505,352,100	3	Fresno	7,024,915,000
4	Monterey	4,409,992,000	4	Monterey	4,425,425,000
5	Stanislaus	3,598,404,000	5	Stanislaus	3,648,192,000
6	Merced	3,161,248,000	6	Merced	3,409,518,000
7	San Joaquin	2,617,815,000	7	San Joaquin	2,527,966,000
8	Kings	2,187,693,000	8	Ventura	2,099,889,000
9	Imperial	2,015,843,000	9	Kings	2,066,329,000
10	Madera	2,001,565,000	10	Imperial	2,065,599,000
11	Ventura	1,990,100,000	11	Madera	1,973,067,000
12	San Diego	1,795,528,573	12	San Diego	1,774,192,000
13	Santa Barbara	1,600,146,484	13	Santa Barbara	1,590,351,000
14	Riverside	1,321,265,000	14	Riverside	1,299,208,000

OTHER MILLION DOLLAR COMMODITIES

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>
Grapefruit	32,613,407	Cotton	9,315,600	Cabbage	3,595,827
Turf Grass	30,799,883	Wheat - Grain	8,278,590	Talapia	3,487,500
Carrots	25,812,476	Alfalfa - Silage	7,944,960	Honeydew melon	3,208,000
Lettuce - Head	21,432,420	Mixed Melons	7,528,000	Tomatoes	3,172,154
Mandarins/Tangerines	21,335,340	Okra	7,189,248	Cotton Seed	3,105,000
Onion - Dry	21,103,200	Romaine Lettuce	6,854,853	Kale	2,425,806
Wine Grapes	19,000,000	Celery	6,248,568	Beets	2,325,015
Cauliflower	17,014,000	Watermelon	6,100,381	Strawberries	2,182,250
Spinach	15,254,862	Oranges	5,478,000	Squash	1,873,808
Artichokes	12,172,680	Cantaloupe	5,376,000	Sudan Grass	1,777,720
Cattle / Calves	11,400,000	Green Beans	5,136,000	Rye Grass	1,670,630
Oriental Vegetables	11,316,600	Eggplant	5,076,400	Radishes	1,662,216
Industrial Hemp	10,800,000	Pollination	4,750,000	Corn - Silage	1,577,685
Corn - Sweet	9,952,174	Spices / Herbs	4,701,152	Chili peppers	1,551,000
Bermuda Grass	9,645,120	Potatoes	4,107,301	Lamb and Sheep	1,402,000

TEN LEADING CROPS FOR 2020

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crop</u>	<u>Value</u>
1st	Nursery Stock	\$214,578,000
2nd	Milk	\$182,400,000
3rd	Alfalfa	\$97,885,000
4th	Table Grapes	\$89,388,000
5th	Avocados	\$88,697,000
6th	Dates	\$80,080,000
7th	Bell Peppers	\$70,513,000
8th	Lemons	\$65,891,000
9th	Eggs	\$62,039,000
10th	Broccoli	\$41,418,000

TOTAL VALUATION

Crop	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Citrus	200,101,000	177,055,000	170,775,000	121,934,000	126,567,000
Tree and Vine	227,444,000	228,315,000	249,150,000	268,368,000	282,840,000
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	365,157,000	331,986,000	371,570,000	354,217,000	334,440,000
Field and Seed	97,184,000	96,063,000	93,282,000	141,652,000	156,114,000
Nursery	150,426,000	153,749,000	165,758,000	204,768,000	247,765,000
Apiculture	5,082,000	5,415,000	5,473,000	6,123,000	5,858,000
Aquaculture	4,624,000	4,764,000	4,732,000	4,776,000	4,596,000
Total Crop	1,050,018,000	997,347,000	1,060,740,000	1,101,838,000	1,158,180,000
Livestock and Poultry	225,758,000	221,175,000	238,468,000	219,427,000	260,040,000
GRAND TOTAL	1,275,776,000	1,218,522,000	1,299,208,000	1,321,265,000	1,418,220,000

ACREAGE STATISTICS

Crop	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Citrus	15,802	16,082	17,333	19,756	18,889
Tree and Vine	22,784	23,405	22,988	21,075	22,506
Vegetable, Melons, Misc.	46,934	39,621	44,287	46,709	40,550
Field and Seed	102,829	102,829	102,829	116,182	127,346
Nursery	5,695	6,082	6,909	5,616	5,624
Total Planted Acreage	194,044	188,019	194,346	209,338	214,915

DISTRICT VALUATIONS - AGRICULTURAL CROPS

District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Riverside/Corona	91,835,000	102,010,000	105,905,000	126,279,000	135,650,000
San Jacinto/Temecula Valley	146,500,000	156,061,000	153,514,000	148,788,000	165,415,000
Coachella Valley	639,620,000	592,337,000	623,805,000	684,911,000	703,250,000
Palo Verde Valley	124,708,000	142,468,000	151,721,000	209,974,510	216,100,000
Total Crop Valuation	1,002,663,000	992,876,000	1,034,945,000	1,169,953,000	1,220,415,000

PAST RIVERSIDE COUNTY RANKING 2011 - 2021

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>STATE RANK</u>
2011	\$1,282,256,000	13
2012	\$1,253,130,000	13
2013	\$1,327,804,000	14
2014	\$1,362,016,000	13
2015	\$1,301,551,000	14
2016	\$1,275,776,000	14
2017	\$1,218,552,000	14
2018	\$1,299,208,000	14
2019	\$1,352,148,000	14
2020	\$1,418,220,000	?

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board of Directors meeting in December 2021. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

California citrus yield drops; fruit is smaller
A hot, dry year has impacted California's citrus production. Growers say early navel varieties generally are running smaller this year, putting a premium on larger offerings. Meanwhile, a survey of state citrus growers says the costs of bringing citrus to market has jumped 19% since early 2020. Factors include ballooning costs of surface water and increased expenses for fuel and fertilizer.

Processing options will help ranchers with direct meat sales
Ranchers who sell meat directly to customers continue to struggle with where to take their animals for processing, as packing plants are often booked solid. New federally inspected mobile operations are coming online to help, including one that opened in March. Starting in 2022, a new law will also allow ranchers who sell whole animals directly to customers to use mobile operations exempt from federal inspections to process animals on the farm.

Bill signed to aid livestock rescues during wildfires
Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation to help farmers and ranchers rescue livestock during wildfires. Assembly Bill 1103 creates a statewide program, called Ag Pass. The new law will allow farmers, ranchers and managerial employees to have access to livestock during wildfires or other natural disasters. The Ag Pass would permit them to pass law-enforcement checkpoints and enter their properties without escort.

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