

# 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 10, October 2021.



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(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.

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## Welcome New Members

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

## Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Riverside County Farm Bureau, election of Officers and Directors will be held by the Agricultural (Voting) members at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta, CA.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following Board of Directors for the 2021 - 2022 membership year.

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
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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

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/countyriversidedepartmentofpublichealth)
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RivCoDoc>

# Happy Halloween



## Sheriff's Ag Team Corner

Courtesy of Southwest RSO Sgt. Bob Epps

In the early morning hours of March 24, 2021, two unknown suspects burglarized a Farmer's Market in Riverside. They broke into the building, walked around the business briefly, and then loaded the business' safe into their vehicle and drove away. Both suspects were wearing masks and the license plates were removed from their vehicle. They got away with around \$6,000 in cash and some jewelry that was in the safe.

Basically, there were little to no leads in this case and it was likely to be 'open/suspended' indefinitely. Since the business falls into the scope of the Sheriff's Ag Team, we took over the investigation.

Two members of the Sheriff's Ag Team, Deputies De Santiago and Pourier, have diligently worked on this case to establish potential leads. They wrote several search warrants and sifted through immense data in their efforts to identify the suspects.

Then some good old-fashioned police work came into play and they positively identified one of the suspects. They conducted covert surveillance and confirmed his residence in Escondido.

Afterwards, Ag Team deputies met with the District Attorney. They presented their case and got an arrest warrant issued for the person they identified. This was a crucial step to make sure the case is solid and the DA is willing to prosecute.

I'm pleased to say the District Attorney was very happy with their work and there was more than enough evidence to file charges and pursue prosecution. As of today, the suspect has been arrested and he is in jail waiting for a court date regarding the burglary.

While the second suspect is still outstanding, we continue to work towards identifying him and he will eventually join his partner in our jail facility.

This is just one example of our commitment to investigating agriculture related crimes and making sure our agriculture partners get the service Sheriff Bianco intended from this team.

If you are experiencing theft or other crimes, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Ag Team and we will be happy to respond and start an investigation. You can reach me on my desk phone, (951) 696-3184, or by email at [repps@riversidesheriff.org](mailto:repps@riversidesheriff.org).

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# State Senate Declares October as California Farmer and Farmworker Month



The Senate passed a resolution recognizing October as California Farmer and Farmworker Month in perpetuity, calling on all Californians and visitors to urgently support those who've worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to protect our food supply—which is still at risk—by buying California grown farm products such as produce, dairy, meat, wine and flowers.

Since California plays a big role in the nation's food supply and economy—supporting 1.2 million jobs, producing over 400 crops and roughly 50 percent of U.S. produce overall—California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross also urges people outside the state to support farmers and farmworkers by choosing California grown products when shopping in stores or online.

“California Farmer and Farmworker Month is an important time to share our gratitude for the commitment of our agriculture community, which came together early in the pandemic to secure a safe, nutritious food supply,” Ross said. “Consumers can take great pride in the high quality of CA GROWN products and how they are grown, reflecting California values for farmworker protections, environmental stewardship, and knowing there is a place for all in California agriculture.”

While farmers and farmworkers kept people nourished during the pandemic, their farms and jobs suffered greatly due to hospitality industry closures and restrictions. At the same time, millions of residents lost their jobs and relied increasingly on food banks, which farms contributed to significantly more than ever more during COVID-19 and still are. In a normal year, farmers donate over 160 million pounds of nutritious food, providing meals to the most vulnerable portion of the state's population.

Karla Stockli, Chairperson of CA Grown and CEO of the California Fig Advisory Board, echoed Secretary Ross's comments, urging residents and businesses to help farmers and farmworkers recover and continue sustaining our economy and wellbeing by buying California grown products.

“It's important for consumers to understand the work that goes into producing food, and how important the agricultural community is in their day-to-day lives,” said Stockli. “That's why California Farmer + Farmworker Month was created, to help connect consumers with the people who produce their food, and the effort and thought that goes into it, so they can support them.” Please visit <https://californiagrown.org> for more information.



Farm Team is your opportunity to make your voice heard in Sacramento and Washington D.C. Farm Team members sign up to receive emails and text messages alerting them to critical legislation that will impact California agriculture. The alerts allow you to send messages directly to your elected representatives with a few clicks on your phone or computer.

Farm Team has been instrumental in stopping bad bills before they are signed into law. By letting your representatives know how important an issue is, you have a direct voice in the process.

Consider joining Farm Team today. Visit [cfbf.com/farm-team](http://cfbf.com/farm-team) or text CFBF to 40649.

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(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC/ RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURE		2. Publication Number 466900	ISSN	3. Filing Date 09/28/2021
4. Issue Frequency MONTHLY		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12		6. Annual Subscription Price \$ 1.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102 MORENO VALLEY, RIVERSIDE, CA 92557-8706			Contact Person STEPHANIE BELL Telephone (951) 684-6732	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102 MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557-8706				
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor				
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102 MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557-8706				
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102 MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557-8706				
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102 MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557-8706				
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)				
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address		
Riverside County Farm Bureau		A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, 21160 BOX SPRINGS RD STE 102, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557-8706		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None				
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)				

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13. Publication Title RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC/RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURE		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/28/2021		
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run)		752	725	
(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		0	0	
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		696	678	
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		0	0	
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS		0	0	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0	0	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		696	678	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		0	0	
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541		0	0	
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		0	0	
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0	0	
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		8	0	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))		8	0	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		704	678	
g. Copies not Distributed		48	47	
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		752	725	
i. Percent Paid (15c / 15h times 100)		98.86 %	100.00 %	
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below.				
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	0	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0	
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0	
d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies)		0.00 %	0.00 %	
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/01/2021 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.				
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Title	Date	
Stephanie Bell		Office Manager	09/28/2021 12:15:20 PM	
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# New Spray and Harvest Product Approved for Growers - Mustang Maxx

Effective Sept. 13, 2021, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced the addition of Mustang Maxx to the list of products available for use when conducting spray and harvest mitigation.

As recommended by the University of California (UC), Mustang Maxx (EPA Registration Number 279-3426) has been added to the list of approved products, along with its proper use rates, on the Information for Citrus Growers/Grove Managers document available on CDFA's website and Citrus Insider. It is incumbent upon the user to follow all label directions when using any of the products approved for spray and harvest as a foliar application.

For the latest information and additional details on recommended treatments, visit the UC IPM ACP website.

For questions regarding the changes made, please email Karina Chu or call CDFA at 916-274-6300.

## CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU PRAISES GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM'S VETO OF AB 616

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson today applauded Gov. Gavin Newsom for vetoing Assembly Bill 616. The legislation would have allowed yearlong mail-in card-check campaigns for unionizing instead of a secret ballot election.

"The California Farm Bureau is proud of our farmers, ranchers and farm workers who stood up and spoke out against AB 616 and the threat it represented for the rights of agricultural employees to be free of undue fear and intimidation," Johansson said. "The firm action taken today by Governor Newsom in vetoing 616 protects the sanctity of the secret ballot election. It means that strong-arm organizing tactics and coercion have no place in California agriculture."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 32,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members.

## USDA Introduces New Insurance Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rolling out a new insurance option specifically for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The new Micro Farm policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) created this new policy based on research directed by the 2018 Farm Bill, and it includes feedback from producers who grow for their local communities. The policy will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year.

The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less. The policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers.

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# 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 November or 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

### *Home cooking during pandemic is a boon for organic market*

As cooking at home spiked during the pandemic, that created a boon for organic farmers and producers. According to the Organic Trade Association, the U.S. market for organic products jumped by more than 12% to nearly \$62 billion in 2020. California accounts for 20% of America's organic farm acreage and 90% of shoppers in the Golden State buy organic products.

### *California legislation funds \$1.1 billion for 'Climate Smart Agriculture'*

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed climate legislation that includes \$1.1 billion in spending over two years to support sustainable agriculture practices. The program includes investments for soil management for crops and methane reduction efforts for livestock. Funds would also go toward replacement of agricultural equipment to reduce emissions and to offer financial incentives and technical assistance for farm conservation planning.

### *Study: Researchers get seeds to sprout in drought conditions*

University of California Riverside researchers are working to minimize effects of a plant hormone that reacts to drought stress. As plants perceive hot, dry conditions, they emit abscisic acid, a hormone that helps them retain water. That can stop plants from germinating, leading to lower crop yields. But in a recent study, UC researchers say a new chemical modulator can disrupt that process—so plants can sprout seeds, even in drought.

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