

# 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 9, September 2021.



Photo by Sokmean Nou on Unsplash.com



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## Welcome New Members

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

## California Farm Bureau President Praises Nomination of Elaine Trevino

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson today applauded President Joe Biden's decision to nominate Elaine Trevino as his top agricultural trade negotiator.

Trevino, who is from California's Central Valley, is president of the Almond Alliance of California. She previously worked on international trade programs as deputy secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture under former governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Johansson is urging her swift confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

"California's farmers and ranchers are extremely pleased with Elaine Trevino's appointment as chief agricultural trade negotiator for the United States Trade Representative," Johansson said. "She brings a real-life understanding of California farm communities and served in key leadership positions for both Democratic and Republican administrations. Her experience in the top agricultural production and export state in the nation gives her deep knowledge of how our nation should best navigate trade issues for the benefit of farm producers across America."



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>

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# Notes from the Riverside County Sheriff's Agriculture Team (AG Team)



The Sheriff's Ag Team is getting busier and busier serving our agriculture partners and we are happy to be in this role. One service that seems to be gaining popularity is the Owner Applied Number (OAN) stamping.

The OAN is a unique number used to protect and identify equipment, tools, vehicles and other valuable items from a ranch, farm, dairy, winery or any other agriculture related business. It is a 10-digit number that represents an individual agriculture business. Each business will be assigned their own unique OAN that can be imprinted on their equipment.

An OAN follows a standard configuration.

A typical OAN would look like: CA0331234A.

OAN Part:	Relevance:
CA	Represents the OAN was originated in California
033	Indicates the OAN is from a Riverside County facility.
1234	Unique number assigned to the individual ag business.
A	Alphabetical designator as part of the unique configuration for each ag business.

The Ag Team is happy to facilitate getting your OAN assigned to you and we are currently able to stamp it on a wide range of metal items. The OAN is commonly applied to tractors, trailers, motorized vehicles, tools & equipment and just about any other item you want marked with your OAN.

Having your own OAN makes it much easier for any stolen equipment to be quickly identified as yours, and eventually returned to you. Anyone interested in obtaining an OAN and marking some equipment with it should contact the Ag Team and we will be happy to make it happen. 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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## Pallet Thefts

In our effort to maintain a positive and productive relationship with our ag partners, the Sheriff's Ag Team would like to take a moment to pass along some information about a pattern of pallet thefts we are investigating.

The Ag Team has been looking into several incidents of pallet thefts that were occurring in the Temecula and Lake Elsinore area. Our efforts identified 4 suspects and we were able to recover over 100 stolen pallets. Our investigation determined a few individuals made a habit of going around to various locations and taking pallets in the middle of the night. Most of these pallets were behind a business location and outdoors.

The people stealing them have been captured on several different videos taking over 100 at a time. A local avocado packing business near Temecula recently lost around 500 pallets based on the surveillance videos we watched. There were multiple suspects involved in the those thefts and I'm happy to say the Ag Team has arrested 2 of them. Another suspect was contacted and interviewed and theft charges will be filed with the District Attorney.

If you are experiencing pallet thefts, I'd encourage you to call anyone from the Ag Team and we will be happy to respond and investigate the matter. My desk phone is (951) 696-3184. Feel free to call me and leave a voice mail if that's easier and I will ensure the right team members get the information and reach out to you.

Thanks for all your support.  
Sgt. Bob Epps, Sheriff's Ag Team

# USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers

USDA is dedicated to reaching a broad set of producers and agricultural businesses through our Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

## **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**

On March 24, 2021 USDA announced updates to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for producers of agricultural commodities marketed in 2020 who faced market disruptions due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) re-opened signup for CFAP 2 beginning on April 5, 2021. CFAP was also updated to include an increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle, additional CFAP 2 assistance for eligible row-crop producers, and processing of eligible payments for CFAP Additional Assistance.

USDA announced additional CFAP 2 updates on August 24, 2021, including payments for eligible livestock and poultry contract producers and a flexibility to payment calculations for sales-based commodities. A signup deadline of October 12, 2021 was also announced.

Visit [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cfap) for more information on the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, including eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure, and options to apply for CFAP 2.

## **Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program**

On July 13, 2021 USDA announced the Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (PLIP). PLIP provides financial assistance to support producers of eligible swine, chickens, and turkeys depopulated from March 1, 2020, through December 26, 2020. To be eligible, depopulation of poultry or livestock must have been due to insufficient processing access resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Livestock and poultry also must have been physically located in the United States or a territory of the United States at the time of depopulation.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 20 through October 12, 2021. FSA extended the original signup deadline, which was September 17, 2021. Visit [farmers.gov/plip](https://farmers.gov/plip) to learn more about additional eligibility requirements and how to apply.

## **Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program**

On July 20, 2021 USDA announced the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program (PATHH). PATHH provides up to \$200 million to support timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced a loss of at least 10 percent gross revenue from January 1 through December 1, 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. Individual loggers or truckers, or legal entities, may be eligible for up to \$125,000 in financial assistance through this program.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept applications July 22 through October 15, 2021. Visit [farmers.gov/pathh](https://farmers.gov/pathh) to learn more about additional eligibility requirements and how to apply through your local USDA Service Center.

## **Additional Pandemic Assistance for Producers**

In March, USDA announced the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative to support a number of new programs or to modify existing efforts, many of which were implemented in June and July of 2021. These efforts will continue to focus on filling gaps in previous rounds of assistance and helping beginning, socially disadvantaged, and small and medium sized producers that need support most. USDA will provide support for:

- **Biofuel producers.** USDA will allocate \$700 million to support biofuel producers.
- **Dairy farmers and processors.** USDA will allocate approximately \$580 million through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for small and medium farms.
- **Organic producers.** USDA will allocate up to \$20 million in additional organic cost share assistance. These funds will be available to organic producers and producers who are transitioning to organic.
- **Small hog producers that use the spot market or negotiate prices.** USDA has examined the difference between the negotiated prices for hogs and the five-year average and documented a significant drop during April through September of 2020 due to the pandemic. USDA has set aside up to \$50 million in pandemic assistance funds to provide additional assistance for small hog producers that use the spot market or negotiate prices. Details on the additional targeted assistance are expected to be available this summer.

For more information, please visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov) and click Pandemic Assistance or visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).



## New Book Gives Kids Glimpse of a ‘Barn at Night’



A new children’s book is now available for families searching for a captivating agriculture story to share. “Barn at Night,” featuring lyrical poetry and glowing watercolors, is now available from Feeding Minds Press, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture’s publishing venture.

“In ‘Barn at Night,’ readers discover the certain magic of a farm in the quiet predawn hours,” said Foundation for Agriculture executive director Daniel Meloy. “It is our hope that this book will illustrate the dedication of farmers and ranchers in caring for their animals, day

in and day out, long before the rest of the world springs to life.”

This heartwarming yet true-to-life tale, written by Michelle Houts and illustrated by Jen Betton, invites readers along as a father and daughter go out to the barn on a cold winter night and are welcomed with an enchanting scene. The pair discover who is awake, who is asleep, and who is just making their first appearance in the barn.


To complement the book, Feeding Minds Press has created several engaging companion resources, including an activity kit, an in-depth video from the book’s illustrator showing her creative process, and a blog post from the book’s author explaining her inspiration for the book. A full educator’s guide is available or a sample lesson plan can be viewed at [www.feedingmindspress.com](http://www.feedingmindspress.com).

“Barn at Night” is the fourth printed title from Feeding Minds Press, which published “Right This Very Minute” in January 2019, “Chuck’s Ice Cream Wish” in March 2020, and “My Family’s Soybean Farm” in January 2021. Feeding Minds Press also offers several free printable books that focus on careers in agriculture. The book is available for purchase directly from Feeding Minds Press, as well as on Amazon and Barnes & Noble online.

About Feeding Minds Press:

Feeding Minds Press is a project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The mission of the Foundation is to build awareness and understanding of agriculture through education. The goal of Feeding Minds Press is to publish accurate and engaging books about agriculture that connect readers to where their food comes from and to who grows it.

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## PEST ALERT – Black Fig Fly (Diptera: Lonchaeidae: *Silba adipata*)

### Invasive Fig Pest Recently Discovered in Southern California

**Overview:** Fig growers need to be aware of the black fig fly (BFF), an invasive insect that was recently discovered infesting figs in multiple counties in southern California. The BFF has been reported in the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura. Movement of figs from these counties is not recommended, as it may lead to additional artificial spread of BFF to other areas of the state. University of California Cooperative Extension personnel are currently working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to further delineate populations, as well as develop improved monitoring and management strategies.



Figure 1. BFF female depositing eggs into the fig ostiole. Photo: H. Wilson

**Life Cycle:** The BFF only attacks figs and prefers unripe and unfertilized fruits. The adult female deposits eggs into the fruit through the ostiole (Figure 1) and larvae subsequently feed internally on the fruit (Figure 2). This feeding damages the fruit and causes it to prematurely drop from the tree. Upon completion of development, the BFF larvae make their way out of the fruit (Figure 3), drop to the soil and pupate. In some cases, BFF pupae have been recovered inside of fruits as well (Figure 4). Black fig flies overwinter as pupae in the soil. In the spring they emerge, mate and begin to attack figs. The BFF can have between 4 to 6 generations per year (more in warmer areas, fewer in cooler areas).



Figure 2. Internal damage to the fig from larval feeding. Photos: H. Wilson



Figure 3. Exit hole from larva burrowing out of the fruit.



Figure 4. BFF pupa found inside of a fig.

**Monitoring:** Fig fruits can be inspected for signs of BFF activity, such as larval feeding or exit holes. Focus on unripe fruits that have recently fallen from the tree. Populations of BFF adults can also be monitored using McPhail-type traps (Figure 5) baited with torula yeast lures, although the efficacy of this trap/lure combination is still under evaluation.

**Management:** Biological control appears to be limited and there are currently no chemical controls registered specifically for this pest on California figs. As such, orchard sanitation is critical, and growers should make sure to remove and destroy any BFF-infested fruits. Larvae in infested fruit are protected from pesticide sprays and there are no effective soil drenches for pupal control. Insecticidal baits (e.g. GF-120 NF Naturalyte®) may be useful for control of adult BFF but note that label rates have not been directly tested for efficacy against this pest. Consult with a licensed pest control adviser and your County Agricultural Commissioner before applying any chemical controls.



Figure 5. McPhail-type trap. Photo: UC IPM

**Please Do Not Move Figs:** California figs are primarily grown in the Central Valley between Merced and Fresno, with many smaller orchards spread along the coast and in southern California. Movement of figs from the infested counties is not recommended, as it may lead to additional artificial spread of BFF to other areas of California.

**Reporting the Pest:** If you find infested fruit or suspect that BFF may be attacking fruits in your orchard or yard, please contact your local UCCE Farm Advisor and County Agricultural Commissioner. You can also report this pest to CDFA's Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899 (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>).

**Contact Information:** If you have any additional questions, please contact Houston Wilson ([Houston.wilson@ucr.edu](mailto:Houston.wilson@ucr.edu)).

**Authors:** Houston Wilson (Dept. Entomology, UC Riverside), Kadie Britt (Dept. Entomology, UC Riverside), Phoebe Gordon (UC Cooperative Extension), Ben Faber (UC Cooperative Extension), and Sonia Rios (UC Cooperative Extension).

## PEST ALERT

## Keep Spotted Lanternfly Out of California

LIFE STAGES OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (*Lycorma delicatula*)



### PROTECT CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is a threat to many important commercial crops and affects our enjoyment of the outdoors. The pest feeds on a wide range of plants and trees, with damage seen in vineyards, nurseries, and urban and rural environments.

Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive planthopper spreading in the U.S. since it was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. The pest feeds on over 100 different plant species, favoring tree of heaven and grape where it causes serious damage such as oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling, dieback, and plant death. It also excretes lots of honeydew when it feeds, encouraging the growth of black sooty mold.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Spotted Lanternfly is very distinct looking both as a nymph and an adult. But the egg masses can be hard to spot making it easy to transport them on vehicles and other outdoor items.

- Inspect trees and plants for signs of the pest, especially tree of heaven.
- Look for egg masses on outdoor items including vehicles, trailers, stone, and other smooth surfaces.
- Report suspected finds.



Emele Swackhamer, Penn State University; Richard Gardner, Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

### SPOT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?

CDFA Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899

Report online: [reportapest.cdfa.ca.gov](http://reportapest.cdfa.ca.gov)

Learn more: [cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/board/spottedlanternfly.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/board/spottedlanternfly.html)

Snag it. Snap it. Report it.



## Registration is now open for the 2021 California Citrus Conference

The Citrus Research Board (CRB) is excited to announce our California Citrus Conference on October 6, 2021 in Visalia, California at the Wyndham Hotel.

TO REGISTER: <https://citrusresearch.org/news-events>

The entire citrus industry is invited to participate in this **FREE** one-day conference, which will highlight the "best of the best" in citrus research. As space is limited, registration is required.

**WHAT:** California Citrus Conference

**WHEN:** October 6, 2021

**WHERE:** Wyndham Visalia

### Conference Schedule (Tentative)

7:00 AM - Conference Registration Opens/Complimentary All-American Breakfast Buffet

8:30 AM - California Citrus Conference Opening Session

10:00 AM - Morning Break/Scientific Poster Touring

10:30 AM - Morning Session 2

12:10 PM - Complimentary Lunch/Scientific Poster Touring

1:30 PM - Afternoon Session 1

3:00 PM - Afternoon Break/Scientific Poster Touring

3:20 PM - Afternoon Session 2

4:10 PM - Conference Concludes

### Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Continuing education units will be available to conference attendees, pending approval by California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and California Crop Advisor (CCA).

Please email [events@citrusresearch.org](mailto:events@citrusresearch.org) with any questions.



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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



📅 October 13, 2021 ~ 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Hybrid meeting, Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning and to be held by a Zoom Conference. If you are interested in participating, please call our office at (951) 684-6732.

## Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

*Agritourism gets a boost as visitors welcomed back to the country*

Winery tasting rooms have reopened and pumpkin patches, corn mazes and U-Pick flower fields are gearing up for a resurgence of tourism. The rebound follows widespread closures last year of many California farm festivals, tours and workshops. Many were conducted as virtual events or greatly scaled back. Now some farm open houses are selling out as people are taking drives back into farm country.

*USDA allocates \$700 million in pandemic relief for food, farm employees*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is allocating \$700 million to help farm and food employees impacted by COVID-19. The money is intended to help front-line grocery workers, meatpacking and farm employees recover personal and family expenses resulting from the pandemic.

Those costs may include protective equipment, dependent care and expenses for quarantine or testing.

*California apple harvest underway as growers look to expand markets*

California apple growers are looking to expand business through exports as competition from other regions impacts the domestic market. The Golden State apple harvest, now underway, typically gives farmers a three-week market jump on other regions with later harvest times. This year California growers are expected to produce 1.3 million 40-pound boxes of apples. That's down just slightly from last year.

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