

# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 77th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVII, Number 2, February 2023.



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**Welcome New Members**

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

**SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**CARL MOYER**

**2023 PROGRAM**

**Financial Incentives for Purchasing Zero-Emission and Low-Emission Heavy-Duty Vehicles, Engines and Equipment**

**Application Deadline**  
**May 9, 2023 11:59 PM**

**TO APPLY ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT**  
**[www.aqmd.gov/moyer](http://www.aqmd.gov/moyer)**

**2023 Funding Available**

**\$51 Million**

**Approximate funding available for 2023 to support projects within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction**

Funding categories include:

- On-Road Heavy-Duty Vehicles, including transit fleet vehicles, drayage trucks, transportation refrigeration units (TRUs), solid waste vehicles, public agency/utility vehicles and emergency vehicles (fire apparatus)
- Off-Road Equipment, including:
  - Marine Engine Repowers & Retrofits
  - Ship-Side Shore Power (if project is not subject to CARB's At-Berth Regulation)
  - Construction Equipment
  - Agricultural Mobile Equipment (loaders, tractors, water pulls, etc.)
  - Locomotive
  - Cargo Handling Equipment
- Infrastructure to fuel or power a zero or near zero emission, heavy-duty vehicle or equipment, including but not limited to: on-road heavy-duty vehicles, cargo handling equipment, and marine vessels (shore power).

The application deadline is 11:59 pm PST on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. All applications must be received electronically through the Carl Moyer Program Grant Management System (GMS) no later than the application deadline. For assistance, South Coast AQMD staff are able to answer questions during our normal business hours Tuesday through Friday (7:30 PM to 5:00 PM) at (909) 396-2000. For more information visit **[www.aqmd.gov/moyer](http://www.aqmd.gov/moyer)**

**Carl Moyer Program General Workshops**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**South Coast AQMD Headquarters, Conference Room CC6  
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765**

# Tracking of Coachella Valley Fertilizer Applications Begins in 2023



A new program of reporting nitrogen fertilizer applications to irrigated cropland is being phased in this year for growers in Coachella Valley. Nitrogen applications to crops harvested in 2023, including compost, manure and commercial fertilizers should be recorded in the worksheet by March, 2023. A summary is due February 1, 2024 to the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC). CVILC then

aggregates the data and submits crop summaries to the Colorado Basin Regional Water Board.

Also in 2023, CVILC members are required to submit a Farm Plan, a report that summarizes management practices used on their cropland. The report, due February 1, includes a list of common practices that growers indicate are used on their acreage. These plans then need to be updated every year in the future and aggregated information is provided to the Regional Water Board by CVILC.

Irrigated agriculture in Coachella Valley came under a new General Order on November 12, 2020, adopted by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWB). This replaced the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharges adopted in 2014. The new General Order expands responsibilities of growers to report practices used to protect surface and groundwater, including reporting of nitrogen applications.

CVILC assists growers with the new reporting requirements through its member outreach program. In addition to phone assistance, CVILC has held three live grower meetings in Coachella, the most recent on January 19, 2023. Recordings of the meetings are posted on the CVILC website.

The workshops focused on the new reporting requirements including: background on the new General Order; updating member acreage and ownerships; and instructions for completing the farm plan and nitrogen fertilizer reporting forms. To facilitate the required reporting, CVILC developed a secure Member Portal (<https://cvilcmemberportal.com/>) where the Farm Plan and nitrogen fertilizer reports can be completed and stored online.

Membership in CVILC enables growers to be in compliance with the new General Order. An estimated 70-80% of irrigated acreage in Coachella Valley is enrolled in CVILC. The RWB recently committed to undertaking follow-up with growers not enrolled in CVILC, who could face fines or other penalties for being out of compliance with the new requirements. If a grower is not part of CVILC, they can file for an individual operation permit that includes setting up farm-specific monitoring plans and preparing detailed technical reports on potential discharges to surface water or groundwater that are specific to each field. Nitrogen fertilizer application reporting is also required with field identification and other permittee information, all of which becomes public information after filing.

Information on the program is available on the CVILC website at [www.cvilc.ag](http://www.cvilc.ag), by calling 760-837-7901 or emailing [contact.us@cvilc.ag](mailto:contact.us@cvilc.ag)

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## Nguyen named UCCE food safety and organic production advisor

Cuong "Jimmy" Nguyen joined UC Cooperative Extension on Nov. 1 as an assistant food safety and organic production area advisor for Imperial and Riverside counties.

"Organic produce has a shorter shelf life and is more susceptible to outbreaks, recalls and foodborne illness due to the lack of chemical sanitizers and fungicides," Nguyen said. "Therefore, my future research agenda will continue the focus on improving the quality and safety of organic produce commodities by developing alternatives to chemical fumigations/fungicides, as well as organic pest management without the use of chemical sanitizer or pesticide."

While earning his Ph.D. in food science at UC Davis, Nguyen developed two novel sanitizing platforms for surface decontamination and liquid systems disinfection. The two systems involve the newly discovered synergistic disinfection effect between natural antimicrobials and UV-A light treatment or ultrasound treatment.

"I am also interested in rapid detection methods using bacteriophage targeting foodborne microbes, and microscopic detection of bacterial microcolonies for early screening and prevention of foodborne outbreaks," he said.

Nguyen earned a master's degree at Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan, where he studied sensory and food safety quality of meat, and a bachelor's degree in agriculture at Nong Lam University in Vietnam, where he studied postharvest technologies for food and vegetable commodities. He is fluent in English, Japanese and Vietnamese.

Nguyen is based in Holtville and can be reached at (442) 265-7700 and [cgnguyen@ucanr.edu](mailto:cgnguyen@ucanr.edu).

# Citrus expert traveled Riverside County and beyond to help farmers

Raymond E. Nebelung became the county's farm adviser in 1920, before taking a similar job with the British government.  
*Press Enterprise Back in the Day column by Kim Jarrell Johnson, PUBLISHED: September 1, 2022*

The success of the navel orange industry in California was well known the world over and places with similar climates wanted to replicate that success. One way to try and do so was to hire men who had knowledge of citrus growing to help in far-flung places around the world.

One such man was Raymond E. Nebelung. Nebelung was born in Anaheim in 1891 and received a degree from the University of California's College of Agriculture in 1914. After graduation, he returned to Anaheim, where public records indicate he engaged in farming before becoming an assistant farm adviser in Los Angeles County in 1917.

The following year, Nebelung became assistant farm adviser in Riverside County. Nebelung, a bachelor, moved into the Tetley Hotel in Riverside and began traveling all over Riverside County to provide support and advice to county farmers. The farm adviser and his assistant worked for Riverside County, but in close cooperation with the Riverside County Farm Bureau and Riverside County Cooperative Extension. Today, Riverside County is still served by the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the non-profit Riverside County Farm Bureau and the University of California Cooperative Extension, all of which still support agricultural production in the county, just as they did in 1918, when Nebelung became assistant farm adviser.

In January 1920, he was promoted to county farm adviser. Nebelung continued to visit and advise the 23 farm bureaus that had been established in Riverside County, as well as writing occasional articles on farm-related topics for local newspapers. He was apparently a well-liked individual, although he was much more likely to be mentioned in Riverside newspapers as farm adviser than for his personal life.

Then, in 1921, Nebelung was offered an opportunity and an adventure, all in one. He accepted a position with the British Government in the Union of South Africa, where he would work in its agricultural department as a citrus specialist. Nebelung resigned his post as farm adviser in August 1921 and set sail from New York to South Africa on Oct. 4. He arrived in South Africa on Nov. 23, a sea journey of 50 days.

In February 1922, Nebelung wrote to the Riverside County Farm Bureau on what he had observed so far in South Africa. The letter was reproduced in full in the Riverside Enterprise. Nebelung said Cape Town was a pretty place and the Cape Peninsula, where it was located, had some of the best scenery in South Africa. After arriving in Cape Town, he had to travel 1,000 miles to the government center in Pretoria. The letter noted that farming was still carried out in South Africa by antiquated methods, such as plows pulled by oxen.

Nebelung also mentioned in his letter that "traveling is not very pleasant here." Trains were slow and not very clean, he said. Food on the trains was always the same, with mutton, fish, and boiled potatoes and cabbage being the main menu items. Automobiles were almost nonexistent, as they were all imported from the United States and very expensive. In his short time in South Africa, Nebelung saw that area as being full of opportunity, with considerable natural resources that had not yet been exploited.

It appears Nebelung stayed in South Africa about a year. He came back to the United States by way of India and China, including stops in

Kenya and Zanzibar (now part of the country of Tanzania). He returned to Riverside, where he was employed by the citrus committee of the Chamber of Commerce and became a popular speaker at local club meetings, telling of his time in South Africa.

In 1926, Nebelung was hired as a land appraiser for the Federal Land Bank, eventually relocating to its headquarters in Berkeley. The Federal Land Bank was and is a network of banks that provide long-term loans to farmers. He seems to have worked for that company for the rest of his career. Nebelung married in 1931, but the marriage was brief and ended in divorce. He died in 1973 in Alameda County, having devoted his entire working life to assisting farmers.

February 28 & March 2



## LEARN ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S SUSTAINABLE PEST MANAGEMENT ROADMAP



Join the Department of Pesticide Regulation, California Department of Food and Agriculture and members of the Sustainable Pest Management Work Group to learn more about the specific recommendations in the roadmap for agricultural and urban adoption of sustainable pest management.

Webinars will be hosted on Zoom and will include simultaneous interpretation in Spanish.

No registration is required.



### Urban environments

Join us for a conversation on the recommendations to accelerate the transition to sustainable pest management in urban environments on February 28:

- Join the morning webinar from 10-11 a.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472009083>
- Join the evening webinar from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84877108929>



### Agricultural settings

Join us for a conversation on the recommendations to accelerate the transition to sustainable pest management in agricultural settings on March 2:

- Join the morning webinar from 10-11 a.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88165556715>
- Join the evening webinar from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87996623083>

## CDFA SELECTS 17 PROJECTS FOR STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SOUTHERN DESERT REGION

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to announce the projects selected for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Southern Desert Region Pilot (SWEEP) grant awards.

Seventeen agricultural operations located in parts of Riverside and Imperial counties have been selected to receive funding, totaling \$2.7 million. These projects will improve crop irrigation systems, resulting in an estimated 48,500 acre-feet of water savings over the course of 10 years. The SWEEP Southern Desert Region award list of selected projects is available online at [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov).

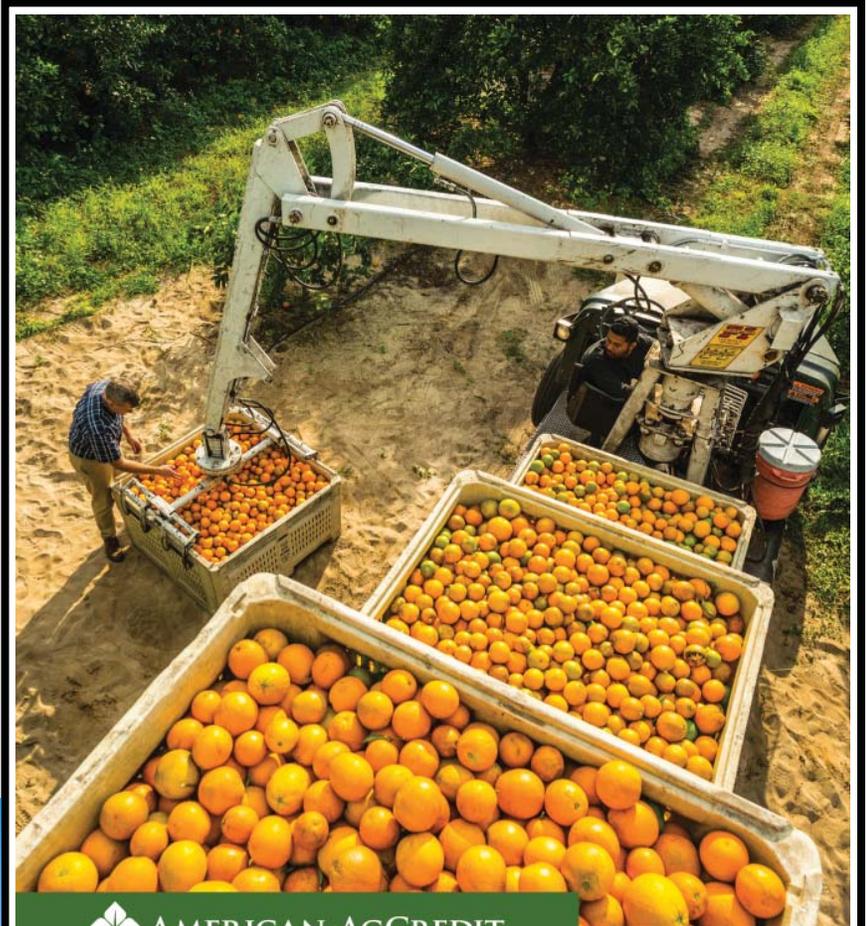
"We are proud to continue investing in water use efficiency in agriculture to help address our changing climate," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "Farmers involved in this program are making positive on-farm changes to grow food with more efficient watering systems in an important agricultural region of the state."

CDFA's SWEEP team prepared a pilot solicitation targeted at agricultural areas located in in the southern desert region, a region defined as Imperial County and Riverside County, east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. With guidance of CDFA's Environmental Farming Act (EFA) Science Advisory Panel (SAP) and the SWEEP Ad Hoc Advisory Group, a \$2 million portion of the 2021 SWEEP allocation (\$50 M) was dedicated to projects located in the southern desert region, a region, which due to its unique water distribution and energy systems, has historically received low levels of funding from SWEEP. An additional \$700,000 was remaining from the 2021 SWEEP solicitation and was combined with the \$2M reserved for this targeted solicitation for the total \$2.7M awarded.

Projects funded through this Pilot program must demonstrate water savings from proposed irrigation improvements but will not be required to reduce GHG emissions from irrigation pumping. Projects must not result in an increase in GHG emissions.

Fifty agricultural operations applied for funding through the 2021 SWEEP Southern Desert Region Pilot solicitation process. Applications were reviewed by a team of irrigation specialists from the University of California and California State University systems.

The program is part of CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) (OEFI) Climate Smart Agriculture portfolio.



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**PRICE: \$2,931,750 (\$75,000/AC)**



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**DATE RANCH - BARHIS, MEDOOLS, & DEGLETS**  
**PRICE: \$11,651,400 (\$60,000/AC)**



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**ORGANIC DATE RANCH - MEDOOLS & DEGLETS**  
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# Riverside County AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



☞ March 8, 2023 ~ 5:30 PM, Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting. In person at Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning and via Zoom Conference. Please call our office at (951) 684-6732 for more information.

## Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

**Demand for cut flowers is no longer just a seasonal passage**  
Fresh cut flowers have seldom been so coveted. Floral sales are soaring as Valentine's Day approaches, and it's more than just the season that is driving the trend. The cut-flower sector has seen a renaissance due to the pandemic, as many floral customers have come to see home bouquets as a regular part of self-care. Valentine's Day typically trails only Mother's Day in volume of flowers sold and is often the highest revenue event of the year.

### **Agricultural, business groups sue over new 'waters of U.S.' rule**

The American Farm Bureau Federation and other agricultural and business groups are suing federal agencies over the new "waters of the United States" rule. The lawsuit argues that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers overreached in finalizing the rule in December. Plaintiffs say the new rule could subject farmers to onerous requirements under the Clean Water Act. AFBF President Zippy Duvall said, "Farmers and ranchers should not have to hire a team of lawyers and consultants to determine how we can farm our land."

### **State upgrades water delivery expectations after January storm deluge**

California's January storms may be paying their first dividends for farmers. The California Department of Water Resources announced that the State Water Project may deliver 30% of requested supplies this year. That allocation is up from an initial projection of 5% in December. The final water allocation for 2022 was 5%, plus limited supplies for unmet human and safety needs. A 30% allotment would allow the state to deliver 1.27 million acre-feet of water to 29 public water agencies.

**"Farm Bureau Working for You"**