

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

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Welcome New Members

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

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Financial Incentives Now Available for Zero-Emission Off-Road Equipment ONLY

On August 2, 2024, the South Coast AQMD released Program Announcements (#PA2024-05 Amendment 2) for the 2024 Carl Moyer Program targeting zero-emission off-road equipment. The deadline for the application submittal has been extended to January 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM.

Funding Available for Off-Road

Zero-Emission Equipment

At least \$5 Million is Available

For projects within South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction

For Zero-Emission Off-Road Equipment, including:

- Construction Equipment
- Agricultural Mobile Equipment (loaders, tractors, water pulls, etc.)
- Cargo Handling Equipment

All applications must be received electronically through the Carl Moyer Program Grant Management System (GMS) and will be accepted at a first come first served basis. 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.

TO APPLY ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT

<https://gms.aqmd.gov>

A video tutorial to create your Carl Moyer Program Grant Management System (GMS) account can be found <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAjs8f3-1GY>.



Jeff Gonzalez Declares Victory

After a year-long Assembly campaign, Jeff Gonzalez declares victory.

"I am honored that the voters have elected me to serve Assembly District 36 and believe in our mission of bipartisanship, lowering the cost of living, and turning the direction of our state around," Gonzalez said.

"While Joey Acuna and I may not always agree, I want to commend his dedication to public service and efforts in a tough, well-fought campaign."

"To those whose support I didn't earn, I am humbled by the responsibility to serve you and will work tirelessly for all of you - and California."



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ELECTS A NEW PRESIDENT: MEET ELLEN WAY



The Riverside County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the election of Ellen Way as its new President. With a rich family history in agriculture dating back to the 1850s, Ellen brings a wealth of experience and passion to her new role. Her family's farming roots began in Iowa, and in the 1930s, they migrated to Ceres, California. There, they purchased a 30-acre farm that has remained in the family for generations. Today, Ellen continues this legacy by growing almonds on the land her grandparents, Lyman and Inez Sanders, once farmed.

A Legacy of Farming and Education

Ellen's journey in agriculture began with her studies in agricultural business at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, from 1986 to 1990. After graduating, she joined Sun World, a prominent grower and marketer of fresh produce in Southern California's Coachella Valley. It was here that she met her husband, Mike Way, and together they have contributed significantly to the agricultural community. In 1992, Mike, along with colleagues, founded Prime Time International, now California's largest grower of colored bell peppers.

Passion for Agriculture and Advocacy

Ellen's dedication to agriculture extends beyond her family farm. As a former State President of California Women for Agriculture (CWA) from 2000 to 2002, she has been actively involved in educating the public about the importance of farming. She believes that protecting America's valuable farming resources requires educating people about how their food is grown. Through farm tours and CWA activities, Ellen has shared her passion, emphasizing that whether we live in rural or urban areas, we are all connected by our need for food and clothing.

Vision for the Future

Ellen sees farming as a deeply satisfying endeavor, one that allows for independence and the opportunity to nourish others. She takes pride in owning a farm that her grandparents purchased and values the advancements in agricultural practices over the years. As she steps into her role as President of the Riverside County Farm Bureau, Ellen is committed to advocating for farmers and ensuring the industry's resilience and strength. She invites members to join her in this mission, "we must never stop telling our story, California farmers grow the highest quality and safest agricultural products in the world," said Way.

Together, with the support of local, state, and national Farm Bureau organizations, Ellen Way is ready to lead with determination and a deep commitment to the agricultural community.

California Farm Bureau elects three new board members

The California Farm Bureau Board of Directors welcomed three new members during its 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey, alongside seven re-elected members, reinforcing its commitment to family farms.

New Board Members:

Richard Schmid: Beekeeper from Homeland, represents District 2, with extensive experience in Riverside County Farm Bureau.

Steve Kafka: Forester from Avery, represents District 12, with leadership roles in the Forestry/Public Lands Committee and Calaveras County Farm Bureau.

Martin Spannaus: Hay farmer and cattle rancher from Corning, represents District 20, previously president of the Tehama County Farm Bureau.

Each new member will serve a two-year term.

Leadership in Young Farmers & Ranchers:

Daniel Jones: Chair of the Young Farmers & Ranchers State Committee, balancing farming and his work as an insurance adjuster.

Re-elected Members:

Seven individuals were re-elected to two-year terms across various districts.

National Representation:

California Farm Bureau President and First Vice President will represent the organization at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, with alternates also appointed. Representing over 26,000 members, the organization aims to support family farms and ranches within a larger national network of 5.8 million members.

107th Annual Dinner Meeting

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU SENDS DELEGATES TO CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU CONFERENCE

The Riverside County Farm Bureau made a significant impact at this year's California Farm Bureau Annual Conference. Leading the delegation was President Ellen Way, accompanied by Past President Richard Schmid, Director and YF&R District II Representative Dalton Abrams, and Executive Director Rachael Johnson. Their participation underscored the county's commitment to engaging with broader agricultural issues and fostering community among farmers and ranchers throughout the state.

ENGAGING WITH KEY FARMING TOPICS

During the conference, held in Monterey, the delegates from Riverside County interacted with members from other counties, attended insightful sessions, and explored key topics affecting California's agricultural landscape. This collaborative environment provided a platform for sharing invaluable insights, identifying new opportunities, and building relationships that will strengthen the agricultural community across the state.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNITY

The 106th Annual Meeting of the Farm Bureau was marked by the address of California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass. In her first annual speech since her election, Douglass highlighted the organization's achievements and emphasized the importance of unity among local and state Farm Bureaus. Her message resonated with the theme of collaboration and the power of collective effort. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus," Douglass stated, acknowledging the critical role that local branches play in the overall success of the Farm Bureau.

STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

The participation of the Riverside County Farm Bureau delegates at the conference exemplifies the proactive steps being taken to ensure the agricultural community in California remains robust and forward-thinking. By forging lasting connections and exploring innovative solutions, the delegates demonstrated their dedication to advancing the interests of farmers and ranchers in Riverside County and beyond. This conference not only celebrated past achievements but also set the stage for future successes in the world of agriculture.



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Your commitment to quality and sustainable growing practices has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your tireless efforts from planting to harvest. Your passion and dedication are appreciated and helped make the 2024 season a success.



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Riverside County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the launch of the county's Agricultural Pass program.



A county wide program with the purpose of issuing identification documents granting any qualifying agricultural producer, qualifying livestock producer, qualified equestrian partners, or a managerial employee of the qualifying agricultural producer or qualifying livestock producer, access to the qualifying agricultural producers or qualifying livestock producers farm or ranch property during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster (AB 1141).

All applicants should be familiar with CA Assembly Bill 1141 which gives specific details about qualifications for the Ag Pass.

The following links will take you to the application for the Ag Pass and to the Assembly Bill (AB 1141):

Ag Pass Program Information and Application: <https://www.riversidesheriff.org/798/Agricultural-Pass-Rural-Crime-Team>

AB 1141: Bill Text - <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> Type into Bill Search AB-1141.

Agricultural lands: agricultural and livestock producers: agricultural pass program: disaster access to farm lands.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Regular Board of Directors meeting in December 2024. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. More details will be announced at a later date.

MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Every January beekeepers across the state are busily prepping as almonds and other tree crops bloom. Unfortunately for some, that includes dealing with beehive thefts. This crime has become increasingly common in response to a shortage of bees needed to pollinate California crops.



Canva AI Generated Photo of Beehive Boxes.

The California State Beekeepers Association has issued a public service announcement that hive theft season has started early this year. They have received reports of thefts in the last two weeks and some information about known suspects that may be involved in the thefts that have taken place in the last few weeks in Tulare and Kings County. To view the report or prevention flyer, please visit <https://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/issue-hive-theft>

These thefts can occur anywhere throughout the State, please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement. For more information or have questions, please visit <https://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/>