

Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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

Our 76th Year of Publication: Volume LXXVI, Number 11, November 2022.



Photos by Jill Scott.

Executive Officers

President

Richard A. Schmid, Jr.

Vice Presidents

Andy Wilson
Paul Cramer
Ellen Way

Treasurer

2012 Past President

Grant Chaffin

Board of Directors

Dalton Abrams
Celeste Alonzo
Linden Anderson
Stephen J. Corona
Andy Domenigoni
Cindy Domenigoni
Dan Hollingsworth
Joyce Jong
Ellen Lloyd Trover
Lauren Oostdam
Brad Scott

Farm Bureau Staff

Executive Director

Corporate Secretary

Rachael Johnson

Office Manager

Stephanie Bell

(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.

Riverside County Farm Bureau assumes no responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in "Riverside County Agriculture," nor for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or articles showing authorship by an officer, director or employee of Riverside County Farm Bureau.

Welcome New Members

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



Farmers Can Now Make 2023 Crop Year Elections, Enroll in ARC and PLC Programs

Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage programs for the 2023 crop year, two safety net programs offered by USDA. Producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll. In addition, the USDA Farm Service Agency has started issuing payments totaling more than \$255 million to producers with 2021 crops that have triggered payments through ARC or PLC.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, farmers and landowners can choose between three alternative; ARC-CO (payment based on county revenue), ARC-IC (payment based on individual farm revenue), and PLC (payment based on market year average). Covered commodities include wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, and peanuts. For more information visit, <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services>.

Inside this Issue...

105th Annual Dinner Meeting ...	3
2022 Howie Award.....	4
Farm Robotics Competition.....	5
2022 Annual Dinner Sponsors ...	6
USDA Launches Loan Assistance Tool to Enhance Equity and Customer Service.....	7
Farm & Food News.....	8
Calendar.....	8

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU (RCFB) CELEBRATES ITS 105th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

November 5, 2022, at The Café at Shields, Indio.

RCFB President Richard Schmid opened the 105th Annual Dinner Meeting and gave a warm welcome to all those that were in attendance. “As the summer heat is starting to slowly fade and bringing to us tonight a nice fall breeze it seems like a perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments and be grateful for all that we have. I am immensely proud of all that we have been able to achieve and thankful for the support of my fellow officers, directors, staff, and our dedicated members who recognize the importance of sticking together for the benefit of the agricultural community and knowing the challenges of the state can be overwhelming at time, I want to assure you that Farm Bureau is doing everything in its power to represent our members”. We continue to collaborate with our legislators on issues that affect our industry and inform them of the restrictive regulations set forth by entities, such as Cal/OSHA, the California Air Resource Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Pesticide Regulations, and many others. We fought for the “Right to Farm” for hemp growers in the county and are working with Sheriff’s Department to establish an Ag Pass Program when a catastrophic wildfire happens. We strive to inform the public about matters of concern, such as the dangers of Avian Flu and the Asian Citrus Psyllid as well as promoting the significance of Riverside County agriculture. Our members are the backbone of this county, and we will continue to work hard as each challenge arises.

With over one hundred members and guests present, Lincoln Anderson gave the Invocation and California Farm Bureau 2nd President Shaun Crook recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Dan Hollingsworth, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees. Richard Schmid has been re-elected by acclamation to serve as president for an eleventh term. Ellen Way was elected to serve as a vice-president with Andy Wilson and Paul Cramer being re-elected to serve again as vice-presidents respectively, and the following Board of Directors were re-elected to serve a one-year term; Dalton Abrams, Celeste Alonzo, Linden Anderson, Grant Chaffin, Steve Corona, Andy Domenigoni, Cindy Domenigoni, Dan Hollingsworth, Ellen Lloyd-Trover, Joyce Jong, Lauren Oostdam, and Brad Scott. President Schmid noted that the board had a combined total of 291 years of service with Director Dan Hollingsworth having served in various capacities on the board for 62 years, making him the longest serving director.

This year’s “Robert M. Howie Award” was presented to Janell Percy of Coachella Valley.

With the conclusion of the program, President Schmid gave recognition to the Howie Award Committee and the Annual Dinner Meeting Committee for all their arduous work on the event and giving a special shout out to Director Cindy Domenigoni for creating such amazing gifts for our sponsor, special guest, and the directors. He extended the utmost gratitude to our sponsors and praised the staff at The Café at Shields for their outstanding food and service.

The RCFB would like to extend a special thank you to our special guest speaker Congressman Ken Calvert for joining us. Thank you to Rebecca Keightley (Congressman Calvert’s Chief of Staff), Shayra Hernandez (Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Congressman Ruiz), Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner Ruben Arroyo, Riverside County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Delia Jimenez Cioc, and California Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President Shaun Crook for their participation in this year’s event.



Janell Percy receives the 2022 Howie Award

This year Riverside County Farm Bureau recognizes Janell Percy for the 2022 Howie Award and her outstanding service to the Agricultural Community.

Janell has been a longtime advocate for agriculture in the Coachella Valley and has a passion for motivating youth to be involved in agriculture so they can experience what she did in 4-H, FFA and college. She is on the Coachella and Indio High School's Agricultural Advisory Committees. She was involved with Desert Sandblasters 4-H Club for 17 years, serving as co-chair and project leader for sheep, turkeys, photography, rabbits, cake decorating, arts and crafts, gardening, and leadership.



Janell has worked in the agricultural industry as a food safety coordinator for Ocean Mist Farms, crop consultant for Foster Gardner, Pesticide Enforcement Officer for Indio's Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. She also taught Pesticide Laws and Regulations at College of the Desert and agriculture to 6th graders at Desert Christian Academy.

She still maintains her license as a California Pest Control Advisor and is a member of the California Association of Pest Control Advisers. Other organizations she has devoted her time to are the Desert Valley's CAPCA Chapter Board of Directors and the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District Board of Directors. She is also longtime member of Coachella Valley California Women for Agriculture and a past president and is currently a Trustee on the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Janell and her husband are part owners of a vegetable farm in Coachella. She is also a partner of her families' farms in Arizona and Colorado.

However, all of this did not keep her busy enough... In 2015 Janell and a group of farmers organized a non-profit organization called Growing Coachella Valley to protect and promote Coachella Valley agriculture.

She was instrumental in coordinating with Riverside County Health Department to set up COVID-19 vaccine clinics at local farms. Thousands of farm employees were able to get the vaccine to help protect themselves. She spent countless hours juggling the availability of shots and farm workers signed up to receive them, as well as mostly scheduling the appointments for them herself.

Janell, Directors from Growing Coachella Valley, and other Agricultural Organization also collaborated with Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia in getting legislation passed called the California Grown bill, requiring state-owned institutions to target 60% of their food product purchase to be California grown or produced.

Through Growing Coachella Valley Janell is also working to celebrate and recognize the Valley's hard-working farmworkers. Several times a year, they select a local grower to provide a Farmworker Appreciation Lunch and hand out goody bags and gift cards.

The Robert M. Howie Award

The Robert M. Howie Award is an annual award given by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to recognize outstanding service to Riverside County agriculture. First presented in 1983, the "Howie Award" was established by the Riverside County Farm Bureau to honor Robert M. Howie, who retired in 1982 after serving 28 years as the county agricultural commissioner. This award was created to remind our industry each year of the dedication that Bob Howie demonstrated and to recognize and encourage that kind of dedication in other people.

Farm Robotics Competition challenges students to solve real-world problems

College students are invited to develop a robot that makes farm work easier while competing for cash prizes and bragging rights in the Farm Robotics Challenge, a three-month robotics development competition running from Feb. 1 to May 13, 2023.

The challenge is being sponsored by The VINE, an initiative of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources focused on agricultural innovation, in partnership with the AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems (AIFS), farm-ng robotics company, and the Fresno-Merced Future of Food (F3) Innovation coalition.

"Our primary objective for the Farm Robotics Challenge is to empower young innovators to explore careers in agriculture technology and innovation," said Gabe Youtsey, chief innovation officer for UC ANR and head of the VINE. "The agrifood technology industry is one of the most exciting and fastest-growing sectors in the economy right now, estimated to reach \$30.5 billion by 2050. Yet, because of a lack of exposure or access, our brightest minds end up entering other sectors, taking their talents and abilities with them. We hope this new competition changes that and reverses the talent flow back into agriculture."

"In order to have a next-generation food system, we need next-generation agricultural robotics developers," said Steve Brown, AIFS associate director. "There is tremendous innovation potential in this domain that just needs more connecting points to the coders and makers."

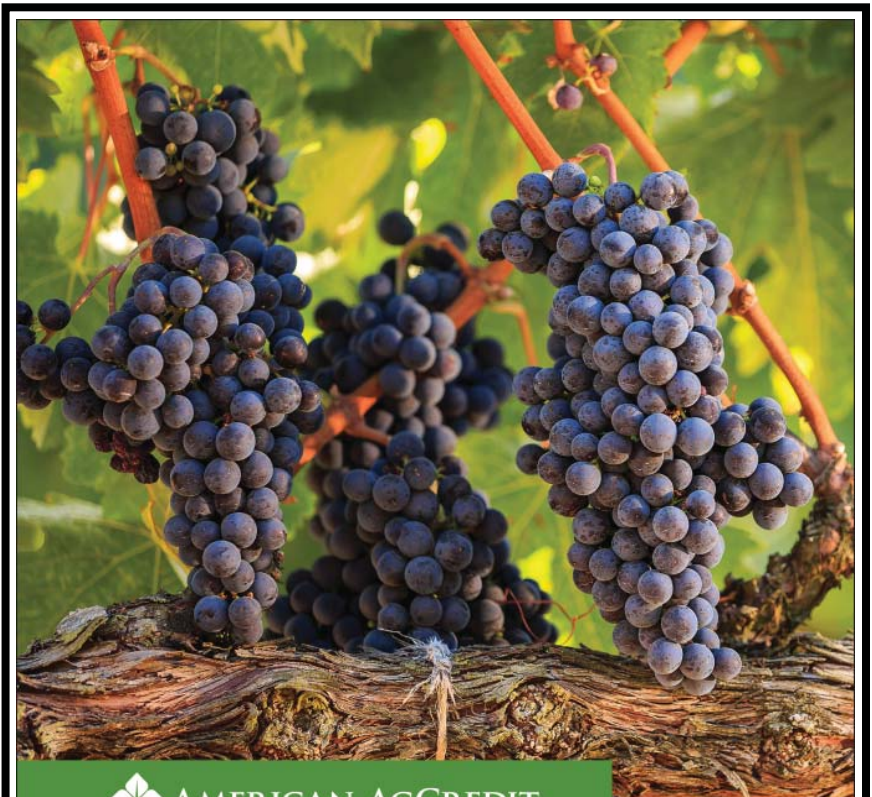
The Farm Robotics Challenge is open to any university or college in the U.S. Student teams will be asked to address a production farming topic on any crop or size of farm, with a desired focus on small farms, by automating an essential farm-related task using the farm-ng robotics platform. Each campus will need to purchase a farm-ng robot or borrow one to participate in the challenge.

Specific challenges will either be pre-identified for teams to choose from, or teams may choose to create additional or custom functionality to solve a self-identified challenge. Challenges will fit into one or more of the following categories: autonomy, artificial intelligence or attachment. Virtual training sessions will be offered throughout the competition to provide teams with expert guidance and technical help from AIFS, farm-ng, The VINE and other partners.

Student teams will be judged on the following criteria, with a grand prize and several specific prizes for top teams in each category: accuracy and completeness, market fit and commercial potential, design elegance and ease of use, cost-effectiveness, safety, interdisciplinary inclusion, and social and economic impact. Winners will receive cash prizes and connections to robotic companies for internships and jobs, among other benefits.

For more information, please visit the Farm Robotics Challenge website at <https://farmbot.ai>. If you have questions, contact Hanna Bartram, AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems project coordinator, at hbartram@ucdavis.edu.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources brings the power of UC to all 58 California counties. Through research and Cooperative Extension in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, economic and youth development, our mission is to improve the lives of all Californians. Learn more at ucanr.edu and support our work at donate.ucanr.edu.



 AMERICAN AGCREDIT

EXPERTS IN AG, EXPERTS IN FINANCING

American AgCredit is your agriculture real estate expert with great rates, flexible terms, and unique solutions tailored to your unique needs.

Call 800.800.4865 today or visit AgLoan.com

A part of the Farm Credit System. Equal Opportunity Lender.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU 105TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

2022 Sponsors

GOLD SPONSORS

Andy Domenigoni Farms
Arlan Knutson Insurance Agency, Inc.
Domenigoni Brothers Ranch
Jackson Tidus, A Law Corporation
Jordan Implement Co.
Junior Enterprises LLC
RDO Equipment Co.
Scott Bros. Dairy Farms
Star Milling Co.
Temecula Valley Winegrowers Assoc.

SILVER SPONSORS

American Ag Credit
Big Horse Feed & Mercantile
Corona Ranch & Land
Ocean Mist Farms
Rain for Rent
Mike and Ellen Way
West Coast Turf

WINERY SPONSORS

Doffo Winery, Leoness Cellars, Oak Mountain Winery,
South Coast Winery, Wiens Family Cellars, Wilson Creek Winery

THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
WISHES TO THANK ALL THOSE
WHO SUPPORTED THIS YEAR'S
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING.



USDA Launches Loan Assistance Tool to Enhance Equity and Customer Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a new online tool to help farmers and ranchers better navigate the farm loan application process. This uniform application process will help to ensure all farm loan applicants receive equal support and have a consistent customer experience with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) regardless of their individual circumstances.

"USDA recognizes more must be done to ensure all customers have equal access to our programs and services," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "The Loan Assistance Tool is another example of USDA taking accountability and ensuring we update our existing systems, processes, and policies to make them equitable for all customers. The tool will help loan applicants better understand the application process and gather the needed documents before the process even begins."

USDA experiences a high rate of incomplete or withdrawn applications, particularly among underserved customers, due in part to a challenging and lengthy paper-based application process. The Loan Assistance Tool is available 24/7 and gives customers an online step-by-step guide that supplements the support they receive when working in person with a USDA employee, providing materials that may help an applicant prepare their loan application in one tool.

Farmers can access the Loan Assistance Tool by visiting farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool and clicking the 'Get Started' button. From here they can follow the prompts to complete the Eligibility Self-Assessment and start the farm loan journey. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

The Loan Assistance Tool is the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements and tools that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include:

- A streamlined and simplified direct loan application, reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.
- An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.
- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

Background

USDA provides access to credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans. With the funds and direction Congress provided in Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act, USDA is taking action to immediately provide relief to qualifying distressed borrowers whose operations are at financial risk while working on making transformational changes to loan servicing so that borrowers are provided the flexibility and opportunities needed to address the inherent risks and unpredictability associated with agricultural operations.



Riverside County AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.



SAVE UP TO \$500 ON CASE IH FARMALL & MAXXUM TRACTORS, HAY TOOLS, MORE

Farm Bureau members save \$200-\$500 per unit on select Case IH equipment. Farm Bureau individual, family or business members qualify for purchase or lease incentives listed below with discount certificate go to www.cfbf.com click on Member Benefits - Industrial Equipment & Supplies to get your certificate.

SAVE \$200 per unit: To see a complete list go to www.cfbf.com.

- Case IH Farmall C series compact tractors
- Case IH Farmall® A series compact tractors
- Case IH Farmall A series utility tractors

SAVE \$500 per unit:

- Case IH Maxxum® series tractors
- Case IH Vestrum® series tractors
- Case IH self-propelled windrowers
- Case IH large square balers

If you have questions or need help obtaining the certificate, please call 800-698-FARM or visit your local FB office.

**FRITTS FORD
HERE FOR YOU THEN
HERE FOR YOU NOW**

**951/ 353-8800
WWW.FRITTSFLEET.COM**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



There will be no Board Meeting held in November or December. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

State turkey supply will meet Thanksgiving demand, despite avian influenza

Holiday demand for turkeys remains high in California, and producers say they don't anticipate any shortage of turkeys for Thanksgiving tables. But it's been an exceptionally stressful season for state turkey farmers, ever since the H5NI avian influenza reached California in August and was confirmed at a first turkey farm soon after. By Nov. 14, the outbreak had decimated 685,000 birds in California, including 493,800 turkeys. Wholesale prices for frozen turkeys this year are averaging 30% higher than last year.

CFDA seeks to create research grant program for curbing dairy, livestock emissions

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking to create a new program that will award a total of \$10 million in research grants for projects that may reduce methane emissions from dairy and livestock operations in the state. The CFDA is currently seeking public comments on its request for proposals for a new California livestock methane mitigation and research program. For more information visit CDFA website.

California dairies harness 'cow power' for fuels production

The Golden State has become a leader in harnessing "cow power" to produce renewable fuels and other clean energy. Currently, more than 100 methane digesters are operating in California, and more than 100 others are in various stages of development. Although dairy digesters have been around for decades, their numbers have exploded in recent years, thanks to state funding aimed at helping dairy farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Farm Bureau Working for You"