

FB AGRICULTURE

Riverside County

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AND BECOMING PART OF THE FARM BUREAU FAMILY.

Happy 250th Birthday, America

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate its Semi-quincentennial birthday: 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. One important fact that may be overlooked in all of the revelry is that for 250 years, there have been farmers. Of course, there have been farmers. If you wanted to eat 250 years ago, you had to grow food yourself. There was no running to your local grocery store to get what you needed. Everyone knew the importance of farming, which is why agriculture was an integral part of everything this new country was founded upon.



George Washington is famously quoted as saying, "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble of employment of men." He much preferred being on his Mount Vernon farm to leading our country, but, like farmers today, Washington also knew he had to engage in politics. We all have to step off of our farms and educate people about what we do and how we do it. Yes, it is painful and frustrating and has been so for 250 years, but, like our forefathers, we must participate in our governance.

The America250 initiative is striving for "350 for 250," with the goal of engaging 350 million Americans in our nation's birthday celebration. What are your plans for the 4th of July? Some ideas for participating include hosting a patriotic celebration for family and friends, volunteering to help your favorite charity, or making a donation to a veteran's support organization. Even if it's just wearing your favorite red, white, and blue t-shirt, let's all do something to celebrate our founders and all of the brave people who risked everything to come to this new, unknown world.

Please take this opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want for the next generation and beyond. And for the good of all Americans, may there always be American farmers.

God Bless America!

Riverside County Farm Bureau is deeply grateful to all of our faithful and hardworking farmers who stand with us, 109 years strong. To learn more about America's 250th celebration, please go to www.America250.org.



Your president,
Ellen Way

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Getting to Know RCFB Member

Manuel “Manny” Gaitan



Riverside County Farm Bureau is pleased to recognize Manuel “Manny” Gaitan of Coachella for his ongoing commitment to agriculture, leadership, and community service in Riverside County. Manny has built a strong reputation in the Coachella Valley through his work supporting local agriculture and his dedication to strengthening the communities he serves.

Manny serves as General Manager of Riverside County Citrus Pest Control District No. 2, where he plays an important role in protecting commercial citrus production in the eastern Coachella Valley. His work supports local growers through pest management efforts, regulatory compliance, and outreach that help maintain the health and productivity of an important segment of Riverside County agriculture.

In a region where citrus remains a valued part of the agricultural economy, Manny’s work contributes to both the long-term sustainability of local farming operations and the protection of agricultural resources.

In addition to his technical and leadership work in agriculture, Manny has also invested in his own professional growth through the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation. His involvement reflects a broader commitment to advancing agriculture not only through day-to-day operations, but also through leadership development, relationship building, and service to the industry. Those who know Manny appreciate his thoughtful approach, his strong work ethic, and his willingness to step up when leadership is needed.

Manny has also generously shared his time and talents with Riverside County Farm Bureau by helping elevate the organization’s outreach through visual storytelling and social media support. His eye for photography and content creation has helped highlight Farm Bureau events, members, and the broader story of agriculture in Riverside County. His ability to capture authentic moments and present agriculture in an engaging and professional way has added value to the organization’s communication efforts and public presence.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Manny is recognized for the way he gives back to his church and to the wider community. Whether through service, leadership, or simply being willing to lend his skills where they are needed, he reflects the kind of civic-minded involvement that strengthens local communities. His dedication to agriculture is matched by a sincere commitment to serving others, and that combination makes his contributions especially meaningful.

Riverside County Farm Bureau is grateful to have Manny as a member and partner in advancing agriculture in our region. We sincerely thank him for the many ways he supports growers, contributes his creative talents, and gives back to the community. His professionalism, leadership, and spirit of service are deeply appreciated.

Leadership Farm Bureau Is Accepting Applicants!

Leadership Farm Bureau is leadership development program sponsored by the California Farm Bureau and is the one program in Farm Bureau that is specifically designed to invest in emerging Farm Bureau leaders. Participants gain perspective and training in the areas of personal development, human behavior, public speaking, working with the media, political advocacy, government structure, key political issues and the Farm Bureau organization and structure.

Governmental Affairs

Activities include both a California and a Washington, D.C., lobbying session. Participants will review development and implementation of state and national policies in meetings with key legislative, administrative and regulatory officials.

Personal Development

Participants will develop and enhance their leadership skills through media training, public speaking, business etiquette, negotiation skills, time management and team building workshops.

Agriculture Issues

A special focus is given to issues affecting farmers and ranchers in California, across the nation and on a global level. Participants will receive in-depth issues training from industry experts and will have an opportunity to travel within various regions of California for a firsthand look at the similarities and differences of agriculture across the state.

For more information, please visit www.cfbf.com/ag-programs/leadership-farm-bureau or have questions regarding LFB can be directed to Ryan Amaral (ramaral@cfbf.com) or 916-561-5589.

New World Screwworm Confirmed in Five Cases in Texas NOT in California

On June 8, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed a total of four (4) cases of New World Screwworm (NWS), two calves in Zavala County, Texas, one calf in La Salle County, Texas, a goat in Gillespie County, Texas, and a dog in Lea County, New Mexico. USDA has activated the sterile fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas and continues to release sterile flies into the infested zones as well as surrounding areas.

CA SITUATION STATUS

At this time, **there are NO confirmed detections of New World Screwworm in California.** CDFA is coordinating closely with USDA APHIS and neighboring state animal health officials to monitor the situation. All California dairies and livestock operations are encouraged to maintain vigilance. NWS is not a food safety concern. For national NWS detection data, visit the USDA APHIS website.

In addition to CDFA's fly trapping efforts to monitor NWS at California's border, CDFA is updating animal importation requirements entering the state from known infected zones.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS CASES

California animal owners and veterinarians should monitor for draining or enlarging wounds, fly egg or maggot infestations, and lesions around body openings (ears, nose, genital area, umbilicus). ***All suspicious cases should be reported to CDFA immediately at 866-922-2473.***

While not common in people, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworm, seek immediate medical attention.

INQUIRIES: For public inquiries regarding New World Screwworm in California, please send an e-mail to cdfa.ahb_nws_info@cdfa.ca.gov or call 866-922-2473.

CDFA Announces New World Screwworm Entry Requirements for Animals Entering California

Effective June 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is implementing additional New World Screwworm (NWS) entry requirements for animals entering California from NWS affected areas.

These requirements apply to livestock, poultry, camelids, equids, captive cervids, and companion animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits, pet psittacines, and domestic rodents. ***Animals known or reasonably suspected to be infested with NWS may not enter California unless specifically authorized by CDFA.***

Animals originating from an NWS-infested zone require:

- Premovement inspection within five (5) days prior to arrival in California
- Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) with required NWS statement
- NWS Animal Movement Certificate, when required by the state of origin or federal animal health officials
- Appropriate NWS treatment, when applicable to the species
- California Entry Permit

Livestock and poultry originating from an NWS-surveillance zone require:

- Premovement inspection within seven (7) days prior to arrival in California
- Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) with required NWS statement
- California Entry Permit

Dairy calves six (6) months of age or younger originating from an NWS-infested zone or NWS-surveillance zone require:

- Premovement inspection within five (5) days prior to arrival in California
- Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) with required NWS statement
- Appropriate NWS treatment
- Navel treatment with an approved product for calves less than 3-weeks old
- California Entry Permit

Equids and companion animals originating from a state with an active NWS-infested zone require:

- Premovement inspection within seven (7) days prior to arrival in California
- Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) with required NWS statement
- California Entry Permit

All animals entering California under these requirements must be inspected upon arrival at the California destination. Animals with signs consistent with NWS infestation, including larvae (maggots) in wounds or body openings, must be isolated immediately and reported to CDFA within 24 hours. For full requirements, please review the Statewide Quarantine and Attachment NWS-1 at www.cdfa.gov.

USDA Expands Disaster Relief for Farmers

Extends Deadline to August 12

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking additional steps to support farmers and ranchers recovering from recent natural disasters by issuing a second round of Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) payments and extending the application deadline to August 12, 2026.

This expanded support comes at a critical time for agricultural producers facing ongoing economic challenges and the lasting impacts of severe weather events in 2023 and 2024.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already delivered \$6.7 billion in SDRP payments. Now, eligible producers with approved applications will receive an additional payment as USDA increases the payment factor from 35% to 70%, effectively doubling the level of support originally provided. Future SDRP payments will also be calculated at this higher rate, offering more meaningful financial relief to those impacted.

In addition to increased payments, USDA has extended the original April 30 deadline to August 12, giving producers more time to complete or update applications, an important step to ensure no eligible operation is left behind.

What This Means for Producers

The SDRP is designed to help offset losses caused by natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, drought, excessive heat, hurricanes, freezes, and other extreme conditions.

- **Stage 1** covers producers who received crop insurance indemnities or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments.
- **Stage 2** expands assistance to cover shallow losses, quality losses, and other damages not previously compensated.

This two-stage approach ensures broader access to relief, particularly for producers who may have experienced losses that fell outside traditional coverage programs.

A Critical Opportunity, But Action Is Required

While this additional funding is welcome news, it is critical that producers take full advantage of the program before the new deadline. Many operations are still navigating financial strain, and these payments can play a key role in stabilizing farm viability and supporting long-term recovery.

Producers who have already applied should review their applications to ensure all information is accurate and up to date. Those who have not yet applied are strongly encouraged to contact their local FSA office immediately to determine eligibility.

Call to Action

Farmers and ranchers are urged to:

- Contact their local FSA office as soon as possible
- Review or submit SDRP applications before August 12
- Seek assistance if they have questions about eligibility or documentation

Timely participation is essential to securing the support needed to recover, rebuild, and continue feeding our communities.

As challenges facing agriculture continue to evolve, programs like SDRP remain a vital lifeline. Ensuring full participation and awareness will help strengthen the resilience of our farming communities and protect the future of American agriculture.



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June is officially National Dairy Month!

Celebrating Riverside County's Dairy Heritage

Originally established in 1937 as "National Milk Month" to help stabilize summer milk surpluses, it has grown into a nationwide celebration of dairy farmers, nutrition, and the vital role agriculture plays in our daily lives.

Here in Riverside County, June is also recognized as Dairy Month, a time to honor the region's rich agricultural heritage and its important role as a leading milk producer in California. Communities like San Jacinto and the surrounding areas have long been at the heart of a vibrant and hardworking dairy industry.

Throughout the month, we recognize the dairy farmers, employees, and families who work tirelessly every day to provide safe, nutritious dairy products. Their dedication to caring for their animals, land, and communities helps sustain local agriculture and strengthens our regional economy.

Support Local Dairies

One of the best ways to celebrate Dairy Month is by supporting local farms and experiencing firsthand where your dairy products come from:

- **DeJong's Dairy (Wildomar) <https://drakefamilyfarms.com>**

A family-owned favorite known for its fresh dairy products—especially its widely loved chocolate milk. Visitors can also interact with animals and purchase feed, making it a fun stop for families.

- **Demler Farms (San Jacinto) No Website**

Located at 1455 N Warren Rd, this local dairy offers farm-fresh milk, butter, heavy cream, and sour cream straight from the source.

- **Drake Family Farms (Winchester) <https://drakefamilyfarms.com>**

A charming goat dairy where "every goat has a name." Enjoy farm tours, goat interactions, and a variety of artisan goat cheeses, kefir, and skincare products made from goat milk.

- **Oasis Camel Dairy (Ramona) <https://cameldairy.com>**

A unique destination offering hands-on camel experiences, educational tours, and specialty camel milk products and skincare items.

Looking for Raw Milk?

For those interested in locating raw milk, these resources can help you find nearby options:

- **RAW FARM Store Finder** – Locate retail stores carrying raw milk products. <https://rawfarmusa.com/find>
- **Get Raw Milk Locator** – A map-based tool to find local farms and delivery services. <https://getrawmilk.com/search>

Join us in celebrating the hardworking dairy community that helps keep Riverside County thriving. Whether you visit a local dairy, purchase farm-fresh products, or simply take a moment to appreciate the farmers behind your food, your support makes a difference.

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FARMERS HELPING FARMERS



ABOUT ANTERIS AGRONOMICS

Anteris Agronomics was founded by four farmers who recognized the growing burden of agricultural data collection, reporting, and regulatory paperwork.

Built from real on-farm experience, Anteris helps growers improve efficiency, stay organized, and simplify compliance so you can focus more time and energy on farming.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Services

(Services may be limited by region)

- Completion of Annual Meeting Requirement
- Completion and submittal of the Annual Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report (INMPSR)
- Completion and certification on the On-Farm Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (INMP)
- Assist in the completion of the Annual Farm Plan requirement

CONNECT

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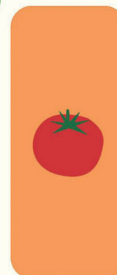
Free Workshops



July 15th, 2026 4 - 5 p.m.
August 10th, 2026 4 - 5 p.m.



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Brad Scott & daughter Jill
Scott Bros. Dairy



Andy & Cindy Domenigoni
Domenigoni Brothers Ranch

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- ✓ Standing up for farmers on key policy issues in Sacramento and Washington D.C.
- ✓ Defending private property rights and ensuring you have the tools needed to farm.
- ✓ Cultivating tomorrow's leaders with training and Young Farmers & Ranchers programs.
- ✓ Stay connected with local farmers on topics that matter most to your operation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There will be no Board of Directors meeting in July or August. The next Board meeting will be held 3:00PM on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at the Date Commission Office, 39205 Leopard Street Suite E, Palm Desert.

Advocacy in Action

Courtesy of CAFB

House Lawmakers Release Major H-2A Reform Proposal

House Agriculture Committee staff released a draft to reform the H-2A guestworker program, one of the most significant federal labor proposals in years. It would revise wage calculations, create tiered skill-based pay, and maintain cost relief for high-cost states. The draft also allows some unauthorized workers to transition into H-2A, expands eligibility to related industries, and extends the program to year-round employers with up to 350 workdays. The proposal is expected to evolve with stakeholder input.

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act (H.R. 845)

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act (H.R. 845), supported by California Farm Bureau, is pending in the U.S. Senate after passing the House in December 2025. The bill would restore and codify a Trump-era rule removing gray wolves in the lower 48 states from Endangered Species Act protections—a rule that was later overturned in court—while limiting future legal challenges. Supporters say the measure would provide regulatory certainty for livestock producers and give states a greater role in managing wolf populations.

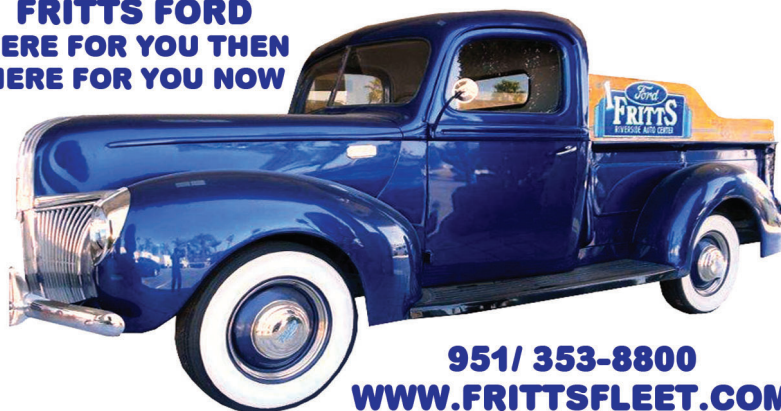
Telecommunications and Rural Connectivity Issues

California Farm Bureau is actively engaged on ACA 9 and Carrier of Last Resort issues, raising concerns about potential impacts to rural connectivity, emergency communications and access to reliable telecommunications services.

Williamson Act, Farm Bureau Prepares Opposition

After six months on the Assembly Inactive File, Assembly Bill 1156 (Wicks) has been reactivated and sent to the Senate, where it is expected to be "gut and amended." Current proposals would allow cancellation of Williamson Act contracts for large projects over \$100 million tied to state climate goals, while removing local government authority. California Farm Bureau opposes the approach, citing risks to farmland protections. Further action is expected once amendment language is released.

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