Riverside County AGRICULTURE

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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.

Meet Your Board of Directors: Brad Scott

In our continuing series that introduces you to the Riverside County Farm Bureau's (RCFB) Board of Directors, we are delighted to feature Brad Scott who brings a wealth of experience and passion for agriculture making him a vital asset to the RCFB.

A Legacy of Tradition and Innovation

Nestled in the heart of San Jacinto, Scott Bros. Dairy Farm is a living testament to over a century of family farming. Balancing the delicate line between tradition and innovation, this farm has flourished under the leadership of Brad Scott, a fourth-generation dairyman dedicated to preserving his family's legacy.

A Century-Old Journey

Scott Bros. Dairy Farm was founded in 1913 as a modest operation in Southern California. Today, it has expanded under Brad Scott's stewardship to encompass over 900 acres, housing more than 1,100 Holsteins. The milk produced is transported daily to the family's processing facility in Chino, where it is transformed into a variety of dairy products enjoyed globally.

Agricultural Advocacy and Leadership

Beyond the barn, Brad Scott is a prominent figure in agricultural advocacy and education. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Dairy Council of California, appointed by the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. His efforts have significantly influenced nutritional education and promoted the integral role of dairy in healthy diets.

Brad's collaboration with Dairy Management, Inc. and the U.S. Dairy Export Council has been instrumental in expanding the reach of California dairy through international partnerships. Brands like Menchie's, TCBY, and Yogurtland have been able to bring locally sourced frozen yogurt to consumers in major international markets, including Tokyo and Hong Kong.

A Voice of Integrity

Brad Scott's voice rings with integrity, experience, and authenticity. Whether speaking at the Animal Agriculture Alliance Summit or sharing the realities of farming on the national program "Undercover Boss," he brings credibility to an industry often misunderstood. His leadership embodies transparency, innovation, and stewardship.

Grounded in Community and Legacy

When asked what keeps him grounded, Brad points to the land, the cows, and, most importantly, the people—his family, employees, and the community that has supported Scott Bros. Dairy for over a century. "We're caretakers," he says, "not just of the animals and the land, but of the legacy we leave for the next generation."

Embracing Change with Honor

In a time when agriculture faces increased regulatory pressure and public scrutiny, Brad Scott remains a trusted voice. He advocates for farmers, protects resources, and demonstrates that it is possible to honor tradition while embracing change. His leadership ensures that Scott Bros. Dairy Farm continues to thrive, blending the best of its history with the promise of its future.

Riverside County Farm Bureau Advocates for Agriculture in Sacramento

Farm Bureau members converged on the state Capitol last month as part of an annual advocacy effort organized by the California Farm Bureau, bringing their voices directly to lawmakers on key issues facing the agricultural community. Among the many participants were leaders from the Riverside County Farm Bureau (RCFB), who traveled to Sacramento to represent the interests of local producers.

"This is one of the most important things we do," said Chris Reardon, vice president of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau. "While we have a policy team up here on a regular basis, in all honesty, the most effective communicators of our issues are the members themselves."

RCFB President Ellen Way, Vice President Celeste Alonzo, Director Marlene Salazar-Pongs, and Executive Director Rachael Johnson met with elected officials and staff to discuss legislative proposals that could significantly impact Riverside County agriculture. Meetings included direct conversations with Assemblyman Cory Jackson, as well as staff from the offices of Assemblywomen Jacqui Irwin and Kate Sanchez, Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez, and Senator Sabrina Cervantes.

The RCFB delegation raised concerns about several bills, including AB 1156, which they believe undermines the longstanding Williamson Act by weakening protections for agricultural land. They also voiced opposition to SB 601, legislation that would expand the Clean Water Act to allow private right-of-action lawsuits, which farmers argue could lead to costly legal challenges and regulatory uncertainty. In addition to opposing problematic measures, the group advocated proactive policies, such as supporting on-farm composting of livestock mortalities and urging continued funding for the FARMER, SAFER, and Food Production Investment Program (FPIP).

"This experience has taught me that members of the legislature like to hear from voters," said RCFB President Ellen Way. "Most advocacy work is done by lobbyists, so it means that much more when actual constituents visit the Capitol. It was worth my time to travel to Sacramento, and I urge more farmers to make time for this important work."

With issues such as water rights, land use, labor shortages, and food security taking center stage, the RCFB leaders worked to ensure that policymakers clearly understood the unique needs and challenges of Riverside County's agricultural sector.

Their presence in Sacramento underscored the critical role local voices play in shaping agricultural policy at the state level. As California agriculture continues to navigate a complex regulatory landscape, efforts like this remain vital to protecting the industry's long-term viability.

June is National Dairy Month

Oh, that's a fun fact! National Dairy Month is a great time to appreciate the hard work of dairy farmers and the delicious products they provide. It's also a perfect time to experiment with dairy in your recipes or learn more about the nutritional benefits of dairy products.

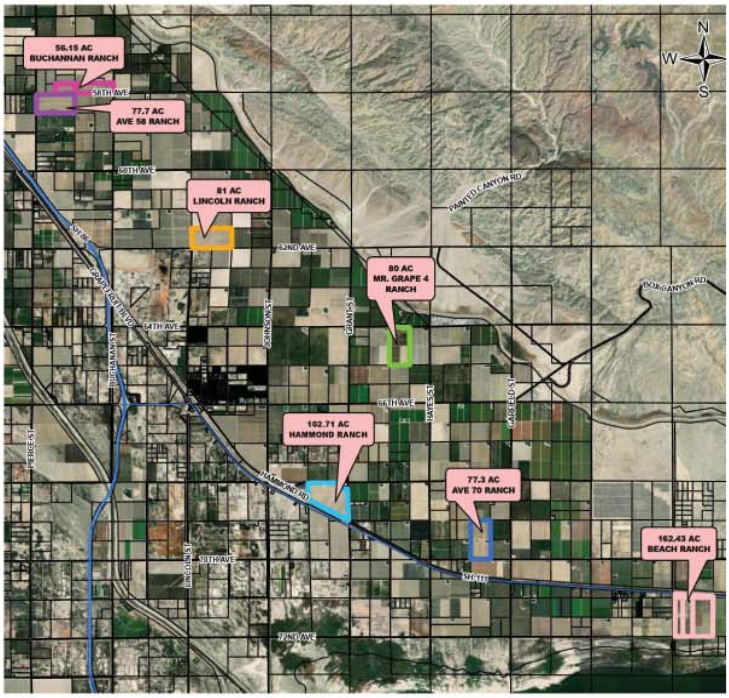
If you're looking for ways to celebrate, here are a few ideas:

1. **Try a new recipe:** There are countless recipes that showcase dairy products. From a classic mac and cheese to a creamy risotto, the options are endless.
2. **Visit a local dairy farm:** If there's a dairy farm near you, consider taking a tour. It's a great way to learn about the process and support local businesses.
3. **Host a cheese tasting party:** Gather a variety of cheeses from your local grocery store or farmer's market, invite some friends over, and enjoy!
4. **Learn about different types of dairy products:** Did you know there are hundreds of types of cheese? Or that yogurt comes in many different styles from all over the world? Spend some time this month learning about the diversity of dairy products.
5. **Make homemade ice cream:** Nothing beats the taste of homemade ice cream. Plus, it's a fun activity for the whole family!

Remember, while dairy is a great source of calcium and protein, it's important to enjoy it as part of a balanced diet. Happy National Dairy Month!

COACHELLA VALLEY FARMGROUND

PORTFOLIO OF SEVEN RANCHES
637.29 ACRES ALL OR PART



RANCH INFO

- **Ranch #1**
  Buchanan Ranch
  56.15 AC Ave 58 & E Pierce St
  Thermal
  Price: $1,319,525 ($23,500/AC)
- **Ranch #2**
  Avenue 58 Ranch
  77.7 AC SEC Pierce St & Ave 58
  Thermal
  Price: $1,825,950 ($23,500/AC)
- **Ranch #3**
  Lincoln Ranch
  81 AC SEC Lincoln St & Ave 62
  Thermal
  Price: $1,822,500 ($22,500/AC)
- **Ranch #4**
  Mr. Grape 4 Ranch
  80 AC SEC Colfax St & Ave 65
  Mecca
  Price: $1,920,000 ($24,000/AC)
- **Ranch #5**
  Hammond Ranch
  102.71 AC NEC Grant St & Hammond Rd
  Thermal
  Price: $2,310,975 ($22,500/AC)
- **Ranch #6**
  Avenue 70 Ranch
  77.3 AC SEC Wheeler & Ave 70
  Mecca
  Price: $1,898,800 ($24,564/AC)
- **Ranch #7**
  Beach Ranch
  162.43 AC Hwy 111 & Cleveland
  Mecca
  Price: $3,654,675 ($22,500/AC)

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California Farm Bureau Underscores need for Stable Agricultural Workforce

In response to recent immigration enforcement activity, the California Farm Bureau reaffirms its support for the employees who are essential to the success and sustainability of farming and ranching in California.

“California agriculture depends on and values its workforce. Farm employees are not just workers—they are partners in this industry,” said Bryan Little, senior director of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau. “The current approach to federal immigration enforcement is having a disruptive effect on California’s rural communities and the farmers, ranchers, workers and families who live and work there.”

Without these employees, he said, crops would go unharvested, rural businesses would suffer and food prices could rise for families across the country.

“If federal immigration enforcement activities continue in this direction, it will become increasingly difficult to produce food, process it and get it onto grocery store shelves,” Little said. “A stable and reliable workforce is crucial to maintaining the nation’s food security.”

He added that California Farm Bureau is encouraged that the president has signaled the need for more discrete and circumspect action to reduce disruption of farming operations.

With one-third of the nation’s agricultural workforce located in California, farm employees play an indispensable role in food production. These skilled workers plant, cultivate, harvest and process the crops that make California the leading producer of fruits, vegetables and nuts in the United States. California’s agricultural operations are not only critical to the state’s economy, they are essential to feeding the nation.

Nominations Open for the Department of Pesticide Regulation’s Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

DPR has opened its first nomination period to identify representatives from rural and urban communities impacted by pesticide use, including Native American, tribal, or indigenous groups, farmworker advocates, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and scientists with environmental justice backgrounds that are interested in serving on the department’s new Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC). The nomination period runs through June 30th. More information can be found at the link in the title, or at DPR’s EJAC webpage. (https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/committees/about-the-environmental-justice-advisory-committee/)

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at California's Quiet Defense Against Invasive Pests

By Deputy Chris Blake, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

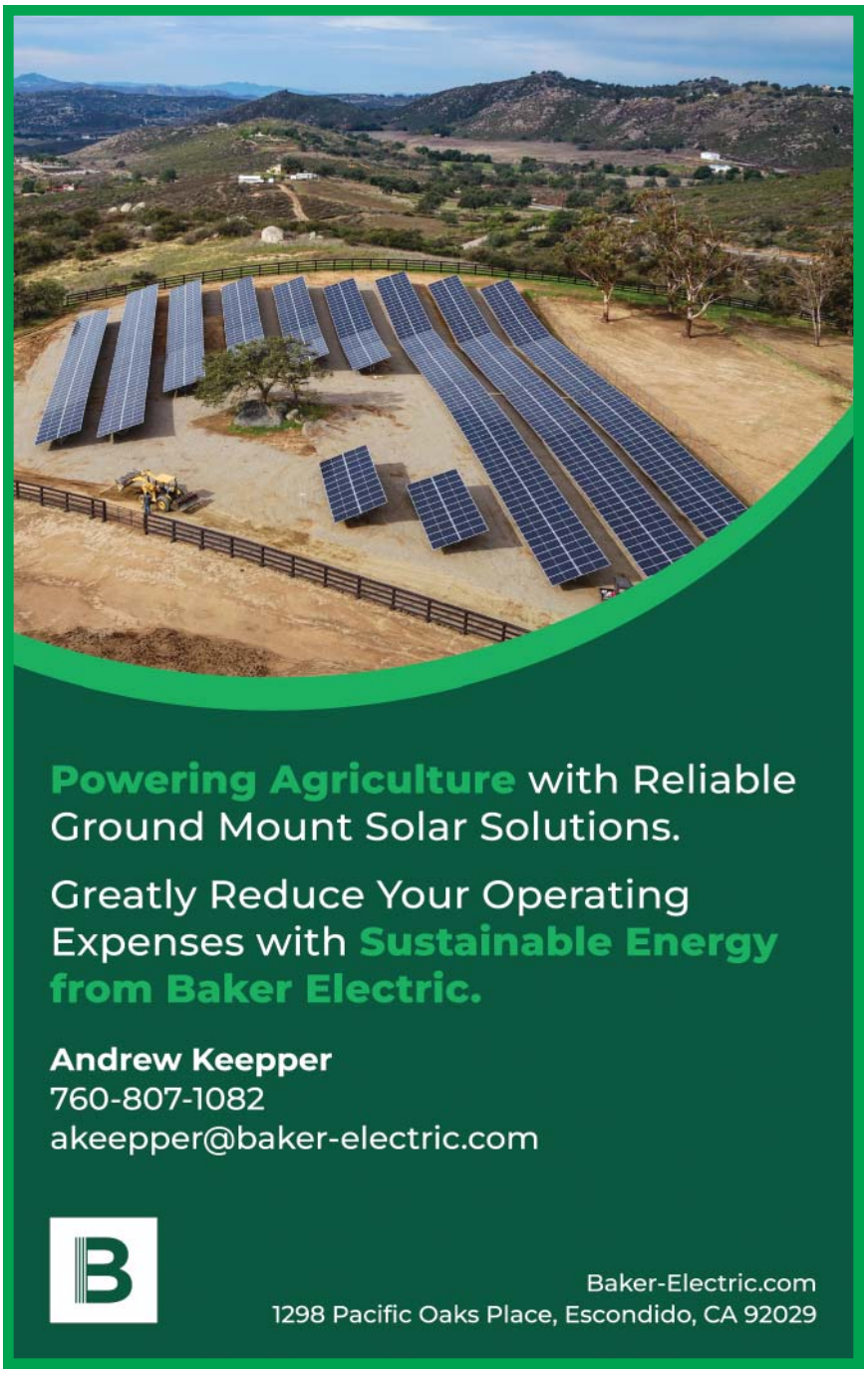
Agricultural Commissioner Delia Cioc and Deputy Commissioner Chris Blake recently had the unique opportunity to tour the Sterile Fruit Fly Rearing Facility in Los Alamitos. The visit, part of the CACASA Spring Conference tour hosted in Orange County, provided a rare and up-close look at one of California's most understated yet critical lines of defense against invasive pests.

As the tour progressed, participants entered containment rooms where live Mediterranean and Mexican fruit flies hovered in the air, landing on clothing, arms, and hands. Though unassuming at first glance, these tiny insects carry the potential to wreak havoc on California's fruit and vegetable crops. Watching one crawl across a sleeve served as a powerful reminder of how much damage such a small creature can cause, both to our local ecosystems and our economy. This visit underscored the essential role of the preventative work being done by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and our partners across the state.

The Los Alamitos facility has an unexpected origin story. It originally opened in 1992 as a temporary response to a growing fruit-fly threat; it was only meant to operate for a few months. Yet over 30 years later, it remains a vital operation, despite aging infrastructure and mounting pest pressures. The facility plays a key role in producing and releasing sterile fruit flies into targeted areas year-round. This method, known as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), helps suppress wild populations by disrupting reproduction and dramatically lowering the chances of new outbreaks.

For those of us working in agricultural regulation and protection, this visit was a strong reminder of the importance of our work. It highlighted the critical nature of our collaborative efforts, locally and statewide, in safeguarding California's multi-billion-dollar agriculture industry. While much of this work goes unnoticed by the public, its impact is both real and lasting.

At the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, we are proud to support and partner with programs like the SIT facility as part of our mission to protect both agriculture and the environment. Through continued vigilance and innovation, we help ensure a safer, more resilient future for our farmers, consumers, and environment.



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"Farm Bureau Working for You"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There will be no Board of Directors meeting in July 2025. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. More details will be announced at a later date.

Food and Farm News

Courtesy of CFBF

Farm Bureau program pairs new farmers with seasoned mentors

Beginning farmers and their more experienced peers are forging fulfilling partnerships through a year-old mentorship program run by the California Farm Bureau's California Bountiful Foundation and supported by state and federal funding. Launched in spring 2024, the Expanding Our Roots program aims to help newcomers navigate the complexities of farming and ranching by giving them access to seasoned pros who can share the knowledge they've gained through years of trial and error, said Tyler Rood, senior project specialist at the foundation and the program's coordinator.

California agriculture official highlights priorities

In an exclusive interview with Ag Alert®, California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross spoke about challenges farmers face and her priorities for agriculture in the Golden State. "It is crucial that we understand where we can help provide relief or more efficient, effective ways of doing things," Ross said. "It's hugely important for our landscape and our climate goals to keep people on the land and for families in rural communities to have a thriving agricultural sector."

Legislation allowing schools to serve whole milk advances

A bill being considered by U.S. lawmakers would give schools the option of serving whole and 2% milk. Dairy groups applauded passage last week of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act out of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. The bipartisan legislation was already approved by a House committee. Since 2012, federal school meal rules have allowed only 1% and fat-free milk to be served in schools, despite those varieties being less popular in people's homes. The bill "is about making informed, science-backed decisions that prioritize the health and future of our children," National Milk Producers Federation President and CEO Gregg Doud said.