



Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

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www.lacfb.org

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LACFB

*In the News.....
In the News.....*

Thinking of starting a farm?

OR

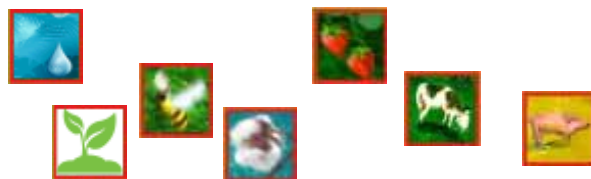
Do you need gardening advice?



Last chance to register! It's Free!



<http://agdayla.com/>



<http://agdayla.com/agday2009.html>

Online Features

Suggest a link



LACFB Office Staff ~ Laura Blank, Executive Director and Victoria Gerginis, Education Coordinator



Greetings Agricultural and Garden Enthusiasts,

The Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Office Staff greatly appreciates receiving your phone calls and email submittals. We pay close attention to the topics and inquiries received so that we can respond accordingly. This month, the majority of your inquiries were regarding information on starting a farm or garden. Therefore, we would like to highlight the portions of our website's related links section that address your concerns.

Thinking of Starting a Farm?

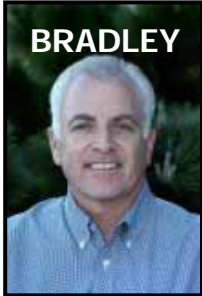
- For those of you that don't know where to begin, the website "Growing New Farmers" provides a starting point to your journey: http://www.growingnewfarmers.org/growingnewfarmers/questions_answers/index.htm
- The links on this page range from informational resources to blogs detailing the life experiences of new farmers: <http://lacfb.org/links/directory.php?viewcat=31>
- If you are specifically interested in farming in the Antelope Valley, please view the following contact information: <http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Agriculture/>

School and Backyard Garden Resources

- An extensive collection of garden resources, web forums, activities, contact information, etc. <http://lacfb.org/new/gardens.html>
- Southern CA Vegetable Planting Schedule- <http://www.digitalseed.com/gardener/schedule/vegetable.html>
- How to create butterfly and bird gardens- <http://www.butterflyhouse.org/butterflies/butterflygardening.aspx>
<http://4hwildlifestewards.org/member%20schools/school%20projects/bird.htm>
- Are you a teacher interested in starting a school garden, but don't have the space? <http://www.earthbox.com/>
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/feb03/pg1.html>
- Common Ground Gardening Program-LA County Cooperative Extension- http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Common_Ground_Garden_Program/

The LACFB's goal is to have a website that compiles an extensive collection of agricultural and related resources and information. We encourage you to submit your ideas, as well as to suggest resources that are not included on our site. In this way, we can all benefit from having data that's accessible from one location. The concept of "agriculture" will become easier to find and implement with your participation. Please send your suggestions to Victoria at admin@lacfb.org or feel free to contact our office at 661-274-9709.





BRADLEY TO MANAGE FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Article contributed by the CFBF Staff

An innovative agricultural manager has been named to oversee membership and leadership programs for the California Farm Bureau Federation. Michael Bradley has joined the Farm Bureau to manage the organization's Leadership Development and Membership Marketing Division.

Bradley will be responsible for strategic development and coordination of Farm Bureau membership initiatives. He will also create and implement marketing programs for member services and oversee the organization's volunteer-training and leadership services.

"Farm Bureau exists to serve its members. With his background in agriculture, event management, community partnerships and fundraising, Mike Bradley will enhance the value of Farm Bureau membership for existing and new members alike," California Farm Bureau President Doug Mosebar said.

Prior to joining Farm Bureau, Bradley worked for the California Exposition and State Fair since 1980, most recently as chief of its Bureau of Exhibits. His work included developing innovative methods to showcase California agriculture, including the state fair's award-winning demonstration farm and its Farm Camp program.

"Throughout his career, Mike has advocated on behalf of California farmers and ranchers in a way that's creative and highly accessible to our non-farm neighbors. His skills suit him ideally for his role in expanding and enhancing Farm Bureau membership," Mosebar said.

A resident of Granite Bay, Bradley majored in agricultural science and education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and is a member of the university's Animal Science Department Advisory Committee. He has served on the boards of both the California FFA Foundation and the California 4-H Foundation, and with numerous other agricultural organizations.

The California Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest farm organization, works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of 85,000 members statewide.

Play it safe when using your cell phone on the farm

By Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

Cell phones are wonderful communications tools, and with the continual technological improvements, their use and reception is becoming much more readily available in rural areas.

With the advent of cell phones, farmers and ranchers were able to instantly talk with or send text messages to other farmers, employees, family members, the parts store...and the list goes on.

As with any tool, however, cell phones come with some built-in hazards. Not the same kind of hazard as a tractor's PTO, perhaps, but misuse of a cell phone can result in a very serious mishap.

A California state law was recently enacted making it illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving, unless a hands-free device such as a Bluetooth is used. It is also against that law to send or read text messages while driving, which only makes common sense anyway. Distractions that have been traced to cell phone use are known to have resulted in several deaths and serious injuries from vehicle accidents.

But these accidents aren't limited to roads and highways. Using a cell phone while operating a tractor or other piece of farm equipment can also have tragic results.

A list of safety tips has been compiled by a group called cellphonesafety.org. While these tips are intended primarily for automobile drivers, they can also be applied to operators of farm machinery. Read these tips, think about them and share them with family and employees.

- Abstain from talking on a cell phone while you are actively driving.
- If you need to answer a call or make one, try to pull off the road into a safe parking area.
- Make sure your phone is within easy reach, not somewhere you might have to dig for it.
- Use a hand's free device like a Bluetooth headset or earpiece that allows you to talk while both hands remain on the wheel.
- Hands-free or not, postpone conversations that are either emotional or complex.
- Prior to getting on the road, practice driving while using your hands-free device in an open parking lot so you know how to use it properly without fumbling.
- Do not send a text message or try to read incoming messages while driving.
- Use your cell phone only in the event of an emergency in which you need help or someone else needs help.

Practicing cell phone safety is everyone's responsibility. There are plenty of studies that show any distraction that interrupts a driver's concentration is potentially dangerous. Take your eyes off the road for a second and incidents can happen. Same thing goes for farm equipment operators.

Since 1943, the CFBF and State Fund partnership has provided farmers with affordable worker compensation coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the SCIF Web site at www.scif.com.



Interested In Joining 4H?

Article contributed by Dawn Fuller

To begin with, you might be wondering what 4-H is, if you haven't heard of it before. 4-H is an organization for youth, ages 5-19, that promotes hands-on learning and is based on parent and volunteer participation. 4-H helps youth to build self-esteem, connect with their community, develop leadership skills, make friends, share interests and gain valuable knowledge that will help guide them through life and be the best they can be. All youth (and adult volunteers) from all backgrounds in all locales (rural and urban) are welcome at 4H.

4-H also works closely with local schools and community-based organizations to provide quality after-school enrichment projects. Innovative curricula and activities on a variety of themes, including science, are used to challenge, entertain and engage youth participants in meaningful experiences. These 4H activities reinforce their academic skills and build competencies in leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Opportunities to learn & achieve in 4-H include:

Gardening
Pet Care
Agriculture
Camping
Sewing
Cooking
Public Speaking
Healthy Living
Leadership
Life Skills
Livestock
Community Service

If you would like more information on how these programs can enrich the lives of our youth, please feel free to contact:

Dawn A. Fuller

4-H Program Representative
UC Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County
4800 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 260-3859
Email: dafuller@ucdavis.edu

Do You Have Your Purple Card?

Things to do

- ✓ **Get an auto insurance quote** – Call **Allied** and get a 7.5% discount on personal auto insurance
- ✓ **Buy paint for the dining room** – Go to **Kelly-Moore** or **Dunn Edwards** and save up to 35% on paint and supplies
- ✓ **Get new glasses** – Go to **LensCrafters** and get a 20% discount
- ✓ **Prescriptions** – Use my **Solutions Prescriptions Savings Card** to save up to 35% on name brand and generic drugs
- ✓ **Plan a vacation** – Get **Sea World**, **Great America**, **San Diego Zoo** and other discounts

enjoy the savings

Call **Farm Bureau** Member Services for more information on how you can **MAXX OUT** your Farm Bureau benefits at **1-800-698-3276** or go to **www.cfbf.com**.



It's just a little purple card, but it packs a big punch.



[STATE FUND & FARM BUREAU - WORKING HAND IN GLOVE SINCE 1943.]

WHAT'S ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER?

Some things just fit...like State Fund and the Farm Bureau. Together, we have a more-than-60-year history of helping you handle the toughest jobs on the farm with practical safety programs, and a custom workers' compensation plan available only to California farmers.

Try us on. We fit any size. Just talk to your broker, or give us a call at 1-800-773-7667.



STATE FUND
www.scif.com

Workers' Compensation for Horse Facilities:

With a FB membership you can receive a discount on your worker's compensation insurance through State Fund.

Contact a State Fund representative at <http://www.scif.com/> and ask for one of the FB programs: Group 005 CFBF, Stock Farms (includes raising and breeding of horses) or Group 511 CFBF Horse Breeders Group/ Horse Shows (i.e. insurance for stable employees).



John Valentine
Director, Sponsor Relations
Nationwide Insurance

Contact John via email at:
Valentj4@nationwide.com



Allied Insurance

Allied Insurance provides quality insurance products and On Your Side service to individuals, families, farms and businesses. Customers know the Allied name represents quality insurance and outstanding service at a fair price. **Personal Auto ~Farm Bureau members receive a 7 1/2 percent discount on Allied's personal auto insurance.** Search the **Allied Agent Locator** (<http://www.cfbf.com/farmagents/>) for an agent near you or call (800) 282-1446.

Nationwide Insurance

Nationwide Insurance Company of America offers a 7 1/2 percent discount on personal auto insurance to Farm Bureau members in California. To find an agent near you, visit www.nationwide.com or call 1-877-669-6877

Agricultural Colleges

Cal Poly Pomona
3801 West Temple Ave
Pomona, CA 91768
(909) 869-2189

Farms/Ranches

Alesso Farms
P.O. Box 398
Rosamond, CA 93560
(661) 256-0933

Feed and Tack

Hemme Hay & Feed
43719 N. Sierra Hwy
Lancaster, Ca 93534
(661) 942-7880

Various Businesses

Billet Barn & Corral
48430 85th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 945-1249
www.billetsteel.com
barnguy@direcway.com

Convention Center

Calamigos Ranch
327 S. Latigo Canyon
Malibu, CA 90265
(800) 821-2097
(818) 879-8130 Fax
<http://www.calamigos.com/>

Bench Ranch
Michael Bench
7200 West Ave H
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 949-9999

Financial

Gordon Elder, CFP
Certified Financial Planner
Professional
44345 Lowtree Ave.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 940-7977
www.gordonelder.com

Inn of Lancaster
44131 Sierra Hwy
Lancaster, Ca 93534
(661) 945-8771

January Creations Inc
1475 Chastain Pkwy W
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
(310)230-1100

Breeders

J and J Farms
PO Box 3427
Lancaster, Ca 93586
(661) 943-4558
lbquilts@verizon.net

Wells & Pumps

DRC Pump Systems, Inc.
44434 90th Street East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 946-9444

Gary Rardon and Associates
514 Commerce Ave, Suite A
Palmdale, Ca 93551
(661) 272-5672
grardon@rardon.org

Southern California Edison
Cathy Hart
42060 10th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 726-5608

Ray Martin
P.O. Box 114
Valyermo, CA 93563
(661) 435-9950

Supply Companies

Distribution Supply Tech
4820 Lamier Road
Chino, CA 91710
(909) 627-3638

Rottman Drilling
46471 N. Division St.
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942-6125
rdrilling@msn.com

Dodge Dealers

H.W. Hunter, Inc
1130 Auto Mall Drive
Lancaster, Ca 93534
(661) 948-8411

Hall's Automotive
3062 1/2 East Ave H6
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 946-2969

HDEC Inc
(661) 951-0554
hdec@hdec.net

Grocery Supplies/Stores

Antelope Valley Produce
206 West Nugent
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 942-5939

Engineering

Barry Munz
129 West Pondera Street
Lancaster, Ca 93534
(661) 948-0805

Other Organizations

50th District Agricultural
Association
2511 West Avenue H
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 948-6060

Green Sky Ins Services
1-800-550-0155

Valley Sod Farms
16405 Chase Street
North Hills, CA 91343
(818) 892-7258

Costco #762
1141 W Ave L
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 802-4470

Florist

Palmdale Lancaster Florist
1649 W Ave J
Lancaster, Ca 93534
(661) 723-7673

Antelope Valley Air Quality
Management District
43301 Division Street, #206
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-8070

White Fence Farms
wff@qnet.com
(661) 943-3316
(661) 943-3576 Fax

Mishkan Ranch
Mschwa3000@aol.com
(661) 298-0333