



Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

41228 12th Street West, Suite A Palmdale, CA 93551
Telephone 661.274.9709 Fax 661.274.0637
www.lacfb.org

Quarterly Issue

September 2011
Volume 28 Issue 33

LACFB

Executive Committee

President

Eugene Nebeker
Nebeker Ranch

1st Vice President

Julie Kyle
Kyle & Kyle Ranches

2nd Vice President

Jeff Siebert

Secretary

Gloria Alesso
Alesso Family Trust

Treasury

Julie Kyle
Kyle & Kyle Ranches

Past President

Terry Munz
Munz Ranch

Board of Directors

Casey Alesso
Alesso Farms

Jess Baker
J & J Farms

Ralph Bozigian
Bozigian Realty

Brandon Calandri
Calandri/Son Rise Farms

Steve Godde
Cameo Ranch

Dennis Groven
Dennis Groven Ranch

Robert Jones
R & M Ranch

Gailen Kyle
Kyle & Kyle Ranches, Inc.

John Maritorenna
Maritorenna Farms

Marie Maritorenna
Maritorenna Farms

Richard Miner

Dave Rizzo
Grimmway Farms

Steve Rodrigues
Bolthouse

LACFB Office Staff

Victoria Gerginis
Office Manager

Upcoming Events..... Upcoming Events.....



Come visit the LA Farm Bureau booth at the LA County Fair in Pomona from September 3rd – October 2nd.

We are located behind the Fairview Farms area, all the way in the back. Friend us on Facebook and see when we will be onsite for a planting demo as well as to promote farming with educational materials and freebies!

For more information please visit:
<http://lacfb.org/>

Also In This Issue Also In This Issue

- Farm Bureau Member Benefits <http://cfbf.com/benefits/index.cfm>, p. 2
- Agricultural views from our LACFB Essay Winners, pgs. 3-4
- LA County 4-H to host Pet Symposium, p. 4
- Agricultural Tidbits: pgs. 4-7
- Don't have time? Renew or join LACFB more easily, p. 7
- Advertising Arena and LACFB Business Directory, p. 8

Ask your friends and families to join Farm Bureau in 2011 because:

We are your number-one source for agricultural news, we are your advocacy partner and we work hard to save you money on your everyday business expenses. Join today and your voice will become more than 80,000 members strong.

There's an old saying....there is strength in numbers

Farm Bureau members get results through grass- roots involvement that begins at your county Farm Bureau. With a network of 53 county Farm Bureaus you become a part of the California Farm Bureau Federation, the largest organization representing agriculture at the county state and federal levels of government.

Let Farm Bureau help you get answers

Keep current on regulations and industry trends through *Ag Alert*, the most-read weekly agricultural newspaper, and through our website at www.cfbf.com. Be aware of local issues before they affect you through you county Farm Bureau office. Maintain compliance with ever-changing labor laws by subscribing to the Farm Employer's Labor Service.


Let Farm Bureau help you reduce your business expenses

Reduce your insurance costs with access to Farm Bureau programs offering competitive quotes for rates on you farm, auto health and worker' compensation insurance. Learn about many other member benefits and discount programs including Dodge, Grainger, Kelly-Moore, LensCrafters and more.


Help Farm Bureau promote consumer confidence

Volunteer or support the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, Farm Bureau scholarships and local Farm Bureau public relations programs such as our *California Country* television show and magazine.

- “Freebies” for Farm Bureau Members – click here to review the list of discounts - <http://cfbf.com/benefits/#guide>
- **New insurance savings for “Voting” members**
 - California Farm Bureau Federation in conjunction with Nationwide Insurance is now offering a new benefit for voting members. “Voting Farm Bureau members are now eligible for a 12.5% discount on their personal auto insurance with Allied and Nationwide,” according to John Valentine of Nationwide Insurance. Sustaining members will continue receiving the 7.5% discount.




Allied Insurance
a Nationwide® company
On Your Side®



John Valentine
Director, Sponsor
Relations Nationwide
Insurance

Contact John via email at:
Valentj4@nationwide.com



Nationwide®
On Your Side

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 Web site at www.nhpcalifornia.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.

We know Mother Nature doesn't wait.

That's why we get your employees back to work fast through our careful processing of claims. Plus, we offer eligible Farm Bureau members a 6% discount on premiums. It's all part of our commitment to California agriculture. Because Mother Nature doesn't stop, and neither will we.

Together, we'll help keep California working.
statefundca.com





State Compensation Insurance Fund is not a branch of the State of California.



Personal Ag Views from the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Essay Winners

The winners of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau (LACFB) essay contest are (in alphabetical order by last name): Jonathan Briggs, Alicia Eaves, and Shelby Larsen. LACFB wants to recognize the hard work that our essay participants put into agriculture and their livestock auction projects, as well as to personalize their stories.

The farmers' on the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Board of Directors had asked potential contestants to write their personal story about life in agriculture, such as raising animals for show, any memorable moments, benefits, etc.

Jonathon, a member of Littlerock FFA, had started his essay by pointing out that he likes to eat three meals a day! He referenced that farmers and the agricultural industry make this possible for us all.

“I like to eat three meals a day! Do you know how this is possible? Well, I know it is possible because of the agricultural industry....”

“This experience molded and formed my passion in caring for animals.”

On the other hand, Alicia connected to agriculture from her love of animals. Her experience via the Grange Youth Fair Team has helped her achieve her aspirations of attending college to pursue a veterinary degree, in addition to being a member on an intercollegiate rodeo team.

Whereas, Shelby, of Westside 4H, can tell you what it's like to be born into the farming lifestyle and raise all types of animals. She states that “these one thousand pound plus beasts (referring to steers) become your best friend because of the 9-10 month period that we raise them (for fair auction).” She also understands that even though a close relationship forms, there is also the reality of raising animals for food, and had also provided a list of animal by-products that ranged from chewing gum, to toothpaste, to perfume.

“I look forward each year to purchasing my animals for fair and setting goals for improvement. I think that raising animals and having an agricultural background teaches you to work hard and to follow through.”

Each of the three Los Angeles County Farm Bureau essay winners received \$1000 as an add-on for their animals at the Kiwanis Junior Livestock Auction that was held at the AV fairgrounds. Jonathan had summarized their work schedule as "Feed, water, wash and walk." The next time you visit these animals in the barn area at the AV Fair, remember that these agricultural enthusiasts rise early in the morning and repeat this process with their animals throughout the entire day.

For future contests, as well as to learn more about agriculture, please visit the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau online at <http://lacfb.org/>.

AGRICULTURAL TIDBITS:

Farming in Los Angeles? Most current Los Angeles County Crop report available online: <http://lacfb.org> (under the crop report tab).

Los Angeles County 4-H will be hosting its 4th Annual 4-H Pet Symposium on Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (UC Cooperative Extension Office, 4800 East Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Los Angeles, 90022).

Popular children's author Susan Lendroth will be reading from, and signing her book, Calico Dorsey. SPCA will be at the event with their "mobile unit" and will be providing a LOW COST (\$5-\$25) vaccination clinic and \$25 "chipping" vs. the cost at your veterinarian (\$50-\$100)! This is going to be an LA County 4-H event to remember!

4-H would like to invite you and your families to this fun and informative event- free of charge! To R.S.V.P. or to find out more details, contact Dawn Fuller dafuller@ucdavis.edu. Hope to see you there!

Funding is down on California's college farms [Los Angeles Times, August 8, 2011] The cattle, sheep and horse herds are smaller these days on the 700-acre farm operated by Cal Poly Pomona in the rolling foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Buildings and equipment need updating, and the farm and ranch depend more than before on volunteers and donations. State funding cuts that have resulted in tuition hikes and fewer classes at California State University and University of California campuses are striking deep at college agriculture programs in California and across the nation. Some schools have been forced to close departments, sell farms, reduce animal herds and scale back research projects, even as enrollment in many agricultural disciplines grow. Agricultural programs like Cal Poly Pomona's face challenges other academic disciplines don't: Animals don't take a break for summer, bug infestations can wipe out crops, farm equipment can break down, and ever-rising costs of feed have to be considered. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-college-agriculture-20110808,0,5744244.story>

Raw milk regulations tighten as demand increases [Associated Press, August 5, 2011] ...But even as consumers inspired by the local food movement line up at farmers markets and specialty stores to buy raw milk, pressure on the producers has intensified in California and elsewhere around the country....Five other states — New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Vermont and South Dakota — have adopted stricter standards to regulate the amount of bacteria in unprocessed milk in the past three years, according to the Raw Milk Survey released last month by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. And states have cracked down on small unlicensed farmers selling raw milk to friends and neighbors. Three people were arrested in California this week for allegedly producing and selling raw milk without a license. They ran a herd share, in which several people split ownership because an animal's owner can legally drink its raw milk without state inspections. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/08/05/ap/business/main20088499.shtml?tag=mncol;lst;1>

The salad is in the bag [Wall Street Journal, July 27, 2011] Can packaged produce get America out of its salad rut? Despite decades of nagging to eat more leafy greens and colorful vegetables, the average American eats a salad at mealtime only about 36 times a year. That's 20% less often than in 1985, when the average annual frequency was 45, according to market research firm NPD Group. Fewer than half of Americans—49%—ate at least one "leaf salad" at home in two weeks, compared with 75% who ate a potato dish and 81% who ate beef. "The single biggest problem with salad is making it," says Harry Balzer, vice president at NPD, who studies eating habits. "Cleaning, cutting, making sure you have fresh produce"—it all tends to keep people away, he says. At Fresh Express Inc., a unit of Chiquita Brands International Inc., executives think adding more vegetables to bagged greens will get consumers to eat more salad. They are aiming to release a bagged salad that has not just lettuces but also cucumbers, tomatoes and red peppers, among other vegetables, by sometime next year. All shoppers will have to do is open, pour and eat.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903999904576469973559258778.html?mod=google_news_ws *Link may require paid subscription

McDonald's to make Happy Meals more healthful [Los Angeles Times, July 26, 2011] Under pressure from health and children's advocacy groups, McDonald's Corp. is making changes to its famed Happy Meals. The fast food chain will add a serving of fruit or vegetable to all of the meals, which are aimed at children, and shrink the portion of French fries. The changes, to be announced Tuesday, will take effect in September in some markets and then roll out to all 14,000 McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. by April....The new French fry holders in Happy Meals will contain 1.1 ounces of potatoes, down from 2.4. Apple slices will often be included as the healthful side dish, but it could also be carrots, raisins, pineapple slices or mandarin oranges, depending on the time of year and the region in which they're being served, Fields said. <http://www.latimes.com/health/la-fi-mcdonalds-20110726.0,2861497.story>

Smartphone scan codes a strong tool for Valley ag [Fresno Bee, July 14, 2011] QR codes -- those little black-and-white, bar-code-like labels that can be scanned by smartphones -- are changing the way food grown in the Valley is marketed. They're tearing down a barrier growers and packers of fruit and other crops have struggled with for years: how to get information to the consumer when your product doesn't have a box or plastic wrapping with room for text or photos. Reedley-based Summeripe Worldwide Inc, an alliance of fruit packers, growers and shippers, is using QR codes on signs displayed with their peaches, plums and nectarines. Customers who scan the codes are taken to a site with recipes for peach bread pudding and photos of fruit on the trees.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/07/13/2463787/scannable-codes-give-buyers-information.html#storylink=misearch>

Governor signs bill imposing \$150 firefighting fee [Associated Press, July 8, 2011] Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday signed into law a \$150 annual wildfire protection fee for property owners in rural areas of California, even as anti-tax advocates said they are prepared to challenge the way the Legislature imposed the levy. The Democratic governor announced that he signed the bill, ABX1-29, to ensure rural property owners pay their share of the state's wildland firefighting costs. The state has spent an average of \$177 million a year for firefighting over the past decade, although the state is awaiting federal reimbursement for part of the costs in recent years....Anti-tax advocates said they plan to challenge the Legislature's ability to impose fees without the two-thirds vote required for tax increases. The firefighting fee affects about 850,000 structures statewide.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/08/3756849/governor-signs-bill-imposing-150.html#storylink=misearch>

Farmers assessing effects of this year's wild weather on crops [Merced Sun-Star, July 8, 2011]

That cool weather that hung around until June did more than just bring a little extra rain to the area. It also affected some important crops in Merced County. "I think we're worried about cotton," said David Robinson, agricultural commissioner for Merced County. "It's way behind."...Tomato growers have also been affected by the cool weather. Both market and processing tomatoes were set back, but Robinson said some harvesting has started after planting was delayed....Almond growers are going to see a good crop despite the weather, but some growers may have incurred extra expenses because of the weather.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/07/08/1961572/farmers-assessing-effects-of-this.html#storylink=misearch>

State's almond crop likely to be largest ever [Stockton Record, July 7, 2011] California almond farmers should produce a record cracking 1.95 billion-pound crop this fall, 19 percent more than last year's 1.64 billion-pound harvest, also a record. Productivity, at 2,600 pounds per acre, is also expected to set a new record, up 17 percent from last year's 2,250-pound-per-acre average, according to a forecast released Wednesday by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. A cool, wet spring did little to dampen the almond outlook, the agency noted.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110707/A_NEWS/107070331&cid=sitesearch

Growers grapple with soaring feed prices [Bakersfield Californian, July 7, 2011] Soaring animal feed prices are putting pressure on producers of meat, dairy and eggs. The price of corn has risen 72 percent over the past year, according to the Western Milling Quality Feeds newsletter. Soybean meal, cotton seed and hay are all up substantially, too. Keith Stephens, owner of Amberhill Farm northeast of Oildale, has had to raise the price of the eggs he sells at a weekly farmer's market for the first time in a decade. <http://www.bakersfield.com/news/business/economy/x1928174218/Growers-grapple-with-soaring-feed-prices>

Light-brown apple moths: California deploys wasps as weapon [Los Angeles Times, July 6, 2011] The insatiable fruit- and leaf-eating light-brown apple moth may meet its match this month as California prepares to release hundreds of tiny, stingerless wasps. The move is part of a continuing effort to move away from aerial pesticide spraying to eradicate pests. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will deploy the stingerless wasps, which are native to California, in San Luis Obispo and Sacramento counties. The wasps, no bigger than a grain of rice, will lay their eggs inside of light-brown apple moth eggs. When the wasp larvae emerge, they kill developing moths. "These tiny wasps are harmless to people and pets, but they have a big appetite for the eggs of light-brown apple moths," said California Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, adding that the "integrated pest management approach" minimizes detrimental effects.

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/07/light-brown-apple-moth-stingerless-wasps-pesticides-california.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29

Agriculture colleges, extension get budget squeeze [Associated Press, June 27, 2011] As university budgets take a beating across the country, agricultural schools and extension programs are feeling the impact. Large-scale layoffs have been threatened at some agricultural colleges, and even 4-H youth programs are facing the ax because federal and state funding are on the chopping block. At a time when farmers are being asked to grow more for food and fuel to meet soaring world demand, experts warn against eroding the country's commitment to agricultural research....Much federal support for these programs flows through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, which took a 9 percent cut this fiscal year. Extension supporters largely beat back a House-passed \$30 million cut in a key category of federal matching funds within NIFA that supports salaries for a wide range of extension services, from county agents to 4-H. But a fiscal 2012 funding bill that passed the GOP-controlled House this month cuts \$35 million in those extension funds from the current level of \$294 million.

The Democratic-controlled Senate has yet to act....Farm programs in the University of California system have already seen steep declines in state support over the last 20 years. Daniel Dooley, vice president of its Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said he expects agriculture at the Berkeley, Davis and Riverside campuses will be cut less than most programs once California's \$9.6 billion deficit is resolved, but it will be hurt.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110627/ap_on_re_us/us_food_and_farm_college_cuts

California ships 'all-solar' rice to Japan [Sacramento Bee, June 21, 2011] The California rice industry made a powerful statement recently when it shipped what's believed to be the first vessel of "all solar" farm exports from the state....But the cargo on the Global Arrow is the first in California, and perhaps in the world, to have 100 percent of its paddy rice processed with solar energy. The rice was dried and stored in solar-powered warehouses: Montna Farms Dryer in Dingville, and Myers & Charter Warehouse in Arbuckle. The finished product was then milled, processed and packaged at two solar-powered rice mills, American Commodity Co. in Williams and California Family Foods in Arbuckle.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/06/21/3715153/california-ships-all-solar-rice.html#storylink=misearch>

Water worries grow on Colorado River [San Diego Union-Tribune, June 7, 2011] Drought conditions lasting 5 or more years will persist 40 percent of the time over the next five decades on the Colorado River, according to a federal analysis released Monday. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages water flows on the river, issued the first installment of a long-range study about bridging the gap between supply and demand for river water. The next update will deal with water-use projections and ways to address shortages. The final report, with recommendations, is expected in July 2012....After a long line of dreary forecasts for the Colorado River Basin, no one expected the bureau's projections to be rosy -- and they weren't. The study anticipates roughly a 9 percent decrease in flows on the river over the next 50 years, along with increased drought periods. Projections are based on climate models that show decreased precipitation across the Southwest in years to come.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/jun/06/water-worries-grow-colorado-river/>

Food pyramid is out, MyPlate in as nutrition guide [San Francisco Chronicle, June 3, 2011] Forget about the food pyramid, the government's standard for healthful eating for two decades. The Obama administration replaced it Thursday with a new icon - a plate half filled with fruits and vegetables, the other half with grains and protein, with a smaller plate representing dairy - touting the symbol's clear and concise message. The old symbol, MyPyramid, has been widely derided as convoluted and confusing....The United Fresh Produce Association called MyPlate a "tipping point" that may help to persuade people to eat the proper amounts of fruits and vegetables. The Washington trade group represents Chiquita Brands International Inc. and Dole Food Co. as well as smaller growers. The American Meat Institute Foundation, which represents large meatpackers including Tyson Foods Inc. and Smithfield Foods Inc., said "the new plate makes sense," even with a protein portion smaller than vegetables or grains.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/06/03/BUA21JORQJ.DTL>

Ready to Join Farm Bureau? Or are you a current member that needs to renew your membership?

Go to www.joinfb.com to discover the value of Farm Bureau. It's easy! Just complete the online application or call 1-800-698-3276 and press 1 for membership services to join over the phone.

- To renew your Los Angeles County Farm Bureau Membership - https://www.cfbf.com/RENEW/MEMBER_VERIFICATION.aspx
- To become a member of Farm Bureau - <http://cfbf.com/joinfb/>

Agricultural Colleges

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

Convention Center

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

**Distribution Supply
Tech**

Mark Proctor
procnut@aol.com
(909) 627-3638

Installations

Pacific Coast Installations
(562) 630-1733

Industry

South Pac Industry Inc.
Dave Bradley
steveb@southpac.net
(661) 951-1176

Farms/Ranches

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

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

Forrest Godde
P.O. Box 1152
Lancaster, Ca 93584
(661) 940-3190

Wells & Pumps

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

Engineering

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

Dodge Dealers

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

Financial

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

**Grocery
Supplies/Stores**

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

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

Other Organizations

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

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

Various Businesses

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

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

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

Hemme Hay & Feed
43719 N Sierra Hwy
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 942-8880

Quinn Company
P.O. Box 226789
Los Angeles, CA 90022-6789
(559) 896-4040
kvivian@quinncompany.com