



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

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LACFB

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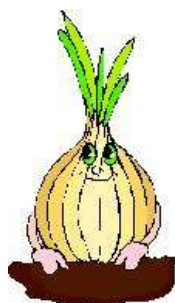
Victoria Gerginis
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Upcoming Events..... Upcoming Events.....



Livestock Auction Add-ons ~ An Essay Contest Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

If you are a 4H, FFA, Grange, or independent student raising livestock to show at the AV fair, the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau (LACFB) is awarding the top three essay contestants with a \$1,000 donation towards their animals.



Don't cry, use onions to get your point across-

Enter your **onion masterpiece** to the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau (LACFB) for their A.V. fair booth display.

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

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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.

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



John Valentine
Director, Sponsor
Relations Nationwide
Insurance

Contact John via email at:
Valentj4@nationwide.com



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

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.



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

AGRICULTURAL TIDBITS:

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

UC Davis joins study of housing for egg-laying hens [Sacramento Bee, May 18, 2011] The University of California, Davis, will team with researchers from Michigan State University to study the effects of various kinds of housing – including cages vs. no cages – on egg-laying hens. The schools have received \$6 million for the study from the Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply, a group made up mostly of egg producers, purchasers and universities with major agriculture programs. The CSES Laying Hen Housing Research Project is being billed as the first of its kind and is expected to take three years. <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/05/18/3634409/hed-here.html#storylink=misearch>

Lights, action ... Showtime in the packinghouse (Aglinenews, May 11, 2011) (USDA-ARS) High-tech tactics to carefully examine apples and other fresh produce items as they travel along packinghouse conveyor belts will help ensure the quality and safety of these good-for-you foods. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists in Beltsville, Md., have developed and patented an experimental, cutting-edge optical scanning system that would use two different kinds of lighting, a sophisticated camera and other pieces of equipment to scrutinize produce-section favorites while they are still at the packinghouse. <http://aglinenews.com/news-5.html>

Disappearing honeybees: That buzz is critical to Kern's economy [KBAK-TV, Bakersfield, April 29, 2011] A third of the food you eat requires the pollination of honeybees....In Kern County, thousands of honeybees are busy in almond orchards, pollinating trees during the bloom season. "When it's in full bloom, the trees literally hum with bees. We bring in about two colonies per acre, and they do the job. You can hear them up there working," said entomologist Gordon Wardell....Wardell is conducting research for Paramount Farms, home of nearly 45,000 acres of almond trees in the San Joaquin Valley. He studies and tracks the bees on the orchards....Paramount Farms is funding its own research to find alternative bee types. <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/investigations/120926149.html>

Strawberries fight cancer, study finds [Wall Street Journal, April 7, 2011] Strawberries have the potential to prevent esophageal cancer, according to a preliminary study released Wednesday. Researchers, led by Ohio State University, were able to show that freeze-dried strawberries slowed the growth of dysplastic, or precancerous, lesions in about 30 people who consumed the fruit for six months. The study's lead researcher, Tong Chen, an assistant professor in the oncology division of Ohio State University, presented the study at the American Association for Cancer Research's annual meeting. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703280904576246854013624530.html>

FDA launches web page on recalled foods [Los Angeles Times, April 5, 2011] The task of finding consumer information about recalled food products grew a bit easier Monday with the launch of a Food and Drug Administration website that compiles recall notices in a searchable table. The Web page displays information on recalls since 2009 by date, product brand name, product description, the reason for the recall and the firm doing the recalling. It also includes an image of the product label and links to the press release on each recall -- which generally contains additional information. The redesign was mandated by the food safety law signed by President Obama in January. The law also gives FDA the power -- as yet unused -- to order food recalls on its own authority instead of depending on industry cooperation. <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-fda-website-20110404,0,1272799.story>

Grocers say high vegetable prices should drop soon [Associated Press, March 24, 2011] A nearly 50 percent increase in vegetable prices that has sent shoppers reeling in the produce aisle should ease in the coming weeks as farmers send grocers more tomatoes, lettuce and other crops. Vegetable prices shot up last month after cold weather in the southern U.S. and Mexico destroyed much of the winter vegetable supply, the Commerce Department said. From tomatoes in Florida to

lettuce in Arizona, fruit and vegetables became frostbitten, and prices rose for the produce farmers could save. Costs should be coming down soon, though, as crops farmers planted after the winter freezes start to reach stores, said growers, grocers and analysts. Grocers also typically switch this time of year to crops planted for spring, said Jody Shee, an analyst for the market research firm Mintel. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-in/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/03/23/state/n121128D56.DTL>

Cheap food may be a thing of the past in U.S. [Los Angeles Times, March 17, 2011] American consumers have long enjoyed a luxury that few others could boast: an abundance of affordable food. But with prices of wheat, corn and other staples soaring, some economists and scientists are wondering how long that can last. On Wednesday, the U.S. Labor Department reported that wholesale food prices jumped 3.9% in February over January, the highest monthly increase in 37 years. Economists expect to see a similar uptick in what consumers are paying for food at retail when the Labor Department releases its consumer price index Thursday. "Food prices have been rising a lot faster, because underlying costs have really shot up. You're seeing some ingredients up 40%, 50%, 60% over last year," said Ephraim Leibtag, a U.S. Department of Agriculture economist. "When you see wheat prices close to 80% up, that's going to ripple out to the public." <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-cheap-food-20110317,0,1746312.story>

Sniffing out trouble [Stockton Record, March 14, 2011] It's a moving obstacle course. Hundreds of packages destined for delivery flow down a conveyor belt toward the waiting trucks in every size, shape and texture: cardboard boxes with flat-screen TVs, tubes with building plans, flat document envelopes and padded pouches containing medicines or appliances parts, perhaps. And expertly weaving through it all is Kojak, a black Labrador, hopping, wheeling and turning like an expert kayaker or mogul skier. But he's not just there for the ride, though excitement flashes in his eyes and the movement of his tail. No, Kojak and his handler, San Joaquin County senior biologist Tom Doud, are hunting. http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110314/A_NEWS/103140328&cid=sitesearch

Thank A Farmer Thursday, March 31 [Beef Daily Blog, March 8, 2011] I'm proud to announce a great event coming up on March 31. It's called "Thank a Farmer Thursday," and it celebrates the wonderful things food producers do each day to feed the world. This event was created by AgFACTS, Inc., which stands for Agriculture: Feeding and Clothing Tomorrow's Society. The goal of this group is to educate and spread agriculture's positive message to those unfamiliar with our way of life. According to the group, AgFacts, is dedicated to educating American consumers about the simple truths of agriculture using factual information. By utilizing an open communication approach and multimedia sources, the group plans to transform common misconceptions and bridge the separation between agriculture and the society.

http://blog.beefmagazine.com/beef_daily/2011/03/08/thank-a-farmer-thursday-march-31/

Packers see surge in avocado imports as Central Coast overtakes local production [North County Times, March 7, 2011] The "avocado highway" that reaches from Escondido to Temecula has fallen victim to rising water rates that have forced some growers to give up, and led major packing houses to rely on imported fruit to keep production lines humming throughout the year....Snatching the corridor's business in recent years has been a global highway. Millions of pounds of avocados come in 16-wheelers from Mexico, and container ships from Chile sail north along the Pacific Ocean coastline to eventual destinations in North San Diego County and Southwest Riverside County...."We get California avocados in the summer, Chile in the fall and avocados from Mexico in the winter and into the spring," said Phil Henry, owner of Henry Avocado Co. in Escondido. "For us, we've been getting a fairly significant amount of avocados through our packing plant, but we see in the future a decline in California avocados," Henry said. "If you go to Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, a higher percentage of the growers have access to well water. Generally, they have lower water costs and more water is available. They have not suffered the same decline in acreage that we have." http://www.nctimes.com/business/article_cc9d281f-3f1d-5183-9842-19e899e81bdc.html

U.S. farmers head into key stretch for harvests [Wall Street Journal, March 7, 2011] The world is consuming grains faster than farmers are growing them, draining reserves and pushing prices to the levels that fueled food riots in poor countries three years ago. The U.S.'s role in keeping a global food shortage at bay hinges in large measure on harvests over the next several months as farmers in the U.S., the world's biggest agricultural exporter, coax wheat, soybeans and other crops from their fields. That outlook is likely to be reinforced Thursday when the U.S. Agriculture Department releases its monthly update on world agricultural markets. Economists expect world wheat production to recover this year as drought conditions ease in the Black Sea, which would reduce U.S. wheat exports and cause prices to moderate. While economists expect grain prices to ease somewhat if world harvests climb this year, prices would still be expected to remain high for years. What's more, anything less than big crops could cause wild price swings. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703867704576182922704152088.html?KEYWORDS=us+farmers+head>

**Link may require paid subscription*

Big tomato crop, high costs: Growers playing catch-up [Fresno Bee, March 4, 2011] It could be a rotten year for California's processing-tomato growers. The multimillion-dollar industry, which produces most of the nation's supply of tomatoes for pizza sauce, paste and ketchup, is having a huge year -- and that's a problem. If projections hold, growers could produce the second-largest crop in history -- 12.6 million tons. The record was set in 2009 with a 13 million-ton crop. The big crop, coupled with higher fuel and fertilizer costs, has growers concerned that unless the industry's processors give them a better price than last year -- \$65 a ton -- they won't make a profit. Lower prices could also drive some growers, who haven't already committed to planting tomatoes, to farm higher-value crops such as cotton. That could create a smaller supply this year -- and potentially less work in the region's processing plants. <http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/03/03/2295648/near-record-tomato-crop-plus-high.html>

California grows more cherries than ever in 2010, but challenges remain [Lodi News-Sentinel, March 3, 2011] Despite shipping a record number of packages in 2010, California's cherry growers face many uncertainties in 2011. Even though more land than ever is dedicated to the production of cherries in California, pests, regulations and rising gas prices are among topics of intense focus for growers as they look to expand their role in the marketplace and reach out to a wider range of customers both at home and abroad. At Cherry Day, an annual event for cherry growers and packers, experts offered insights about the challenges and potential highlights of this year's cherry production to more than 100 people Wednesday morning. "I beg to differ with people who say the recession is over, but the beat goes on," said Jim Culbertson, executive manager of the California Cherry Advisory Board. http://www.lodinews.com/news/article_cef13440-02fe-55e4-99ab-fb3851191846.html

Good tasting can be good for you [Imperial Valley Press, March 2, 2011] Could a carrot by any other color reach beyond a niche market and be widely accepted? Yellow, purple and red carrots are being grown in El Centro and it is not just to give salads zest, Rob Kane, U.S. Department of Agriculture assistant researcher, said. USDA in conjunction with University of California Desert Research and Extension Center are crossbreeding carrots from around the world to blend benefits in a native California variant. <http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/ivp-good-tasting-can-be-good-for-you-20110302,0,3752837.story>

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

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

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