



# Los Angeles County Farm Bureau

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www.lacfb.org

Quarterly Issue

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## LACFB

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## Upcoming Event..... Upcoming Event.....

### Don't Forget to Save the Date!



A Free Agricultural Education Event, visit [www.agdayla.com](http://www.agdayla.com) for additional information and required registration!

**Dates:** Wednesday and Thursday  
April 21 or 22, 2010

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Big Red Barn

## Also In This Issue

### Also In This Issue

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**LACFB Office Staff** ~ Victoria Gerginis, Interim Office Manager

## FARM BUREAU MEMBER BENEFITS

Enjoy Farm Bureau member benefits that include:

Insurance discount programs, discounts on lodging, car rentals, participating theme parks, etc.

Check out: <http://cfbf.com/benefits/index.cfm> for details

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S GARDEN GIVEAWAY CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations!!!!

Shari

Rockdale Elementary School

Benefits of an [EarthBox](http://earthbox.com/) (<http://earthbox.com/>) : "I teach fourth grade and one of the most challenging Science strands for students to comprehend is Life Science. We grow radish plants and create decomposition units, but they are strictly for the sole purpose of teaching. Obtaining an [Earthbox](http://earthbox.com/) would give students the hands- on experience of caring for a real world garden, watching things grow in a unique ecosystem, and then being able to enjoy the experience of the harvest while seeing the work necessary to grow our own food".

Agriculture is Important Because: "We don't want to rely on importing foods from other countries and states that might not have the high standards we maintain while we could very easily grow those same foods ourselves on arable land which California richly provides for us".

## CALIFORNIA COUNTRY TELEVISION

Don't forget to watch California Country Television. For a broadcast schedule near you see:

<http://www.californiacountry.org/on-tv/broadcast-schedule.aspx>



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### **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](http://www.nationwide.com) or call 1-877-669-6877

Web site at [www.nhpcalifornia.com](http://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.



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To see why so many farmers find us a good fit, talk to your broker, or give us a call at 1-800-773-7667.



State Compensation Fund is a branch of the State of California.

### **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).

## **AGRICULTURAL TIDBITS:**

**First snow survey of 2009-2010 [Western Farm Press, December 29, 2009]** The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct its first snow survey of the new winter season at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 30. Phillips Station at Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, about 90 miles east of Sacramento, is the manual survey location. Snow depth and water content figures should be available by noon. The survey will be the first of five monthly measurements that help water supply planners estimate the amount of spring snowmelt runoff into reservoirs. California's snowpack water content is particularly significant this year because the state has endured three years of drought and reservoirs are low. Because less-than-normal water supply conditions exist, DWR's initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation for 2010 was placed at only 5 percent of water contractors' requested amounts. Besides dry conditions, regulatory restrictions to protect native fish species are severely impacting SWP deliveries. <http://westernfarmpress.com/news/snow-water-1228/>

**Fresh pomegranates still available [Food & Farm News, Volume 13, No. 25 - Wednesday, December 16, 2009]** Consumers will find fresh pomegranates in retail stores through January. Farmers hired extra help in early December to pick fruit before predicted rainstorms. Pomegranates are like cherries when ripe in that the skin is thin and, when rain hits the fruit, the skin tends to split. Pomegranates do well in cold storage, so even though harvest has ended, consumers will find good supplies for several more weeks. Farmers say weather this year produced excellent quality fruit.

**CFBF Photo Contest - Budding Artists Winners [CFAITC E-newsletter: Cream of the Crop - December 2009]** Congratulations to this year's Budding Artists! Visit <http://cfaitc.org/> to view the photos. They will also be displayed at the CFBF annual meeting in December in Anaheim, and published in *California Country*® magazine in 2010.

**Bee decline continues [Food and Farm News, Volume 13, No. 23 - Wednesday, December 2, 2009]** Beekeepers continue to report bee losses in California and other states due to colony collapse disorder, mites and other infestations. A University of California bee expert says the number of healthy hives continues to decline. Drought conditions throughout the country had made 2009 the lowest honey producing year ever. California almond farmers need bees in their orchards in February to pollinate their trees. How many bees are needed is uncertain because of water shortages in almond growing areas.

**California produces large amounts of seed [Food and Farm News, Volume 13, No. 23 - Wednesday, December 2, 2009]** Many plants grown in California farm fields and gardens start from seed...and the first comprehensive assessment of the California seed business shows that it accounted for nearly \$3 billion dollars in sales last year. The University of California study said companies in the state represented 8 percent of the worldwide seed market. Centers of seed production exist in both Southern and Northern California, as Imperial and Yolo counties lead the state.

**California flower growers wage buy-local campaign [Los Angeles Times, November 30, 2009]** "Buy American." Marketers have used it to sell cars, clothing and toys. Now an association of flower growers is using the slogan to remind consumers to purchase U.S. blooms when picking up their Thanksgiving bouquets. "Rather than buy flowers shipped in by 747s, you can help beat back the recession and drive jobs here at home," said Kasey Cronquist, executive director of the California Cut Flower Commission. The commission kicked off a buy-local campaign this month in supermarket flower sections, starting in Vons and Safeway stores. California products bear "hint cards" boasting that Golden State flowers are America's freshest. It's just one more way flower growers in the state are struggling to keep and create jobs in the face of increasingly fierce competition from overseas. <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-flowers26-2009nov26,0,5660207.story>

## **AGRICULTURAL EVENTS, GRANTS, AND FREEBIES:**

**AG DAY LA** – <http://agdayla.com/agday2010.html> (Click to sign up for this FREE agricultural education event) We are inviting all 3-4th grade teachers and their students, from L.A. County, who would like to join us on an Adventure. Teachers and students will learn how agriculture completes the many pieces (water, plants, bees, fiber, food, and dairy) that form the puzzle of our everyday lives. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, agriculture affects us ALL. AG DAY LA is filled with valuable hands-on educational experiences to grade school students in L.A. County schools. It provides a fun and exciting way for teachers to address State Standards, as well as to promote agricultural literacy. AG DAY LA is an eye-opening event for many kids who don't know where their food comes from or have never seen a live farm animal. AG DAY LA 2010 will take place at the following venue: The 9th annual AG DAY LA celebration will be held on **Wednesday and Thursday, April 21st and 22nd, 2010, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Fairplex facility (Big Red Barn) in Pomona.** Visit the [www.agdayla.com](http://www.agdayla.com) homepage to hear/watch AG DAY LA from the animals' perspective as well as previewing some of our learning highlights!

**California Fertilizer Foundation Garden Grant, Deadline: January 15, 2010** Are you interested in starting a school garden or enhancing one that is already in place? Apply for the California Fertilizer Foundation's School Garden Grant to receive a grant for \$1,200, a \$50 gift card to Home Depot and lots of resources. For more information, and to apply, visit [www.calfertilizer.org](http://www.calfertilizer.org)

**Welch's Harvest Grants, Deadline: February 6, 2010** K-8 public and private schools, public libraries, religious educational centers and Head Start centers are invited to apply for Welch's Harvest Grants. Two schools in each state will receive a customized indoor or outdoor garden package filled with a variety of tools, seeds, educational materials, and more. Garden packages range in value from \$1,000 to \$250, Winning applicants will have the option of indoor or outdoor packages. For more information, visit [www2.scholastic.com](http://www2.scholastic.com).

**What's Growin' On? Cultivating Your Future - Mechanical Movers [CFAITC E-newsletter: Cream of the Crop - December 2009]** Visit the CFAITC Web site *Kids' Corner* at <http://kids.cfaitc.org/games.php> to identify the simple machines and complex technology on a tractor. From page 3 of the latest *What's Growin' On?* newspaper for students, this activity—on paper or online—meets science standards for grades five thru seven. Browse the Web site for interactive activities from previous issues, stand alone games, recipes and more. Hard copy class sets of the last three issues of *What's Growin' On?* are still available for free; <http://cfaitc.org/wgo/>

**The September/October 2009 issue of California Country magazine** is a must-read! It includes feature stories about the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest, Farm to School in the Riverside Unified School District, recipes from Jr. Chefs, the student-run salsa business at Sacramento's Grant High School, a profile about 4-H, coverage of the WE Garden and more! Read it online at [www.californiacountry.org](http://www.californiacountry.org)

**Resources for Every Season CD [CFAITC E-newsletter: Cream of the Crop - November 2009]** This resource is not too cool for school, it's just what you need for your classroom! The CD installs on your computer and contains all of CFAITC's current materials. Pre-order your free CD from [www.cfaitc.org](http://www.cfaitc.org) while supplies last!

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## Announcements

AG DAY LA

AG DAY LA is filled with valuable hands-on educational experiences to grade school students in L.A. County schools. It provides a fun and exciting way for teachers to address State Standards, as well as to promote agricultural literacy.

<http://agdayla.com/agday2010.html>

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