

A Conversation about UArizona's New College of Veterinary Medicine: Julie Funk

Arizona will see the first class in veterinary medicine from our land-grant university graduate in 2023.

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Julie Funk, PhD, was raised on a swine farm in south central Michigan. After receiving her DVM from Michigan State University, she was in private veterinary practice in northwest Indiana. She completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), and a PhD from North Carolina State University CVM. Both of her graduate degrees focused on identifying ways to control foodborne pathogens on farms to keep our food safe.

She was a faculty member at Ohio State University CVM where she continued pursuing research in food safety and taught DVM students Public Health. Prior to joining the University of Arizona, she was the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Success at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She also directed the Online Master of Science in Food Safety program at MSU, conducted food safety research, and taught epidemiology to DVM students.

Her husband is a farmer. He is a cow-calf producer that also raises hay and row crops. He works with his family with their row-crop operation.

For every student dreaming of a career in veterinary medicine, Dr. Funk's insights here should not only inspire consideration but motivate you to jump in firmly with both feet.

Arizona Agriculture: The Vet School is a historically significant moment. Dean Burgess noted that The Arizona Board of Regents made UArizona's Agriculture and Life Sciences a college on July 1, 1889 and the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019. 130 years apart! Speak to this.

Funk: The College of Veterinary Medicine is the culmination of years of planning on the part of many individuals and organizations that have worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life.

As a land grant university, the University of Arizona has a rich historical connection

with agriculture. This program is built on the foundation of relationships with our communities, partnering veterinarians and the people of the state who have invested in us. It is a natural outgrowth of the strong agricultural and health sciences programs offered at the University of Arizona, as well as a natural extension of our proud heritage with the state.

Arizona Agriculture: A kind of mission statement on the home page of UArizona's College of Veterinary Medicine says, "Globally Inspired. Authentically Arizona. Unlimited options." What's your interpretation of this statement?

Funk: Our program is unlike any other. Our primary mission is to lead the profession as a student-centered program focused on developing career-ready veterinarians who will live healthy meaningful lives and serve society. Being student-centered means that every part of our planning, from our curriculum to faculty hiring, is designed to ensure that students begin learning from animals their first week in the program. We will have cutting-edge, active learning that won't require a lecture format and will provide students the opportunities to become innovative, adaptive learners and disruptive problem solvers. Additionally, students will graduate sooner and begin earning a salary as soon as possible with minimal debt.

Students will also learn from Arizona practitioners and be in practice throughout their program as we partner with veterinarians in a myriad of practice types, for example, rural mixed animal practice, companion animal general practice, specialty practices, zoos, shelters, and industries that employ veterinarians.

In addition to strong foundational knowledge in veterinary medicine and surgery, UA DVM students will be taught both professional and personal skills necessary for future success. Mandatory classes in financial management, managing stress and functional life skills will be integrated throughout the three-year program.

See **FUNK** Page 2

Getting to Logical and Equitable with the Concept of Subflow

House Bill 2818 would create an orderly system of priority for wells that are adjudicated to exist within a subflow zone.

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

Since the early days of water use in Arizona, our state has regulated surface water and groundwater differently. Surface water is governed by the doctrine of prior appropriation, which means that the first person to divert the water and put it to beneficial use has the senior right to that water. All subsequent water users have a junior right to the water and can only use it so long as there is enough to fulfill all the senior rights first. In order to create the basis of a claim to water, the user must file a statement of claim with the Department of Water Resources.

Groundwater, on the other hand, is governed by the doctrine of reasonable use. If a landowner is willing to invest in the infrastructure it takes to access the water, that user has a right to put the water to beneficial use. Aside from applying for permission to drill the well, a groundwater user doesn't have an obligation to file any sort of claim with the Department. (Of course, this is completely different if the well in question is located within an Active Management Area or other management structure created by the 1980 Groundwater Management Act, but that's another consideration entirely.)

As with so much else in Arizona water law, however, the ongoing stream adjudications have blurred the distinction between ground and surface water in a significant way, through the concept of subflow. Subflow is water that flows underground through gravel and sand, but it exists so close to a surface stream that it is actually a part of that surface stream, rather than part of a separate groundwater source. In 1992, the Court decided that subflow can be regulated as surface water, rather than groundwater, meaning that it is subject to the doctrine of prior appropriation. After that decision, wells located near a stream or river that had been presumed for decades to be pumping surface water may now be presumed to be pumping surface water, if the Court determines that they are in the "subflow zone."

So, what does all that mean? It means that water users who did everything they reasonably could have done to secure their right to use groundwater are now at risk of becoming an extremely junior surface water right holder. It also means that there will be thousands of wells with the same priority date, making it unfeasible for the water Special Master to determine a fair way to enforce the well

See **SUBFLOW** Page 2



in this ISSUE

A Dream- Page 4
Comes True; New Vet School!

2020 Census – Page 7
Rural Arizona Stand Up & Be Counted!

Farm Bureau University – Page 8
Tuition is Free

Funk continued from page 1

Arizona Agriculture: Two key elements that make UArizona's Vet program unique is cost and timeframe. What drove this motivation to reduce the cost of vet school and to fast track it?

Funk: There has been a growing discussion around the need to help future veterinarians create a sustainable lifestyle and to give them the resources it takes to thrive in rural areas where there may be a lack of resources and support. Many of these issues correlate to the burden of rising student debt. While investing in a future career is important, choosing a DVM program is still a significant decision for students and their families because their earning power is not the same as medical physicians. In addition to our tuition rates, our three-year curriculum plan will allow students to start their career and begin earning a salary a year earlier than other graduates.

Arizona Agriculture: We talk a lot about the benefits of the UArizona's own vet program including keeping Arizonans who graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Arizona to practice animal health. But, what other additional benefits can the state of Arizona expect with this program?

Funk: In addition to our innovative team-based teaching style, we will be partnering with veterinarians throughout Arizona and beyond for our clinical rotation years in order to provide students with more hands-on real-world experience. The use of real-world practice settings for our third-year rotations will encourage growth and partnership with Arizona businesses and help students develop deeper relationships with the people they serve. Students who learn in Arizona will stay in Arizona. Highly trained veterinarians staying in Arizona means the advancement of health and productivity of agricultural animals, improvements in safety of our food supply and more access to doctors who care for our family pets. Good veterinarians are often the most beloved and needed medical practitioners in a community, and there is a direct correlation between our quality of life and our human/animal bond.

Arizona Agriculture: From your perspective, what excites you the most about the program and why?

Funk: It is the opportunity of a lifetime! To be able to part of starting a new College of Veterinary Medicine at a top tier, public, research-intensive, land grant university is an unbelievable opportunity that I am grateful for every day. I love helping people grow. Seeing our students, faculty and staff collaborate to learn and innovate is very rewarding. All of this leads to increasing our ability as a profession to serve people through animal health.

Arizona Agriculture: From an Arizona agriculture perspective, what can you tell our farmers and ranchers to expect from this program in the next 5 to 10 years?

Funk: Comprehensive animal health and food supply safety relies on having access to qualified veterinary care, and no one understands this better than farmers and ranchers. The Arizona agricultural family has supported the creation of this college at every step, and we hope that they will see an immediate return on their investments as soon as we graduate our first class in 2023.

We look forward to continuing the strong relationship with farmers and ranchers throughout the state. This is critical to the success of the CVM, as we need to be certain we understand the needs of the community so that our graduates will be ready to serve their communities.

Arizona Agriculture: There are still challenges ahead with the program, what are the big ones and how as dean will you tackle them?

Funk: Our primary goal is to ensure that we maintain a positive working environment for our staff and faculty and stay very focused on innovation, balance and a student-centered veterinary medicine program. All this, while building deep connections to our local veterinary practices and the communities we serve.

Arizona Agriculture: What would you ask of our animal agriculture producers to really lift this program and give it momentum?

Funk: Veterinarians play a significant role in our society, and having more individuals pursuing this career track translates to multiple benefits for Arizona. From general animal health and well-being to making sure the food you eat is safe and that you can trust what you are putting on your table to feed your family every night, veterinarians are integral in the ongoing partnership between the health community and animal producers.

Support from the agricultural community is vital with respect to employing our graduates, informing our faculty about the specific needs of producers and providing student access to their farms and animals will remain a core part of our success.

Arizona Agriculture: What other specifics to this program would you like to share?

Funk: We are excited to share that we recently received approval from the American Veterinary Medical Association to open the state's first public College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Letter of Reasonable Assurance, granted by the AVMA Council on Education is the first step toward full accreditation by the AVMA COE, which will continue to monitor us until our first cohort graduates in 2023. During the provisional accreditation period, graduates of our program will be fully eligible to sit for licensure to practice veterinary medicine.

Our program is ultimately about passion and service, and we encourage those interested in applying to our program find more information on our website vetmed.arizona.edu or contact us via email at vetmed@arizona.edu.

Subflow continued from page 1

priority system in the first place. And all because they did not, and could not, have known that their well was actually a surface water diversion.

That doesn't make a whole lot of sense to us.

That's why we're proponents of House Bill 2818, a bill that would create an orderly system of priority for wells that are adjudicated to exist within a subflow zone. This bill would allow owners of wells in a subflow zone to register a surface water claim in those wells, with a priority date of the time the well water was first put to beneficial use.

This is both logical and equitable. If the Court is going to consider subflow as surface water, then we should be able to treat that water like surface water. If well owners had known that they were drilling close enough to the river to be pumping surface water, they would have had a reason to protect their water by filing a claim of right at the Department. But even now, there's no way to know whether a well is in a subflow zone until the Court draws those lines. House Bill 2818 offers some certainty for the communities, business, and families that rely on their wells.

If the Court is going to call underground water surface water, it's only fair that they give it a chance to be treated like surface water. This bill outlines the process for doing just that.

Editor's Note: HB2818 was scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday, February 18. To learn more about how this bill is progressing, be sure and sign up for "While You Were Working," the weekly Arizona Farm Bureau legislative update. Go to www.azfb.org, click on "Public Policy," and sign up under the Action Center.

It's your future. Let's protect it.®

With offices across the state, we can help protect your family, home, car, farm/ranch and business. Contact your local agent today.

BUCKEYE 311 N. Miller Rd. 623.935.6209	MIAMI 520 W. Live Oak St. 928.473.1234
BENSON 688 W 4th St., Ste. E 520.265.1950	ORO VALLEY 10355 N. La Canada Dr. #197 520.219.3600
BULLHEAD CITY 2071 Hwy. 95, Ste. A 928.763.8464	PARKER 1212 S. Kofa Ave. 928.669.2437
CASA GRANDE 408 N. Sacaton, Ste. E 520.836.2511	PAYSON 512 S. Beeline Hwy. #4 928.474.1775
CAVE CREEK 6554 E. Cave Creek, Rd#4 480.575.0710	PEORIA 9051 W Kelton Ln, Ste 6 623.979.3842 602.997.6633 623.878.2491
CHANDLER 1820 E. Ray Rd. Ste. A205 480.284.4223 or 480.899.1997	PHOENIX 22601 N. 19th Ave. #106 623.434.8097
CLIFTON 214 N Coronado Blvd 928.865.3276	PRESCOTT 3005 N. Hwy. 89 928.778.9350
COTTONWOOD 1759 E. Villa Drive, #113 928.649.8686	140 N Montezuma St., #204 928.440.6999
DEWEY 815 S. Duniwin Ln. 928.632.0014	PRESCOTT VALLEY 8008 Yavapai Rd Ste. B. 928.458.5880
FLAGSTAFF 2733 E Lakin Dr. #1 928.527.1343	QUEEN CREEK 18933 E. San Tan Blvd. #107 480.987.9163
4650 US Highway 89, Ste. A008 928-526-7022	SAFFORD 620 S. 1st Ave. 928.428.4618
GILBERT 325 S. Higley Rd. #100 480.635.3860	SCOTTSDALE 7650 E. Redfield Rd. Ste. D-4 480.483.8787
343 N. Gilbert Rd. 480.699.0861	7702 E. Doubletree Rd. Ste. 300 480-348-3900
115 N. Pasadena #104 480.704.4182	SHOWLOW 810 E. Deuce of Clubs 928.537.2990
1166 E. Warner Rd., Ste. 204A Gilbert, AZ 85296 480.993.2742 480.339.7148	TEMPE 6101 S. Rural Rd. #120 480.967.7306
GLOBE 138 S. Broad St. 928.425.3632	VAIL 13105 E Colossal Cave Rd. #3 5520.276.5514
GOODYEAR 3673 S. Bullard Ave., Ste. 101 623.925.0190	WICKENBURG 300 N. Tegner St. 928.684.6895
KINGMAN 2510 Stockton Hill Rd., Ste. B 928.377.5000	WILLCOX 365 N. Haskell Ave. 520.766.3276
3518 N. Irving St. Ste. A 928.757.5555	WILLIAMS 128 W. Grant, Ste. A 928.635.2181
LAKE HAVASU CITY 1600 McCulloch Blvd. N., Ste. 5B 928.846.3232	YUMA 661 E. 32nd St., Ste. A 928.782.0012
MESA 1012 S. Stapley Dr., #114 480.649.0260	7175 E. 31st Pl., Ste. B & J 928.248.5038 928.341.0000
2509 S. Power Rd., Ste #106 480.279.1874	1185 S 4th Ave., Ste. E 928.257.3594
2919 Ellsworth Rd, Ste 129 480.626.8045	

All offices have AgWise certified agents.

**FARM BUREAU
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

www.fbfs.com

Western Agricultural Insurance Company*, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company* and Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services



Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

325 S. Higley Rd., Suite 210 • Gilbert, AZ 85296 • 480.635.3600 • fax 480.635.3781 • www.azfb.org

The Voice of Arizona Agriculture

OFFICERS

President • Stefanie Smallhouse • Redington
1st Vice President • John Boelts • Yuma
2nd V. P. • Richie Kennedy • Casa Grande
Exec. Secretary • Philip Bashaw
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
John Hart • Willcox
Sharla Mortimer • Dewey - Humboldt

ARIZONA AGRICULTURE STAFF

Julie Murphree, Editor
Taylor Rogers, Advertising
Please send comments to:
arizonaagriculture@azfb.org
For advertising, e-mail ads@azfb.org, call
480.635.3609 or visit
www.azfb.org/publications.htm

Arizona Agriculture

is published 9 months, plus two special editions annually, (ISSN 0274-7014) by the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation...
325 S Higley Rd., Suite 210
Gilbert, AZ 85296
Periodicals postage paid in Higley, Arizona and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Arizona Agriculture
325 S Higley Rd., Suite 210
Gilbert, AZ 85296
Subscriptions are included in annual dues.



NO HASSLE

NO NON SENSE

NO PRESSURE

JUST STRAIGHT UP SERVICE

FOR OVER 65 YEARS

STRAIGHT
UP



SANDERSONFORD.COM

EXCLUSIVE \$500 REBATE FOR ALL ARIZONA FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

CONTACT A SALES PERSON FOR DETAILS

Fulfilling Your Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Calling at UArizona

By **Shane C. Burgess**, *The University of Arizona's Vice President for Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences*

It's real! A full half-century after the first efforts, Arizona's first and only public veterinary college is enrolling its first students. This isn't just a veterinary college located in Arizona; it is one of and for Arizonans.



According to University of Arizona's Vice President for Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Shane Burgess, Arizonans will have the most cost-effective and time-efficient option to become DVMs.

The University of Arizona's College of Veterinary Medicine exists because of the support of Arizona's food animal producers, crop producers, water managers and all of Arizona's rural communities. Arizona Farm Bureau was immediately on board. The leadership of key state legislators and Arizona's DVM leaders was crucial. The Marley Foundation, a longtime investor in rural and urban Arizona, not only made a very large gift but used their considerable influence to bolster support for this vision.

Even though many more Arizonans will realize their dreams and calling to become veterinarians than ever before in the state's history, why should any but this relative few care?

Many people think of what a veterinarian does from a "pet parent's" perspective, and Americans do spend more money on their pets than anyone else in the world. But very few give a second thought to veterinarians' roles in their human health and wellbeing—just as few understand how their food, fiber, fuel and clean ecosystems are delivered by America's farmers. Veterinarians are frontline protectors at every step of the food production process, ensuring safe and secure food supplies worldwide.

Veterinarians work to protect us all from lethal human pandemics like influenza.

They routinely deal with zoonotic threats like the current COVID19 from China and hundreds of diseases you will never hear of. They are seminal to avoiding the existential threat of antimicrobial resistance. I know firsthand from my role controlling the 2001 UK Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak how devastating foreign animal diseases can be—devastating to animal production and trade, to tourism and, far worse, to families because of depression, divorce and suicide.

The U.S. has had a veterinarian shortage for decades. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts this national shortage will grow by 18% from 2018 to 2028. This shortage is much greater for livestock veterinarians and especially for those in rural areas. This distribution problem is at crisis point in parts of Arizona.

The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that new veterinarians seek employment in communities like those where they grew up at a much higher rate than they do in other communities. Between 2013-2016, only 1,221 of the 10,175 new veterinarians grew up in a rural community and 757 of those went work in rural areas. It's very clear, if you need more rural veterinarians, select more people from rural areas.

But this isn't so simple. Even though the cost of living in rural areas is low, sky-high student loan debt means many new DVMs must take higher paying urban and suburban jobs to service their student loans.

As you'll read in Dean Julie Funk's interview, UArizona's College of Veterinary Medicine is set up explicitly to solve these issues for Arizona.

Veterinary medicine nationwide has additional challenges. It is one of the least diverse medical professions: 89% of veterinarians are white, 6.1% of veterinarians are ethnically Asian. The profession has a self-described mental health crisis. Compassion fatigue is common; almost 25 percent of veterinarians have considered suicide. Dean Funk described how your veterinary college will lead in solving these serious issues.

Arizonans will have the most cost-effective and time-efficient option to become DVMs that they have ever had. They may be chosen from communities statewide with dreams to return to those communities.

As they fulfill their calling to become DVMs, their families can be assured that their veterinary college is aware of the profession's problems and is preparing them to face these issues head on and transparently. From Day One, the University OF Arizona's veterinary students will be prepared: prepared to serve with professional knowledge and skill, prepared to succeed in business, prepared to succeed in life, and prepared to lead and inspire a profession. 🚗

Editor's Note: This issue's lead article on page one covers the entire story of UArizona's newly minted College of Veterinary Medicine, with Dr. Julie Funk's commentary on its value to Arizona agriculture.



GROWN IN ARIZONA
WATERED BY CAP

CAP delivers Colorado River water to more than 40% of the state's irrigated farmland.

KNOW YOUR WATER

www.CentralArizonaProject.com



Legislative Ag Fest a Huge Success

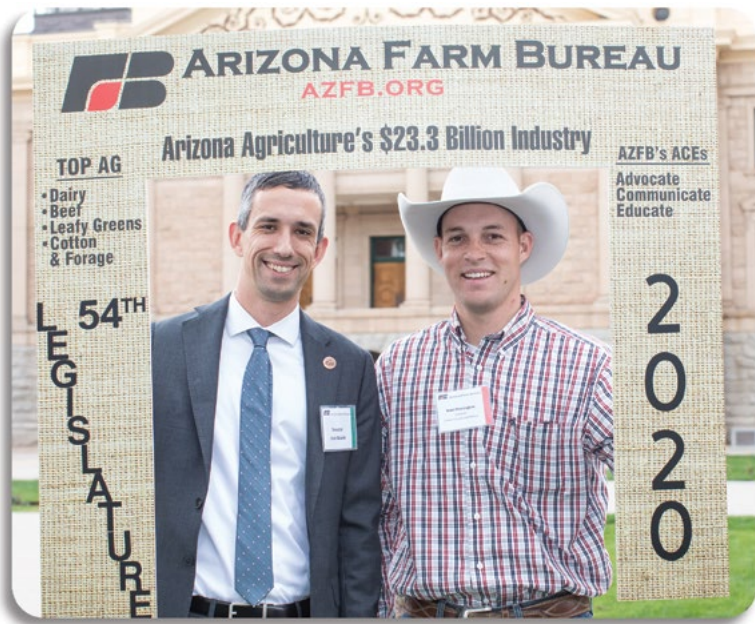
By **Chelsea McGuire**, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

Late January, more than 120 Farm Bureau members and volunteers showcased the best of Arizona Agriculture on the Arizona House Lawn during Arizona Farm Bureau's 2020 Legislative Ag Fest. Our members discussed agricultural water access, demonstrated the excellent animal care standards used by all ranchers and farmers, and, of course, sent lawmakers home with bags full of Arizona agricultural products.

This was the first year that Arizona Farm Bureau's Ag Fest was held on the Capitol Lawn, and we are thrilled with the results! We had 60 legislators join us – that's 16 more legislators than last year! And, because of the new timing and location, countless

members of the public were able to wander into the event and hear a positive message about agriculture. (Betty the Calf was so much of a hit that the Capitol community is still talking and tweeting about her!)

Our volunteer leaders from the counties certainly know the value of this day. Graham County Farm Bureau President Matt Herrington said, "It can be difficult for those of us in agriculture to get away from our operations, but I have found it always ends up being worth it to attend these types of events. The reason why it ends up being worth it is because agriculture keeps America fed and free."



Graham County Farm Bureau President Matt Herrington (right) hosted Senator Sean Bowie (D-District 18) during this year's Legislative Ag Fest, discussing water, animal care standards and more.



Betty, the Calf, was so much of a hit that Arizona's legislators are still talking and tweeting about her! Here, Representative Joanne Osborne (R-District 13) tweets out her experiences at Ag Fest.

This event is truly the highlight of our year in the Government Relations Department. Lawmakers look forward to it and it helps lay a positive foundation for our conversations for the rest of the year! We are so grateful to the members who spent their day with us to help teach our elected officials about all the good that Arizona agriculture has to offer. And, we can't forget to thank to Farm Bureau Financial Services for an excellent BBQ meal and the Department of Agriculture staff who served it!

Talkin' It Up with Our Arizona Farmers & Ranchers

By **Julie Murphree**, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

begun almost a year ago, Arizona Farm Bureau has made it even easier to highlight our farm and ranch stories without you ever leaving your farm or ranch. Through Instagram and Facebook, the social media channels' "Live" feature, we're taking the time to visit with our farmers and ranchers here in Arizona.

The Arizona Farm Bureau brand has turned to Instagram live because according to marketers, "live video is more appealing to brand audiences: 80% would rather watch live video from a brand than read a blog, and 82% prefer live video from a brand to social posts."

Instagram live is a great way to show day-to-day operations on a farm and ranch and help the public connect to what we really do in Arizona agriculture. Giving Arizona families a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on within your farm and ranch business means misconceptions can disappear. According to Forrester Research, 87% of people prefer to watch behind-the-scenes content online, which is an indication of how useful video is to get people's attention and help them understand what we do.

For example, our Instagram live video has now talked to 33 Arizona farmers and ranchers, one Tucson nutritionist and Arizona Farm Bureau's own Government Relations Director, Chelsea McGuire (who also was in production agriculture before her work for us). Viewers that have joined us during the live sessions or watched the video afterward get a detailed look at what they can only imagine about a farm or ranch until they join @Azfarmbureau on Instagram. When we interviewed The Farm Babe, the follow-up video on Facebook received more than 1,000 views, organically.

In a recent Instagram Live session with Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Chelsea McGuire, we shared how she was in production agriculture in Arizona during her high school years. We asked her how this experience helps her in her advocacy role on behalf of Arizona farmers and ranchers: "It's invaluable when you're out in front of a lawmaker lobbying for a particular industry to actually have experience in that industry. It helps me relate to what our farmers and ranchers need."

Arizona Farm Bureau's "Talk to a Farmer Friday" program launched so Instagram and Facebook followers to our social media accounts would have an opportunity to see our farmers and ranchers live on their places and even post a question on the Instagram Live feed. It's turned out to be more of a hit than we anticipated.

During the first Instagram Live, more than 100 Instagram followers logged on to view the conversation we had with Trevor Bales, an alfalfa and Sudan grass hay farmer from Buckeye, Arizona. Bales has already attracted quite a following with friends and fans that watch him daily talk about farming in Arizona.

The plan is to do this every Friday morning between 10:00 and 11:00. We'll be talking with farmers and ranchers from all over the state. During the 20 to 25-minute live sessions with the farmers, you'll have a chance to pose a question if you follow Arizona Farm Bureau on Instagram.

In one of our "Talk to a Farmer" sessions with wine-grape grower, Emil J. Molin of Cove Mesa Vineyard from Cornville participants could understand the Arizona wine industry with greater appreciation. He had great insights about the wine industry that are surely valuable for those who listen to the taped conversation.

Join us and stay connected to your Arizona farmers and ranchers that love to share their stories about farming in this vast and diverse agriculture state!

Farm Bureau members receive

\$750 BONUS CASH*

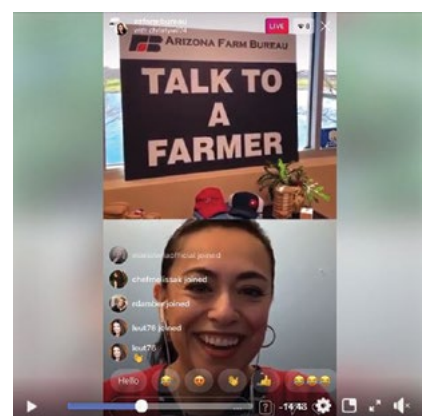
Luxury, style, performance. They all come together beautifully in the new Lincoln vehicles. And now, get \$750 Bonus Cash.*



2020 LINCOLN CORSAIR

THE LINCOLN MOTOR COMPANY

Every Friday at 10:00 am



We're talking with farmers and ranchers, including nutritionists and lobbyists, from all over the state.

Don't miss out on this offer. Visit LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com today!



Program #37408 *Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. Offer is valid through 1/4/21 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2019/2020/2021 model year Lincoln vehicle. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Lincoln Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Visit LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Lincoln Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

Farm Bureau Takes Teachers to the Capitol

By **Katie Aikins**, Arizona Farm Bureau Education Director

The mission of the Arizona Farm Bureau is to empower members through grassroots advocacy, communication, and education, our ACEs. This past month touched on all our ACEs during the Arizona Farm Bureau Arizona Ag Teacher Policy Seminar. This day-long event brought 15 Arizona High School Ag Teachers to the Capitol for a day of Professional Development.

The event was designed to provide education and exposure for the teachers to the inner workings of the Capitol, give them the opportunity to learn directly from our Legislators, show them the advocacy efforts of the Arizona Farm Bureau on behalf of all agriculture, and provide an opportunity to engage with their Legislators.

Later in the day, Arizona Farm Bureau's Women's Leadership Committee also joined the group to listen to discussions with our legislators, one of our Yuma farmers and Farm Bureau leaders and Arizona Farm Bureau's Government Relations Director, Chelsea McGuire.

Education at the Capitol

Teachers participated in a panel discussion on the state of education with Senator Sylvia Allen (R-District 6), who is also Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and Representative Michelle Udall (R-District 25), Chairmen of the House Education Committee. The timing could not have been more perfect as a big topic of discussion currently is 4th year Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding.

Farm Bureau Advocacy

Arizona Farm Bureau First Vice President and Yuma produce farmer John Boelts



Our agriculture legislators Senator Sine Kerr and Representative Tim Dunn, along with First Vice President and Yuma produce Farmer John Boelts (center), connected with a strong contingency of Agriculture educators last month for a busy day at the Arizona Capitol.

visited with our teachers and gave insight on the power of grassroots advocacy.

The teachers found great value in this opportunity. "I really enjoyed this session and would like to discover more ways to get my students exposed to this type of grassroots advocacy," said Jared Biciolis- Peoria High School Teacher.

Our Aggie Friends

We were honored to have our aggie friends, Senator Sine Kerr (R-District 13) and Representative Tim Dunn (R-District 13) join the group for lunch and to discuss their visions and the teacher's role in the process. "Our Legislators are just everyday people and we need to remember that we are the experts that they want to hear from. It was a good reminder," said Jadee Rohner of Coolidge High School.



Participating at the Capitol

Teachers also had the opportunity to learn the "ins and outs" of inviting Legislators to visit their Agriscience Programs from Arizona Farm Bureau's Government Relations Director, Chelsea McGuire. Everything from who to invite, how to invite them, what to show them, and what to say when they are there.

While at the Capitol, teachers also had the opportunity to sit and meet with their own Legislators, attend a Senate Education Committee Hearing, and many were announced by their Legislators from the floor of both the House and the Senate.

While Arizona Farm Bureau hosted this event for the first time this year, the success of the day and enthusiasm from our Ag educators was so overwhelming we can anticipate that this program will become an annual event when the Arizona Legislature is in session. The program gives Arizona agriculture one added connection to legislators and our critical industry. 🚗



BUILD YOUR DREAM GARDEN

Grow your garden with the best walk-behind agricultural equipment available. **All gear drive** gives you the power and performance to break new ground, cultivate, power compost and more. **Reversible handlebars** and **PTO driven attachments** mean one engine is all you'll ever need.



Rear-Tine Tiller



Power Harrow



Rotary Plow

APD POWER CENTER (800) 789-7894

www.apdpowercenter.com | apdpowercenter@yahoo.com

Visit www.bcsamerica.com to view the full line-up of tractors and attachments today.

Census 2020: Don't Count Rural Arizona Out!

By Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona Farm Bureau President



Stefanie Smallhouse

According to the United States Census Bureau, the decennial census reflects our cultural interests, population data, defining moments of a generation and our values. If this is true, then rural Arizona needs to start paying attention to how the deck is stacked.

Required by the U.S. Constitution, the survey has been taken every ten years since 1790. Expect a mailing from the government sometime this April for the 2020 headcount. For the first time ever, you will also have the option of responding online. If you do neither by the deadline, then you will be added to the list of Americans to be visited in person by a census taker.

Two types of census surveys exist, taken regularly in the U.S. to determine the country's demographics. The decennial is taken every ten

years to count everyone and the American Community Survey (ACS) is taken continuously and samples 3 million households per year. What makes the decennial so important is that it sets the standards for all other surveys, including the ACS and the Current Population Survey, which determines labor force statistics. The federal government uses the decennial survey to allocate all types of funding and provide natural disaster response and Congress uses it to determine representation in the U.S. House and the Electoral College. Local governments use it for school and healthcare planning as well as emergency services, while industry uses the information to determine growth opportunities.

In the last several years, I have traveled this state from corner to corner and all the little roads in between. Arizona is known as the Grand Canyon State, which brings to mind a visual of vast and rugged open spaces and natural resources still unchecked by development. I have logged many more miles traveling between small towns on two lane highways bordered by farm and ranch lands, sharing the roads with mining trucks, rather than bumper to bumper in our cities. This is the Arizona I know, but it's not really the Arizona depicted by the Census Bureau.

Arizona is divided up at a much different scale than most of the country. One county in Arizona can be larger than some northeastern states and "rural" as defined by the Bureau is largely dependent on population at the county, parish, or borough level. This means that all of Pima County is defined by Tucson, all of Coconino County is defined by Flagstaff and all of Mojave County is defined by Kingman. In fact, Arizona is the only state in the west with not one "completely rural" county and has only three

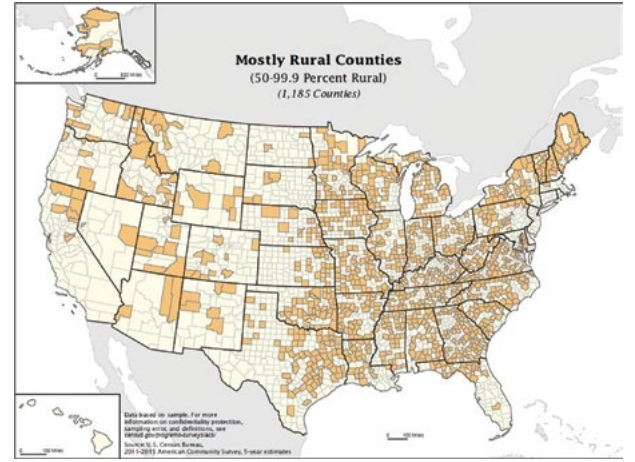
Arizona is the only state in the west with not one "completely rural" county and has only three (Navajo, Apache, La Paz) counties even considered "mostly rural."

(Navajo, Apache, La Paz) counties even considered "mostly rural." The only other states completely void of a rural county are New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Hawaii. Not exactly like Arizona.

Arizona is Passed Up For Rural Funding If You Don't Get Yourself Counted

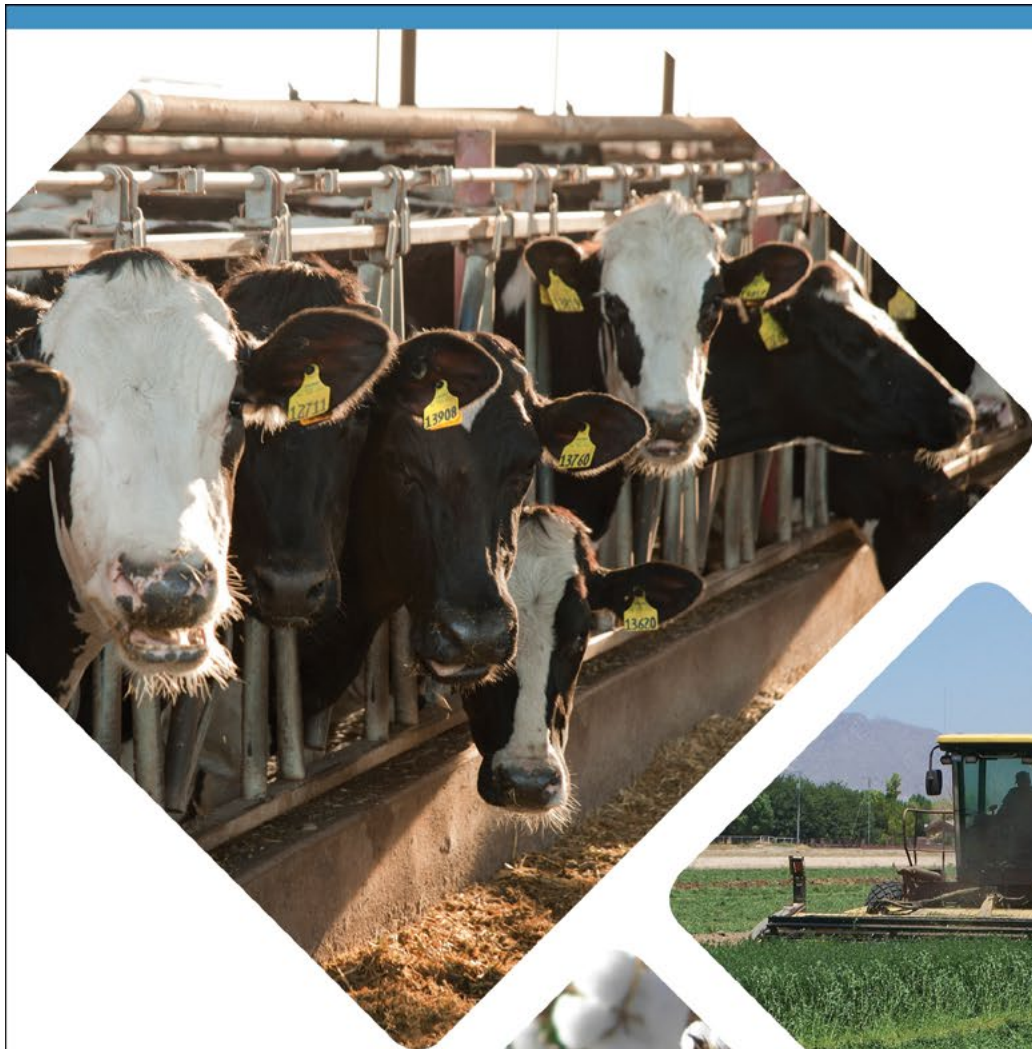
The Census Project of Georgetown Law points out that in 2016 there were over 300 federal funding programs which distributed about \$900 billion to the states. Sixty of those programs were exclusively for rural America, which included about \$30 billion in that same year. Rural areas receive four major types of funding: grants, direct loans, guaranteed insured loans and direct payments. For several USDA programs, eligibility requires recipients live in a rural area. Direct loans, such as for rural electrification and business startups, are allocated based upon each state's rural population. Access to credit through guaranteed loans is also based upon rural eligibility as well as rural health

development programs. To this point, ACS survey results for 2012-2017 reflect areas of Arizona without broadband service but focus only on those three "mostly rural" counties. If you are living in a small town or out in the sticks of one of the other 12, you will likely face greater challenges in getting rural funding to develop access to broadband. We all know that access to this technology is crucial in today's environment for education and economic development.



According to azcensus2020.gov, lower response rates in Arizona have historically come from seniors and rural areas. It's critical for rural Arizona to respond. Even though the Arizona Chamber of Commerce considers agriculture as "significant in many rural parts of the state" and we know our agriculture industry to be a \$23.3 billion economic contributor to Arizona, the unique identity of rural Arizona and its value does not really exist as presented by the Bureau.

Urban areas make up only 3% of the entire land area of the U.S., but 80% of the country's consumers. While rural areas, where the majority of primary production takes place, make up 97% of the entire land area of the country, but only 20% of the population. If the Bureau is correct and the census reflects not only our population, but our values, then much of Arizona's value, its funding needs and growth opportunities, have been muted. Rural citizens and communities have value. What we make, mine and grow fuels the engine of progress and feeds and clothes the people. Our towns provide safe neighborhoods, clean air and water, energy, outdoor recreation, psychological and physical space, higher rates of home ownership and military service. Don't count us out!



You had a very good year.

As a Farm Credit West member-owner, you share in the profits. **We're paying \$122 million in cash dividends for 2019**, for a total of more than \$828 million since 2002. Nice job, boss.

800.909.5050



FarmCreditWest.com



Committed. Experienced. Trusted.

What is Farm Bureau University - Board Essentials?

By Amber Morin, Arizona Farm Bureau member and rancher with her parents in Cochise County

Farm Bureau University (FBU) - Board Essentials is an online educational resource offered by American Farm Bureau. It provides training to county board members, helping to improve in the areas of governance, planning, policy development and advocacy, and membership.



However, we all know that many of you in farm and ranch country don't have the best internet connections. To remedy this, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach staff reworked the online formats into in-person, interactive, and hopefully entertaining educational experiences, which Farm Bureau rolled out last year via 10-minute trainings at county board meetings.

The five courses within FBU's Board Essentials have been thoroughly vetted to include information that pertain to our Arizona County Farm Bureau leadership and its needs. Whether you've been on the board for three weeks or 30 years, this training will sharpen your skillset and understanding as a board member.

The five courses are listed below. The Outreach Managers look forward to implementing this program throughout the year in their county outreach training work and encourage your participation and suggestions as we begin implementation.

1. Being a Board Member - Offers foundational knowledge regarding Farm Bureau history, organization structure, and board member roles and responsibilities.

2. Governance - Will equip you with the knowledge and skills to effectively lead the county Farm Bureau. It will highlight your legal and ethical duties, including interpreting financial statements, running meetings, and managing governance documents.

3. Planning - Will uncover the process for creating an effective program of work, building fiscally sound budgets, all of which increases the return on your time and dollar investment.

4. Advocacy & Policy Development - Farm Bureau is an advocacy leader for American agriculture because farmers and ranchers like you saw a need and acted - either by using the policy development process or by advocating to elected officials. This training explores how this generation of Farm Bureau members can continue this legacy!

5. The Membership Cycle - Diverse, high-quality member programming provides opportunities for volunteers to engage, and when volunteers are motivated, you reach more prospective members. Engaging more volunteers and recruiting new members surfaces prospective board members for succession planning, so your county Farm Bureau can have a healthy turnover with active members!

Editor's Note: If you are a county leader and would like your Outreach Manager to host a 10-minute training session just prior to the county business meeting, contact Christy Davis at christydavis@azfb.org, Taylor Rogers at taylorrogers@azfb.org or Julie Murphree at juliemurphree@azfb.org to set up the training for your next county board meeting. 📧

Meet Arizona Agriculture's Whit and Kelli Lann

By Alexandra Pettit, AZFB Communications Intern

It is true when someone says the future of agriculture is bright. When looking at a young couple like these two, you have proof that the future of agriculture is in good hands.

Kelli and Whit Lann are a young couple who live, work and ranch in Apache County. Living completely off the grid, this young couple knows and values hard work. Whit is a fifth-generation rancher and works on the Door Key ranch in St. John's, that is 100% family-owned, with his father, sister and wife, Kelli.

Tell us about your family's ranching operation?

"Whit's father owns the ranch in Apache County and has been ranching his entire life. Whit is a fifth-generation rancher and works with his father. The family has

always ranged in different parts of the country, but Arizona just turned out to be the ideal place of opportunities for their ranching operation and decided to permanently make Arizona the home of their ranching operation."

Whit, his father Don, and his sister, Rosemary, are the ones who primarily run the ranch, and Kelli, when she is not working at her full-time job with the power plant, is at the ranch doing what she can to help.



What are your community activities?

Whit is a part of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), where he is an advisor to the board. Both Whit and Kelli are also involved in their local church and help with outreach events and activities. The couple is also extremely involved with the Apache County Farm Bureau as well as Young Farmers and Ranchers. Whit just passed the role of Apache County Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair down to his sister, Rosemary.

The Ranch is 100% family-owned and operated. Their JXM brand has been in the family for over 120 years. The Door Key brand is the main brand for the ranch and has been in the family since the 1800s.

What do you love most about ranching and agriculture?

"Definitely the work ethic that comes out of it, it's so refreshing to be able to go out and put in a hard day's work and know that you actually did something. There are tangible results."

"It's nice to have something to show for it. It's just refreshing in today's society where a lot of people don't have a good work ethic, or they go to a job and it doesn't really show tangible results."

What is the best business-oriented advice that you have received and or given?

"ADVERTISE! Because word of mouth only goes so far, to get your business and your name out there. Even hiring someone to advertise is a good option, at least initially so you can get into a good process of getting your name out there."

What advice would you give to young farmers/ranchers and agriculturalists?

"Don't Quit, don't give up, stick it out because it's definitely worth it! Being able to provide food or a commodity for the people of the world is a dying thing as a small business owner, or a family starting out. So, stick it out it is 100% worth it."

"Also, always be open to advise that people are going to give you but take it with a grain of salt, there will be a lot of tough times, but it will still be worth it."

Why are you a Farm Bureau Member?

"Farm Bureau is doing a lot of advocating that we can't do when we are out on horseback gathering cows. We can't always be there having a voice in the kind of issues that are going on, because we are boots on the ground, and it's an organization that helps the people who are out in the field have a voice and make sure that their voice is heard." 📧



**I know I need life insurance,
but I also need to save for retirement.**

You might think you have to choose between protecting your loved ones with life insurance or saving for your future, but you don't have to.

You can do both, and it's easy when you work with your Farm Bureau agent.

Let's talk about life insurance and ensure you're prepared for the future.

**FARM BUREAU
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

It's your future. Let's protect it.®