



# How to Celebrate Arizona Wine

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Originally from Canada and fluent in Spanish and Dutch, Valeree Halsey Ibarra has been part of a variety of food and wine associations. She has extensive experience in the planning and production of TAPAS Grand Tasting events in San Francisco as well as several events for the Arizona Wine Growers Association, Wine Competition (2009) and Festival at the Farm (2010) and the Arizona Vignerons Alliance (AZVA) – Certification Tasting Panels.

With her love for food and wine, Halsey Ibarra made a point to make her interest in wine certifiable. She has her International Sommelier Guild (ISG) Diploma, Sommelier, the Sommelier Guild - Wine Fundamentals Certificate Level 1 & 2, and the Culinary Institute of America, Career Discovery: The Professional World of Wine.

We met a few years back at the first AZVA event in Arizona and I was intrigued by Halsey Ibarra's insights on wine and food and especially what she believes Arizona wine brings to the mix. Since then, I've learned so much more about good wine and the potential of Arizona's wine industry has in this great state.

**Arizona Agriculture:** What got you so interested in wine?

**Halsey Ibarra:** I love wine and I am passionate about it! But I guess my journey to wine first started with food. I love to cook and experiment with recipes and ethnic cuisines. The more I cooked the more I wondered how wine fit into the equation. At a certain point I imagined there had to be much more to this food and wine experience. I thought I needed to explore beyond a typical cabernet or merlot. There is something quite magical about tasting a wine on its own and then pairing it with the right food. When you make that match, it's heavenly.

**Arizona Agriculture:** And, you're a certified sommelier some would call a wine steward. What made you pursue this?

**Halsey Ibarra:** One day as I was reading a Bon Appétit magazine and I saw a very small ad: *if you love wine but don't know how*

*food and wine go together, take our course.* So, I enrolled in a week-long immersion at the Culinary Institute of America in the Napa Valley. What an incredible place to start this journey! I was scared I wouldn't fit in or understand what they were talking about, but I was so excited to branch out into something completely different. One thing led to another and I was hooked. The International Sommelier Guild was conducting classes at the Art Institute in Phoenix, so I enrolled in Level One, then Level Two and much to my surprise I ended up completing my Sommelier diploma. The focus of this program is not just wine, but the food and wine component and how they are intricately meshed. Also, I didn't realize when I started that studying wine meant that I would learn about the history, geography, geology, climate and languages in wine regions. This also appealed to me as I love all those subjects and speak Spanish and Dutch with a decent understanding of French. Today, I spend most of my time on the event management, wine tasting and marketing side of the business. That is what I enjoy and where I feel happiest.

**Arizona Agriculture:** You've lived all over North America and Europe. What makes Arizona wine special, or at least interesting from your perspective?

**Halsey Ibarra:** One of the things that contribute to quality wine in Arizona is the diurnal temperature variation or how the temperatures heat up and cool down over the course of a day. The acidity levels in the grapes remain relatively high which gives balance and allows for real freshness and age-ability in the wine. The selection of wine produced in Arizona is amazing, from sparkling, rosé, white to bold reds and everything in between and even dessert wines. There is a wine here for all palates and occasions and we're working on spreading the word. The other, and perhaps most important thing, is the quality and talent of winemakers here in the state.

**Arizona Agriculture:** What should Arizona consumers do to get



**Arizona Sommelier Valeree Halsey Ibarra suggests, "talking with a wine steward at your favorite retail stores or restaurants and have them suggest or guide your purchasing decisions based on your preferences and what kind of wine you gravitate towards."**

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# Pool Safety Saves Lives

Arizonans waited all Spring for temperatures to rise. Summer is finally here and fun in the sun can commence. With swimming being one of the most popular summer activities, being aware of pool safety tips are vital for all ages.



Warmer weather, long summer days and over 250,000 pools make Arizona prone to water-related incidents. Did you know two-thirds of all drownings happen between May and August?



The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends the following pool safety tips:

- Children should never be left unattended in the pool or pool area.
- Children should always be watched when in or around the pool area. Flotation devices and swimming lessons are not substitutes for supervision.
- CPR instructions and the 911 emergency number should be posted in the pool area.
- All residential pool owners should attend water rescue and CPR classes.
- Lifesaving equipment should be easily accessible and stored in the pool area.
- A phone should be in the pool area or easily accessible in case of an emergency.
- All gate locks and latches should be checked regularly to insure they are working properly.
- A gate should never be left propped open.
- All items that could be used to climb a pool barrier should be removed from around the barrier.

While enjoying vacation and summertime fun around the pool, think about pool safety. It could save a life.

# Ag In the Classroom is Live in 5...4...3...2...

By **Tori Summey**, Arizona Farm Bureau Ag Education Manager

The close of the 2018-2019 school year brought an exciting new development for the Agriculture in the Classroom social media campaign:

**Live Videos!** In a coordinated effort between Arizona Farm Bureau staff, AITC is now offering up Monday morning live videos on Instagram and Facebook.

Aptly labeled #MakeItMonday, this new campaign provides viewers the opportunity to receive weekly lessons and activities as well as the option to ask questions and interact with the AITC team. The topic of these videos ranges from basic knowledge of Arizona's commodities to more complicated issues facing Arizona farmers and ranchers.

"I am very excited about our Live Campaign! This new way of communicating will allow our friends and followers of AZFB AITC to get to know us a little better, allow for real-time questions, and hopefully help participants to leave with a bit of knowledge or an activity that can be used immediately," said Katie Aikins, Arizona Farm Bureau's Director of Education. "We have a lot of fun teaching students and teachers here at AITC. Tune in every Monday during the school year for our #makeitmonday videos and you will see why!"



**A new teaching tool, Facebook Live segments, will be regular teaching vignettes covering a variety of topics during the school year hosted by Arizona Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.**

See **CLASSROOM** page 3

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## Arizona Wine *Continued from page 1*

what they really want in an Arizona wine?

**Halsey Ibarra:** I believe that the supply of excellent Arizona wine will continue to grow. There are new wineries coming on board with excellent talent in winemaking. When the vines mature after a few years, the complexity of the wine really shows through. As a consumer, I always suggest talking with a wine steward at your favorite retail stores or restaurants and have them suggest or guide your purchasing decisions based on your preferences and what kind of wine you gravitate towards. After you've nailed down a few favorites then go exploring. The three major wine regions in the state, Sonoita, Verde Valley and Willcox have wineries and tasting rooms relatively close together, so make a day of it or even a weekend wine tasting adventure.

**Arizona Agriculture:** And, on that point, what's the best advice as a sommelier that you can give someone trying to develop a taste for wine. Or, give wine more of a chance?

**Halsey Ibarra:** When approaching wine and talking with a wine professional it's important to just say what you like or don't like about the wine. Don't be intimidated by *wine speak*. Those terms can and will come later but think about what the wine does in your mouth. For example, when we talk about the body or fullness of the wine, think about milk, from skim to whole, it feels and tastes differently in your mouth. It's the same with wine, there are light and full-bodied wines. For example, last weekend at our Grand Tasting event, someone asked me to recommend a wine that replaced the beef that she ate very little of. She wanted a big beefy red. I love that! Comparing a wine to a food group! Wine tasting is a very sensory experience and unique to each individual. The more you taste, the more you will develop a palate for what you like. Wine can be serious or fun. It

depends on how you want to approach it. Make it yours and you will enjoy it.

**Arizona Agriculture:** Talk about our wine growers that you know. What makes them special in your eyes?

**Halsey Ibarra:** Arizona is a relative newcomer to the wine regions of the world. The first question I am always asked wherever I travel is, "Arizona makes wine? Isn't it too hot!" We need to continue educating the general public on what is happening here, and it is happening in a serious way. Our winemakers are talented, dedicated and eager to try new things and push the boundaries. They are open to sharing their experiences with other winemakers, both their successes and failures. They have also taken the time, effort and expense to establish the Arizona Vignerons Alliance (AZVA). The AZVA is dedicated to securing a reputation for quality wine and does this in part by certifying Arizona wine (grapes grown, and wine produced in Arizona) by an independent panel of industry professionals. I help organize the certification panel whose role is to certify and protect the reputation of Arizona wines and to assure consumers that they are making a good choice in buying an AZVA certified wine.

One of the things I love about the wine industry is that it has such a rich history. I'm very fortunate that I took the leap and got involved here in Arizona. There is such a pioneering attitude here, kind of Zane Grey-wild west atmosphere influenced by the early Spanish Jesuit priests who planted vineyards in the 16th century. The industry keeps evolving and there are new wineries being added all the time. The people I have met and the relationships that I've made are very special. And, to top it all off, at the end of my day, I get to enjoy an amazing glass of Arizona wine!

## Classroom *Continued from page 2*

Viewers can expect to engage weekly with Katie Aikins, as well as Agriculture in the Classroom Manager, Tori Summey. There will also be the occasional appearance of Farm Bureau members, teachers, and other program staff in future videos. Any members who wish to be involved can contact AITC by emailing [aitec@azfb.org](mailto:aitec@azfb.org).

The #MakeItMonday videos are scheduled to run following the regular academic year, ending Monday, May 20th and picking back up on July 23rd. However, viewers can anticipate live videos throughout the summer detailing how to cut and pick their favorite in-season fruits and vegetables. Ag in the Classroom will also be using live videos to highlight their summer programs and keep viewers up-to-date on events happening within AZFB.

"Who doesn't love a live video!?" said Aikins. "I personally like that they can't be edited. What you see is what you get. And that is what we are all about here at AZFB AITC."

As transparency continues to play an integral role in building trust and educating consumers, the AITC staff strives to create an open platform for communication through #MakeItMonday and their other social media platforms. If you would like to view future videos, follow AITC on Facebook (AZFB AITC) and Instagram (@AZFB\_AITC).

## Harkins Movie Summer Fun

By Taylor Rogers, Arizona Farm Bureau's Outreach Manager  
- Membership Value

Going to the movie theatre is a fun way to get everyone out of the house with kids out of school for the summer. But as we all know, trips to the movies with small children do not always go as planned. From years of babysitting and hearing stories from my mom, I gained a few tips for making trips to the movies with young children successful.

**Here are five tips toward fun at the movies for the entire family.**

### 1. Choose the right movie

Make sure the movie you've chosen is suitable for your children's ages and the movie isn't too long. Avoid busier opening days to avoid larger crowds, long lines and more noise.

### 2. Grab an aisle seat and a booster

A quick escape is always easier if you're in or near an aisle seat. Make it easy on yourself to leave quickly and quietly without climbing over others. Most theatres have booster seats for small children.

See **HARKINS** page 5



# Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

## Every Friday You Can Talk to An Arizona Farmer

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Begun just four weeks ago, Arizona Farm Bureau has made it even easier for you to talk to a farmer, or rancher! Through Instagram and the social media channels, "Live" feature, we're taking the time to visit with our farmers and ranchers here in Arizona.

Arizona Farm Bureau's "Talk to a Farmer Friday" program launched so Instagram followers to @AZFB 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 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 in the morning. 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.

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!

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# Harkins *Continued from page 3*

Just ask at the ticket desk because the goal is to keep your lap child-free for an hour or two!

### 3. Bring your own snacks

For budget-friendly movies, skip the snack bar treats. You'll save money and be able to limit the inevitable sugar rush that candy brings. As a compromise, grab a family-sized box of popcorn to share and bring the small boxed drinks from home.

### 4. Let everyone know the ground rules

Roll out a few basic rules before you go to the movies. Make sure your children know the rules about being quiet, staying in their seats and not disturbing other movie-goers. Always choose a time of day that suits the family's routine.

### 5. Pre purchase your tickets

Farm Bureau members can save up to \$3 a ticket when they buy a bundle of 10 Harkins Theatres tickets online at [www.azfb.org](http://www.azfb.org). Save time and buy online.

Go to [Harkins.com](http://Harkins.com) to see if the Harkins Theatre near you offers their Summer Movie Fun Package and see what movies will be featured this year.

*For more information on your member benefits, go to Arizona Farm Bureau's member benefits page online. You can also now download the Member Benefits app to your smart phone for easy, everyday access to your benefits.*

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## Refreshing Summer Drink



Memorial Day 2019 is only a memory, meaning summer barbeque season is in full swing. Try a new recipe, like the Fill Your Plate's Fruit Party Punch, to present a sparkling drink the whole family can enjoy together.

This punch features a mix of grapefruit, lemon, apple and orange juice. The fresh strawberries and ginger ale to top off the punch add a fun flare worth coming back for. Fruit Party Punch serves perfect for any summer function.

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 Cup Grapefruit Juice
- 1/2 Cup Lemon Juice
- 2 Cups Apple Juice
- 2 Cups Orange Juice
- 2 Cups Ginger Ale
- 1 Cup Strawberries, Fresh or Frozen

### Directions:

Mix together the grapefruit and lemon juice, along with 1 1/2 cups cold water. Pour into ice cube trays and freeze. Empty the trays into a punch bowl and add apple and orange juice, ginger ale and 1/2 cup of cold water. This recipe serves 10 people.

Thank you to the Southwest Family Citrus and Spenar Family for providing this recipe.

Go to [FillYourPlate.org](http://FillYourPlate.org) to find a local farm or farmer's market to pick your fresh fruit to make this drink from local ingredients and to find other recipes. Plus, a new feature on Fill Your Plate means you can now search for farms you can visit.

## Agriculture Signing Bonus for New Farm Bureau Financial Services Agents

Farm Bureau Financial Services is looking for motivated individuals with ag backgrounds who would make great Farm Bureau Fi-

ancial Services agents. If you are passionate about agriculture and take pride in helping people in the community, you could earn up to \$25,000 in an "Ag Affinity" bonus.<sup>1</sup>

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In order to be a candidate, you must have at least 3 years of experience or history with an agriculture-related company or operation and a signed ADP contract for payment.

Go to [BeAFarmBureauAgent.com/Managers](http://BeAFarmBureauAgent.com/Managers) for more information and to connect with an agency manager in your area. We look forward to you joining the Farm Bureau Family!





# Summer Vacation at Universal Studios



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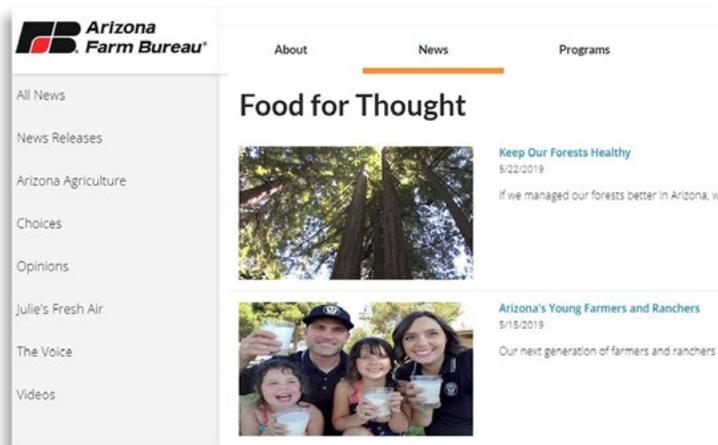
Arizona Farm Bureau families can take advantage of discount tickets on all packages offered by Universal Studios at [azfb.org](http://azfb.org).

The packages with eligible discounts include the following:

Packages	Restrictions and Details
1-Day General Admission	Valid on your selected date only.
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Universal Express Ticket	Get ONE-TIME express access to each ride, attraction and seated show. Valid on selected date only.
VIP Experience	Unlimited express access to rides, attractions and seated shows. Tour sets in a special trolley to explore areas not open to public. Begin in exclusive VIP lounge with light snacks, refreshments and a gourmet meal in a private dining room, prepared by Universal's very own executive chef. Enjoy your private tour guide and free Valet parking.
Add Ons	General Parking pass for 1 full-day, Preferred Parking pass starting 1 hour prior to park open, valid for 1-day.

**Editor's note:** For more information on our member benefits including our regional benefits go to Arizona Farm Bureau's member benefits page online. Or, download the Member Benefits app to your smart phone for easy, everyday access to your benefits.

## Free Summer Movies



And, you don't even need to use Harkins Tickets for this series of movies, well, okay videos.

Beginning in 2017, Arizona Farm Bureau began producing short videos covering a variety of topics on Arizona agriculture. And, we continue to roll them out. While we may not have a premiere night showing, we're pretty proud of these videos that tell Arizona's agriculture story.

To view our videos, go to [azfb.org](http://azfb.org) and select, "News" in the horizontal white bar across the top. Once in the news section, select "videos." You'll find videos on everything from forest health to Arizona's Young Farmers and Ranchers to Arizona's Amazing Alfalfa. We even have a variety of videos covering Arizona's water issues.

And, you'll want to periodically visit our video page as Arizona Farm Bureau releases a new video nearly every week. The next series of videos will highlight Arizona agriculture's top agriculture crops and livestock.

# Fill Your Plate's New "Visit a Farm" Feature

We're hoping you love Fill Your Plate as much as us at Arizona Farm Bureau. We've added something new to this mobile-friendly website. You can now search for farms to visit!

Yes, you can search for recipes from our Arizona farmers and ranchers. Yes, you can search for farmers markets throughout the state of Arizona. And, yes, you can search for Arizona farm and ranch products on Fill Your Plate. But today, you can now search for the couple dozen farms that you can visit when you're "On the Road with Arizona agriculture!"

Go to [fillyourplate.org](http://fillyourplate.org) and on the home page of the website



you'll find "Visit a Farm" featured at the top. This searchable database will allow you to discover what farms you can visit while you're in Cochise County, for example. This search will tell you farm visit times and other important information to make your visit worthy of your precious time.

Plus, consider turning it into a family affair by taking the children and/or nieces and nephews with you on your outing. Arizona is host to several dozen farms you can visit such as Schnepf Farms in Queen Creek or Apple Annie's in Willcox.

Go to [azfb.org](http://azfb.org)

## Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

### The Faces of Arizona Agriculture: Philip and Sherri Bravo

- Married to Sherri
- Rancher in Mohave County, owner of 7 Bar Cattle Co.
- Philip has served as a tribal councilman for the Hualapai Tribe in Northern Arizona.
- Northern Arizona big game hunting guide.
- Long-time Farm Bureau Leader and supporter of Mohave County 4-H youth.
- Named 2019 Range Manager of the year (Society for Range Management, Arizona Section)

