



FEBRUARY, 2019 Volume 72 No. 2

Official Publication of the Arizona Farm Bureau

A Conversation about How to Celebrate Arizona Wine: Valeree Halsey Ibarra

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Prior to embarking on a new adventure in the world of wine, Valeree Halsey Ibarra was an international business development consultant, working with government agencies and the private sector in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. In 2005, she decided to follow her passion for food and wine earning her sommelier diploma. Halsey Ibarra has extensive experience in the planning and production of TAPAS (Tempranillo Advocates Producers and Amigos Society) events in San Francisco as well as several events here in Arizona.

Originally from Canada and fluent in Spanish and Dutch, Halsey Ibarra has been part of a variety of 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



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."

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.

And since so many of my farmers and ranchers told me during our "Taste of Arizona" during last November's Annual Meeting that they actually wanted to be a bit more familiar with wine, I immediately thought of Valeree. Here, she gives insight on how Arizona's wine ranks quite well, along with the more established wine regions of the world.

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

See **ARIZONA WINE** Page 4

Double your Money, Guaranteed!

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

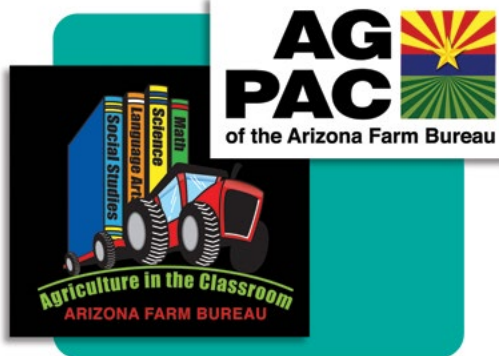
What if I told you that I had a guaranteed investment opportunity for you. And what if I told you this investment was guaranteed to double your money the moment you make it? Think it sounds too good to be true? Think again!

Now through September 30, every contribution made to AgPAC of the Arizona Farm Bureau (AZFB) will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, with a contribution to the AZFB Educational Farming Company.

At Farm Bureau, we believe that education and advocacy go hand-in-hand. Just as we look to educate today's lawmakers, we also work to educate tomorrow's voters by telling them the real story of agriculture. Thanks to this partnership between AgPAC, Educational Farming Company, and Arizona Farm Bureau, you don't have to choose: you can support both causes with one contribution.

So what exactly are you investing in when you invest in AgPAC? As Arizona's agricultural political advocacy committee, AgPAC works to identify and support candidates who will fight for our issues: lower taxes, private property rights, strong water rights, multiple use of public lands, and smaller government. Contributions to AgPAC help us make sure these candidates are elected and re-elected by contributing to their campaigns for office. In 2018 alone, AgPAC was able to support 27 candidates in legislative, state-wide, and federal races. That also means 27 people who have been tasked with making important decisions were reminded that Ag matters to the future of our state and nation.

When you invest in the Educational Farming Company, you're investing in the future of agriculture. Educational Farming Company supports youth in agriculture, teaches agriculture in Arizona's classrooms, and makes sure the public knows the truth about modern farming and ranching. Contributions help support Arizona's most successful agricultural education programs, including Ag in the Classroom, the Arizona Association FFA, Arizona 4-H, and the Arizona



Education Standards - Page 2
They are Changing

Border Discussion - Page 5
AZ Rancher Joins President Trump Onstage

Where We Accept Risk - Page 7
Where We Don't

Times and Standards Are Changing

By Staff Reports

Times are changing and so are the standards. Not only on the farm and ranch, but in classrooms across the state. A revised set of high school Agriscience Standards is here, and the class of 2021 will be the first tested on these standards.

Seeking Skilled Workers

Each year there are nearly 58,000 new jobs that need to be filled in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment. Yet there are only about 35,400 new U.S. graduates with expertise in these areas. This past fall, the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona agriculture teachers, and industry representatives worked toward a solution to this problem.

“Industry has to be at the table with our teachers. If we are not communicating our needs for specific skills and adding tools to the teachers’ toolboxes, we will never fill this employment gap,” says Katie Aikins Director of Education for the Arizona Farm Bureau.

The outcome of these meetings? A recommendation for new and updated Agriscience Standards for the 81 agricultural education programs across the state. These recommendations were endorsed by the Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission in October 2018.

A Forgotten and Misunderstood Industry

Agriculture is an industry needed by everyone. However, it is often misunderstood and at times used as a pawn for activist groups promoting their agendas and marketers trying to sell their products. The reality is the average person is 3 to 4 generations removed from the farm and ranch. And unfortunately, they do not have the firsthand knowledge and experiences necessary to know when a story is truth or just that, a story.

The Agri-science Standards will hopefully address some of these issues, giving students the skills necessary to be informed consumers. Before consumers can really dive into the food story, it’s important that they can evaluate appropriate resources for research and use scientific evidence to investigate controversial topics and make educated decisions. Genetic engineering comes to mind, for example.

Think for a moment about all those labels in the grocery store. Many consumers use those labels to make choices that affect their buying choices, eating habits, and pocket books. What if that label, though, didn’t mean what the consumer thought when purchasing the product? What if instead of providing the consumer with pertinent information it instead was merely playing into people’s ignorance about food? Everyone needs to be able to analyze food product labels and not be persuaded or dissuaded from purchasing products based on propaganda.

Here are some of the other standards that included as part of the Agriscience Standards:

- Investigate the impact of the agricultural industry on population, food, energy, and the environment.
- Describe the effects of current farming methods on water resources, erosion, and soil fertility.
- Explain the effects of pesticides and fertilizers on water and the environment.
- Explain how legislation affects agricultural production.
- Explain how a stable agriculture sector supports a nation of food security.
- Investigate government agencies that impact agriculture and food production.
- Develop a plan to prevent foodborne illness in agriculture produces

A complete list of the Agriscience Standards can be found at <https://bit.ly/2Dec5fG>. The list of standards can also be found on the home page of azfb.org. 🚗



In Standard 14.0, Demonstrate Operation of Tools, Equipment, and Instruments, under that heading is listed 14.4 that says, “Demonstrate a variety of metal fabrication, welding, soldering, cutting, and finishing processes (i.e., SMAW, GMAW, GTAW, fuel-oxygen, plasma arc torch, etc.).” If one takes the time to review the complete list of Agriscience Standards, you’ll note a broad range of skill sets designed to fill future job positions that even now are going unfilled.

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	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
CAMP VERDE 🚗 564 S. Main St, Ste. 113 928.567.8956	PAYSON 🚗 512 S. Beeline Hwy. #4 928.474.1775
CASA GRANDE 🚗 408 N. Sacaton, Ste. E 520.836.2511	PHOENIX 🚗 22601 N. 19th Ave. #106 623.434.8097
CAVE CREEK 🚗 6554 E. Cave Creek, Rd#4 480.575.0710	15215 S 48th St. Ste. 183 602.777.5101
CHANDLER 🚗 1820 E. Ray Rd. Ste. A205 480.284.4223 or 480.899.1997	4600 E. Washington, Ste. 300 602.772.4916
COTTONWOOD 🚗 1759 E. Villa Drive, #113 928.649.8686	703 E Carefree Hwy Ste.105 🚗 480.467.4588
DEWEY 🚗 171 S. Hwy 69, # C 928.632.0014	PRESCOTT 🚗 3005 N. Hwy. 89 928.778.9350
FLAGSTAFF 🚗 2733 E Lakin Dr. #1 928.527.1343	136 Grove Ave. 928.440.6999
GILBERT 🚗 325 S.Higley Rd. #100 480.635.3860	1024 Willow Creek Rd. Ste. C 928.717.9911
343 N. Gilbert Rd. 480.699.0861	QUEEN CREEK 🚗 18933 E. San Tan Blvd. #107 480.987.9163
1605 S. Gilbert Rd # 103 480.833.8718	SAFFORD 🚗 620 S. 1st Ave. 480.428.4618
115 N. Pasadena #104 480.704.4182	SCOTTSDALE 7650 E. Redfield Rd. Ste. D-4 480.483.8787
1166 E. Warner Rd., Ste. 204A Gilbert, AZ 85296 480.993.2742 480.339.7148	14861 N. Scottsdale Rd, Ste. 115 480.988.6601
GLENDALE 🚗 18301 N. 79 Ave. #D146 623.878.2491	SHOWLOW 🚗 810 E. Duece of Clubs 928.537.2990
GLOBE 138 S. Broad St. 928.425.3632	TEMPE 🚗 6101 S. Rural Rd. #120 480.967.7306
GOODYEAR 🚗 3673 S. Bullard Ave., Ste. 101 623.925.0190	TUCSON 🚗 7301 E. 22nd St., Ste. 4C 520.288.8154
KINGMAN 🚗 3518 N. Irving St., Ste. A 928.757.5555	4732 N. Oracle Rd Ste 115 520.885.3083
2716 Stockton Hill Rd., Ste. B 🚗 928.377.5000	WICKENBURG 🚗 300 N. Tegner St. 928.684.6895
LAKE HAVASU CITY 🚗 1600 McCulloch Blvd. N., Ste. B5 928.846.3232	WILLCOX 🚗 365 N. Haskell Ave. 520.766.3276
MESA 🚗 1012 S. Stapley Dr., #114 480.649.0260	WILLIAMS 🚗 128 W. Grant, Ste. A 928.635.2181
2509 S. Power Rd., Ste #106 🚗 480.279-1874	YUMA 🚗 661 E. 32nd St., Ste. A 928.782.0012
MIAMI 520 W. Live Oak St. 928.473.1234	7175 E. 31st Pl., Ste. B & J 928.248.5038 928.341.0000
	1195 W. 5th Ave. 928.257.3594



Office with 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
Ava Alcaida • Parker

ARIZONA AGRICULTURE STAFF

Julie Murphree, Editor
Peggy Jo Goodfellow, 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.

PLATINUM SPONSOR



**ATTENTION
ARIZONA FARM BUREAU
MEMBERS
RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL**

\$500

**FORD REBATE
ON TOP OF ALL OTHER FACTORY REBATES
JUST FOR BEING A MEMBER**

EXCLUDES SVT RAPTOR, SHELBY GT & FLEET DEALS



6400 N 51ST AVENUE, GLENDALE, AZ 85301
623.842.8600 | WWW.SANDERSONFORD.COM

Arizona Wine continued from page 1

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: Hoping you say Arizona wine is your favorite ... but, what's your next favorite wine region and why?

Halsey Ibarra: I have been very fortunate in that the two places I call home are fantastic wine producing regions. British Columbia, specifically the Okanagan Valley, produces amazing wine as does Arizona and in both places, I have the luxury of drinking excellent local wines. It just makes sense to eat and drink local and support locally produced products. That doesn't mean I don't explore some of the classic wine regions though! Spain would be my next favorite wine region, having very similar climates

and growing conditions, with Tempranillo and Garnacha (Grenache) being some of my favorite reds and Albariño and Viognier being favorite whites.

Arizona Agriculture: What should Arizona consumers do to get 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 really 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.

I would also suggest to new wine growers to find their own identity. Take advantage of Arizona and what it offers with its unique microclimates, soils and temperatures. The grapes that grow the best in our regions will also make the best wine as wine is largely made in the vineyard and only completed in the winery.

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! 🍷

Editor's Note: Many of our wine makers that happen to be members of Farm Bureau, encourage the wine industry to consider Arizona Wine Growers Association. As my father, Pat Murphree, once said, "We belong to commodity-specific organizations and Farm Bureau both because of the breadth and depth of what these organizations offer the industry."



Halsey Ibarra lines up a wine panel before judging. She believes Arizona's wine industry has great potential for the future.

DELTA PINE

STRONG COTTON

Find varieties that fit your field at Deltapine.com/FarWest.

ELITE GENETICS | MOST EFFECTIVE WEED & INSECT CONTROL | PREMIUM FIBER QUALITY | HIGHEST YIELD POTENTIAL

Deltapine is a registered trademark of Deltapine Group. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2019 Deltapine Group. All Rights Reserved. DP-1908-AZF3-07

GOLD SPONSOR

ARIZONA
Grain Research & Promotion Council

Help us spread the word about the important role of grain in Arizona's agriculture.

www.facebook.com/AGRPC

Arizona Farm Bureau Celebrates in New Orleans

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

A representative delegation of Arizona Farm Bureau’s leaders congregated in New Orleans this year for the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation last month.

Arizona Farm Bureau received American Farm Bureau Federation’s (AFBF) Awards of Excellence in all four categories again this year. These are awarded to state Farm Bureaus that demonstrate outstanding achievements in four program areas: Advocacy; Engagement and Outreach; Leadership and Business Development; and Membership Value.



The only private citizen called on stage during President Donald Trump’s speech to the American Farm Bureau, southern Arizona Rancher Jim Chilton brought farmers and ranchers to their feet from across the country as he discussed the border issue with those in attendance. This is the second time President Trump has appeared before the attendees to the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Arizona’s Young Farmer & Rancher Program Participated in the National Discussion Meet

Buddy Moore of Pima County competed in the Discussion Meet on behalf of Arizona Farm Bureau. Moore is an extension agent in Pima County.

Arizona Rancher Takes the Stage with President Donald Trump

To everyone’s surprise and delight, southern Arizona rancher Jim Chilton was called on stage by President Donald Trump during the Closing Ceremonies and had brief, but point-

ed words about the border issue, and especially what ranchers near the border face daily.

“Mr. President, we need a wall,” said rancher and Arizona Farm Bureau member Jim Chilton. “We need a wall all the length of the border. We’ve got to stop the drug packers bringing drugs in to poison our people. And, I would say to Speaker Pelosi, walls are not immoral. I’ve traveled around the world and the biggest wall I’ve ever seen is around the Vatican. You can’t tell me that the wonderful priests and officials of the Roman Catholic Church, including the Pope, are immoral. They have a wall, why can’t we?”

New Grassroots Leaders Take the Help at American Farm Bureau

Delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 100th Annual Convention elected members to serve as board and committee leaders for the organization.

Stefanie Smallhouse, president of Arizona Farm Bureau, and Todd Fornstrom, president of Wyoming Farm Bureau, were elected to two-year terms on the AFBF board of directors representing the Western Region.

Arizona’s own Sherry Saylor was also re-elected to another two-year term on the AFB Women’s Leadership Committee as chair with Isabella Chism of Indiana as vice chair.

American’s Delegate Body Set Priorities and Passed Policy for 2019

Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 100th Annual Convention last month adopted policies to guide the organization’s work during its centennial year on key topics such as farm bill implementation, cell-cultured food products, trade, rural broadband access and rural mental health programs.

“As our organization has done for the last 100 years, grassroots delegates from across the nation came together to express a unified voice on issues vital to the success of our farms, ranches and rural communities,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said. “It was fitting to have President Trump and numerous members of Congress among our attendees as we kicked off our centennial celebration. We continue to face a challenging farm economy and we stand ready to work with Congress and the Trump administration to address the issues important to our farm and ranch families.”

Government Shutdown

Delegates urged the administration and Congress to work together to end the government shutdown as soon as possible. The current shutdown means farmers and ranchers are being delayed in securing loans and crop insurance as well as disaster and trade assistance. The impasse has also delayed implementation of important provisions of the farm bill.

Trade

Delegates voted to favor negotiations to resolve trade disputes, rather than the use of tariffs or withdrawal from agreements. They also voted to support the United States’ entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Cell-based Food

Delegates adopted a comprehensive policy to support innovation in cell-based food products while ensuring a level playing field for traditional protein. Delegates affirmed

See **NEW ORLEANS** Page 6



The majority of CAP water is used for agriculture

COMMUNITIES & INDUSTRIES
CAP delivers Colorado River water to central and southern Arizona



Efficient Agriculture
Central Arizona Project agriculture is efficient, with water losses below **3%**



www.CentralArizonaProject.com

2019 Ag Fest: The Great Arizona Meet Up!

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

This year's Arizona Farm Bureau Legislative Agricultural Festival (Ag Fest) in January at the Arizona Department of Agriculture drew 51 Arizona Legislators. Additionally, 150 Farm Bureau member leaders and guests were on hand to host their state senators and representatives and introduce them to agricultural products, families and issues from counties throughout Arizona. Special guests, including representatives of the various agricultural commodity groups, numbered more than 55 this year.

But Ag Fest is only the beginning for the legislative year before us. Arizona Farm Bureau member leadership encourages ongoing contact with your state representatives.

Connect with Your Legislators throughout the Coming Year



This year, during AgFest, we featured Arizona agriculture's \$23.3 billion industry for the annual photo opportunity including highlighting Arizona's top agriculture products. Here, Arizona Farm Bureau First Vice President and Yuma Farmer John Boelts hosts House Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez (D-Dist 4). 150 Farm Bureau farm and ranch leaders along with guests represented our industry at Ag Fest 2019.

dialogue with your state senators and representatives when you connect. Consider inviting them to one of your county Farm Bureau meetings too.

When specific bills are up for hearing or vote, and action on your part is needed, we will alert you through a Call-to-Action. Legislators value a call from their constituents; who better to talk to them than you?

Additionally, Arizona Farm Bureau staffers will deliver the photos taken with you and your legislator if you attended the Ag Fest. This way, we've used another method to remind them that your out on the farm and ranch doing what you do best. 📷

During a busy season and before time runs out, Arizona Farm Bureau encourages members to participate in the process by connecting with Arizona's legislative leaders.

The specific bills introduced to consider in the 2019 legislative can we zfound online in the "Public Policy" section of azfb.org. Use these bills and the issues they represent to help you

Money

continued from page 1

National Livestock Show. Thanks to Ed Farming, tens of thousands of students have been taught a positive, truth-filled message about agriculture throughout the semester.

With AgPAC helping support the leaders of today, and Educational Farming Company teaching the leaders of tomorrow, we're creating a one-two punch that ensures the success of our industry for generations to come.

Double your money today with an investment in the future success of the agricultural industry.

For more information or to contribute today, please contact Chelsea McGuire, Government Relations Director at chelseamcguire@azfb.org or 480-635-3602.

Contributions will be matched up to \$10,000. Matching contributions are not eligible for the charitable tax deduction, and only contributions to AgPAC are eligible for the match. AgPAC cannot accept corporate contributions. 📷

New Orleans

continued from page 5

that the Agriculture Department is best equipped to be the primary regulator of new cell-based products as it encouraged USDA to utilize the Food and Drug Administration's expertise in food safety. The policy also calls for complete and accurate product labels to ensure that consumers have all the pertinent information they need.



Southern Rancher Meet-Up: Both ranchers, Jim Chilton and Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse met before the start of the Closing Ceremonies of the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Smallhouse was also elected to a two-year term of the AFBF board of directors representing the Western Region during this Annual Meeting.

Rural Broadband

Delegates supported improved broadband coverage maps through better data and third-party provider verification. AFBF will work with the Federal Communications Commission to address map inaccuracies.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Delegates supported increased funding for programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse and mental health issues. Delegates also voted to support funding for the Farm and Ranch Assistance Network, which was included in the 2018 farm bill. AFBF will urge appropriations committees to fund this program, which is critical to address the mental health issues faced by many farmers, ranchers and other rural Americans.

AFBF's 101st Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show will be held in Austin, Texas, Jan. 17-22, 2020. 📷

Farm Bill Moves Hemp Along

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

You may recall only a few months ago, we reported on the hemp legislation that passed the Arizona Legislature and was signed by Governor Doug Ducey. Well, there's more to examine with this potential crop in Arizona since things happened on the federal level too.



Because of the 2018 Farm Bill, while today hemp remains a very minor crop, many predict it will rapidly expand. In 2016, less than 10,000 acres were grown nationwide; in 2017, nearly 26,000 acres were produced by about 1,500 farmers.

moving forward well, since the advisory council met most recently the end of January.

What the 2018 Farm Bill Did on the National Level

Last December, the 2018 Federal Farm Bill was signed into law, legalizing industrial hemp by excluding it from the definition of marijuana. The Farm Bill also expanded the definition to include seeds, all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids (*including Cannabidiol (CBD)*), isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers. There are also several other changes made that will open the commercialization of hemp, without the limitations of an industrial hemp agricultural pilot program. However, there remains the need for legitimate research to further the development of this crop in Arizona.

As a result, the Arizona Department of Agriculture still serves as primary oversight and growers are still required to be licensed by the department. The key point in the Farm Bill is that this crop can be commercialized and allows for interstate shipment, along with hemp now eligible for USDA-FSA crop insurance. In fact, hemp is also open to future grant opportunities.

The Farm Bill Makes Everything Move Faster

In the Arizona legislation passed in 2018, the effective date for hemp licensing and more was designated as August of 2019. In the current legislative session there is a Senate Bill to move that effective date **to May 31, 2019**. So, if this new bill is passed

See **HEMP** Page 7




FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS GET

\$500 BONUS CASH*



BUILT **Ford** PROUD

Don't forget about the Built Ford Tough Sweepstakes!*

Text the word **SWEEPS** to 46786*** to enter!



Go Further

*Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This incentive is not available on Shelby GT350®, Shelby® GT350R, Mustang BULLITT, Ford GT, Focus RS and F-150 Raptor. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company and 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 FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or LincolnFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford or Lincoln Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE A LEGAL RESIDENT OF U.S. OR D.C., 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE TO ENTER AND A CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBER. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/2019. For entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details, visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

***Autodialed marketing messages will be sent to the number provided. Consent is not a condition of purchase or entry. Message and data rates may apply.

Hemp continued from page 6

through the legislature and is signed by the Governor, then the new date will be **May 31st**. Otherwise, it will remain August 4th.

So, the big question in Arizona: What farmers are considering growing hemp, especially since many contend it uses less water than cotton? Unlike its marijuana cousin, industrial hemp does not contain enough THC to alter anyone's mindset. Industrial hemp is defined as the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than three-tenths percent (0.3%) on a dry-weight basis. (A.R.S. § 3-311)

Industrial hemp does contain Cannabidiol (CBD), a chemical compound that can be extracted primarily from the floral material. CBD compounds are not narcotic or included in the Controlled Substances Act and is different from the THC that is found in marijuana.

And, while the ADA does not plan to limit the number of licenses issues, or establish size requirements, it's useful to know the four licenses the department plans to issue. These licenses can be applied for individually or as a combination of two or more.

1. **Grower License** – for qualified applicants interested in the growth and propagation of industrial hemp.
2. **Harvester License** – for qualified applicants interested in providing harvesting services to a licensed industrial hemp grower.
3. **Transporter License** – for qualified applicants interested in providing shipping and transport services of harvested industrial hemp from a licensed grower to a licensed processor.
4. **Processor License** – for qualified applicants interested in the processing of harvested industrial hemp into hemp products or hemp seed.

Notes on Growing Hemp

Hemp, with a long history of use in products ranging from food and cosmetics to textiles and building materials, is one of the oldest cultivated crops on earth, including

being featured prominently on colonial era farms in the United States. But, opponents of the crops effectively banned hemp from commercial cultivation by the federal government in 1957 amid a period of anti-marijuana hysteria.

Because of the 2018 Farm Bill, while today hemp remains a very minor crop, many predict it will rapidly expand. In 2016, less than 10,000 acres were grown nationwide; in 2017, nearly 26,000 acres were produced by 1,500 farmers, according to the USDA.

An annual plant, hemp thrives in warm weather and grows best in well-drained soils. According to extension agents and master gardeners, hemp seeds are generally sown in directly where the plants are to grow, rather than in pots for transplanting. Planting should occur after the average date of last frost has passed. Established hemp plants are fairly drought tolerant, but the seedlings want moisture for the first six weeks whenever the soil is dry.

While most commercially available farm equipment will do double duty for hemp cultivation, custom modifications are often needed to prevent the fully-grown plant from clogging machinery. With the expense of equipment to consider, farmers may hope for customer harvesting crews to be part of the equation.

Some harvesting equipment can include the sickle bar mower, just like mowing hay. In research experiments with harvesting, the stalks are left on the ground to breakdown or "rest" as it is called. So far as many as 13 different varieties of hemp can be grown.

Other harvesting equipment includes the traditional grain combine that will separate the seed from the chaff. And, many equipment deals promise fully customizable implements for whatever hemp plant variety being harvested. Growers will have the option of growing hemp for the CBD oil, fiber, seed including the entire gambit of the plant.

Comments circulating in farm country is that hemp is well suited for Arizona's climate. Of course, further research and actual farming will express hemp's future in our desert state. 🚗

Where We Accept Risk; Where We Don't

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

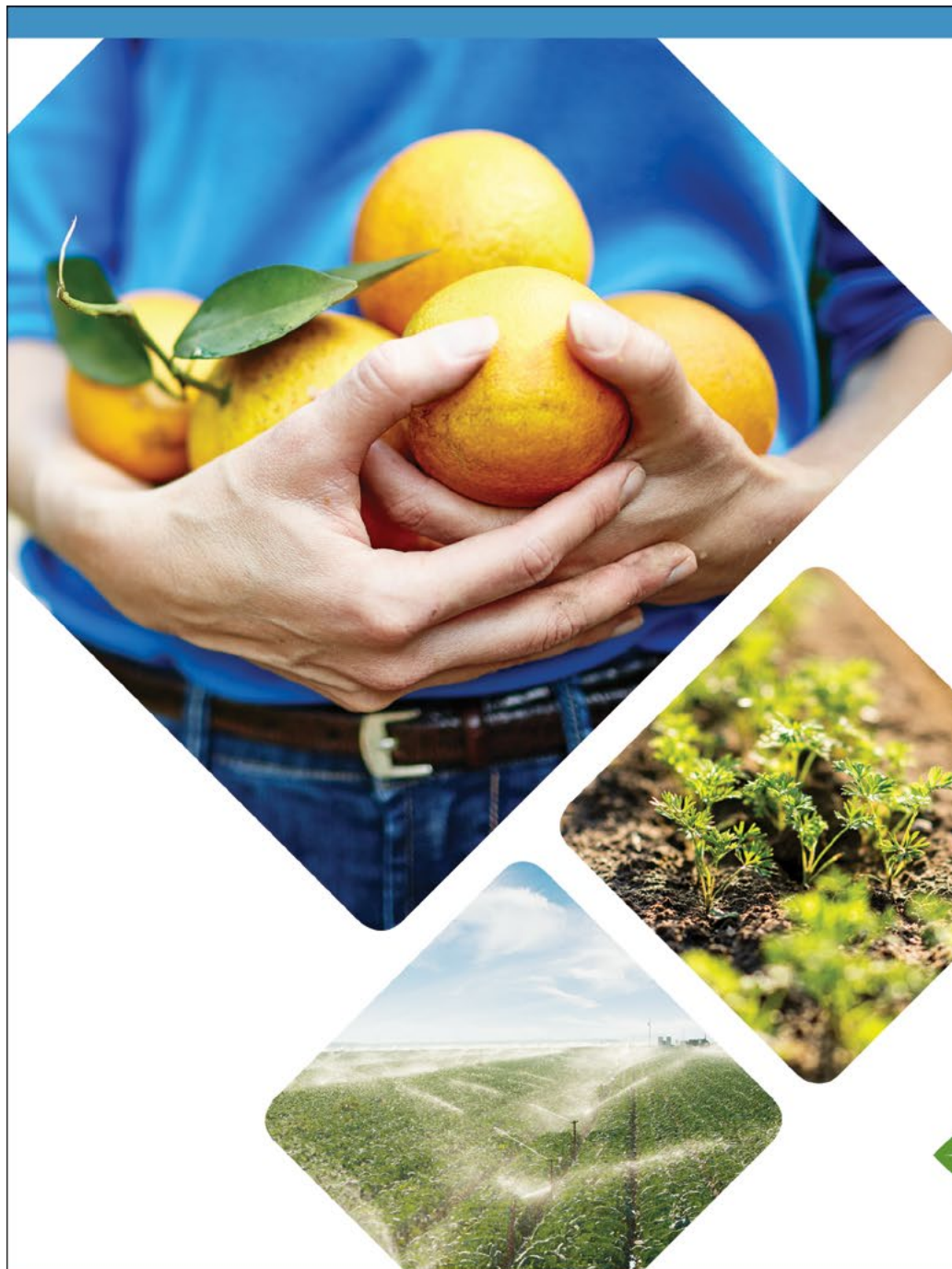


These are common risks we take every day as Americans because we want to live a normal, successful, productive and rewarding life. On the flip side, when we sit down to a fresh green salad, our expectation is that at least our food isn't at risk. Farmers will continue, therefore, to have a no-tolerance policy for food safety risk.

Since Americans eat an estimated 130 million salads a day, California and Arizona leafy greens farmers, along with shippers, have zero tolerance (sometimes called a "no fail" policy) when it comes to safety in the food safety supply chain. And yet, we all witnessed two E. Coli outbreaks both in Romaine lettuce unfold in the last two years, one in Arizona (the first during the last 2017/2018 growing season) and the most recent that originated in California. To all of us, and certainly the victims, this is heartbreaking. To the farmers and shippers, I talk to, it's not only heartbreaking but disheartening, especially after years of dedicated efforts to keep situations like this from happening.

To prevent such occurrences of an outbreak, California and Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreements (LGMA), operate with oversight from the California Department

See **RISK** Page 8



Experience from the ground up

Our business is agriculture.

In fact, many of our staff have direct experience in farming or ranching: living – and working – testaments to our timeless commitment to the future of agriculture.



www.fcsw.com
800.822.3276

 **FARM CREDIT SERVICES**
S O U T H W E S T

Committed. Experienced. Trusted.

Rural Leadership Program Applications Due March 15th

Arizona's Center for Rural Leadership, Project CENTRL, is now accepting applications for Class 28. Rural leaders, farmers, ranchers, and individuals working in businesses that serve agriculture or rural Arizona who want to make a difference in their community are encouraged to apply.



Project CENTRL is a premier leadership development program with over 600 graduates since the first class started in 1983. Alumni are active community leaders and dedicated volunteers who share a common vision of making rural Arizona and agriculture more healthy, vibrant, and sustainable. The mission of Project CENTRL is to equip and empower leaders to meet the needs of rural Arizona.

"Project CENTRL gives participants a life-changing experience in just one year," explains CENTRL Board President Cheryl Goar. "The people you will meet in your class, the travel across the state and the leadership skills you will gain promise to give you that boost you might be looking for to go to the next level, whatever it is you choose to do to improve rural Arizona." Goar serves as the Executive Director of the Arizona Nursery Association, and is a Past President of AZ Society of Association Executives.

The program is a competitively selected, tuition-free, 12-month leadership development program. Each class has 16 people, and visits seven different sites throughout the state and includes seminars in Mexico and in Washington, D.C. The curriculum is designed to meet you where you are in your leadership journey and builds personal leadership skills, educates on issues facing rural Arizona, and connects leaders to each other and experts.

Project CENTRL is a partnership between the non-profit Center for Rural Leadership and Arizona Cooperative Extension in the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). Applicants must be at least 25 years of age by June 2019 and a full-time resident of Arizona.

Detailed program information and an application packet are available online at www.centrl.org. Additional information is available by calling the Project CENTRL office at 602-827-8227. All application materials are due on March 15, 2019 but candidates are encouraged to complete and submit earlier. 📧

Nominate a Resilient Women of Arizona Agriculture

American agriculture is a great success story! Ninety-eight percent of farms and ranches are family owned and operated producing food and fiber so abundantly that most Americans don't worry about where their next meal is coming from. Women of agriculture are a large part of that success!

Without these women who take on the roles of volunteers, career professionals, business accountants, business partners and in some cases the independent business owners of farms and ranches while also prioritizing other roles like that of wife, mom, and family manager, agriculture would not have the strong foundation and family roots that it has today, which have made it resilient.

The Resilient Women of Arizona Agriculture Project is your opportunity to honor these women! If you know of a woman in your community, who plays an integral role in an agriculture business while also managing many other responsibilities, this is your opportunity to recognize her! 📧

Please email Peggy Jo Goodfellow at peggyjo-goodfellow@azfb.org for a nomination form today!

1st place winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to the 2019 Women in Agriculture Conference!

Risk continued from page 7

of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and serve as a mechanism for verifying through *mandatory government audits* that farmers follow accepted food safety practices for lettuce, spinach and other leafy greens. These LGMA food safety practices are designed to reduce the sources of potential contamination on farms or into fields. Over time, these food safety practices continue to evolve as industry, scientists and academia identify and develop modern technologies to further improve food safety practices to protect public health.

These two organizations have been looked to across the country for counsel and insight by other groups to come up to speed on food safety, especially now that the new federal law, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), is in place. In fact, the food safety practices in California and Arizona have been cited as best-in-class.

So, then what happened out west with Romaine lettuce? The mystery in both instances continues since the FDA and USDA have yet to name the true "point source." Many contend that with the level of oversight on food safety double and triple layered over many stages in the food supply chain that only an "Act of God" could have slipped this one in.

"Nature beat us this time; it will beat us again," said one grower in the Yuma area. "But we can't stop our efforts to ensure food safety all along the chain."

Another leafy greens grower also identified these two situations as outlier events, abnormal and rare occurrences. With 130 million salad servings a day, most days serving up food that poses no risk, only God can explain this one, rather two, E. coli outbreaks.

And while the LGMAs cite a zero-tolerance level when it comes to food safety, it also goes to show the risks we will take and those, when it comes to food, we won't. You and I will daily hop in our cars and trucks and accept a higher tolerance for risk because the benefits of having transportation far outweigh the risks despite 40,100 deaths by automobile in 2017.

80,000 Americans died from influenza during the 2017-18 season, the highest death toll from the flu in the last four decades. In recent years, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12,000 to 56,000. But, even this news doesn't keep us inside, away from the risks, during flu season.

These are common risks we take every day as Americans because we want to live a normal, successful, productive and rewarding life. On the flip side, when we sit down to a fresh green salad, our expectation is that at least our food isn't at risk. Farmers will continue, therefore, to have a no-tolerance policy for food safety risk.

Industry continues to layer more safety "protocols" onto an already stellar food safety regimen in the food supply chain. But, these latest incidents mean we must be ever vigilant; never give up.

In the meantime, eat salad from the restaurant you just drove to after finally recovering from another flu bug. 📧



Go to "Friends of Arizona Farm Bureau" Facebook page and "Like" us!

No one can see into the future.

And even if you could, you'd want to be prepared for what's coming. That's what we're here for – to help protect the future you can and can't see.

Let's sit down, face-to-face and talk about your future as you imagine it. You talk and we'll listen – one-on-one, the way we've done it for more than 75 years.

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

It's your future. Let's protect it.™

fbfs.com

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,* Western Agricultural Insurance Company,* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services M205 (10-18)