

A Conversation About Hunger in Arizona: Dave Richins

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Dave Richins, appointed by the Board of Directors of United Food Bank in June of 2017, leads the organization as president and CEO.

Prior to his work with United Food Bank, Richins served as a Mesa City Council member for District 1, completing two terms. He also worked for Resolution Copper Mining, working with the Government and Community Affairs team performing outreach and education to Congress, the Arizona Legislature and local government. In that role, he worked with local nonprofit organizations to help build their capacity to better serve the community.

Richins was also the Sun Corridor Legacy Program Director at the Sonoran Institute, managing on-the-ground conservation proposals and research, as well as the Institute's public policy work. He also spent time as the executive director and founder of the West Mesa Community Development Corporation, where he worked with neighbors, community and business leaders, and other stakeholders to revitalize the northwestern area of the City of Mesa.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sustainable Community Development from Prescott College. He has his professional certificate in Affordable Housing Development and was a member of the Mesa Leadership training and development program Class of 2005.

As we often say in agriculture, we're in the food and clothing business. And, it's important to understand all links in the food supply chain, especially where the links in the chain are suffering or a bit volatile. Richins and so many who work in their communities to help the hungry are on the front lines of a battle to defeat food insecurity. The value of understanding Arizona's current food insecurity is immeasurable. We need to know how to help. Richins insights are truly helpful.

And, he's got a food co-op idea the farm and ranch community can sink our teeth into, to use an appropriate metaphor. Here's what he discusses.

Arizona Agriculture: From your perspective, what is Arizona's current food-insecurity status?

Richins: According to a recent study from Feeding America, we have made a 1% reduction in food insecurity throughout our service area covering more than 19,000 square miles. 1% doesn't seem like a lot, but, it is a dramatic improvement. Arizona has ranked 10th nationally in food insecurity but dropped to 12th in the recent study but we are still 6th in the country for child food insecurity. There is still a big need to help Arizonans out of poverty with 1 in 4 kids and 1 in 7 adults that are at risk for hunger.

Arizona Agriculture: What's the typical profile of someone or a family coming to you in need?

Richins: Imagine this: It's Tuesday. You get paid on Friday. You are out of money from an unanticipated car repair. You are out of food and have some hungry mouths to feed. What do you do? Food banks around the country work every day to shrink Tuesday into Wednesday and Wednesday into Thursday, helping make each paycheck stretch all the way to Friday. Together, we can turn Tuesday into Friday by helping those who are hungry. United Food Bank is the buffer to help those in need by providing nutritious food for those that can't afford it when that unexpected crisis hits.

Arizona Agriculture: Our Arizona farmers and ranchers have always worked with our local food banks. But what's new?

Richins: United Food Bank runs a unique food co-op called Help Yourself. Each Friday, we serve more than 300 families by offering a \$20 meat and produce package, as well as additional free items. We procure this items from local distributors. United Food Bank would love to work more with our Arizona farmers to have their meat and produce in our co-op. We are a purchaser of

these goods, so we can be an additional outlet for farmers to sell products. United Food Bank would eventually like to have a co-op in each of our every counties that we serve; Gila, Apache, Navajo and Pinal. Currently Help Yourself is only in Mesa.

Arizona Agriculture: Considering all the stakeholders in this process, how can we work together more effectively, especially in the agriculture community?

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One More New Senator on the Horizon. Who Will It Be?

By Ana Kennedy Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

With the 2018 election on the horizon, Arizona already tapped one new U.S. Senator. The passing of Senator John McCain late last month resulted in the recent appointment of Jon Kyl, former U.S. Senator but new to the current Congressional session. The Arizona Farm Bureau looks forward to working with Senator Jon Kyl, who has long been an advocate for many of our agricultural and natural resource issues. The late Senator McCain was also a champion on many of our key federal concerns related to immigration reform, natural resources issues, and trade to name a few, and his support on these fronts will be missed.

But the seating of another "new" U.S. senator from Arizona is not over thanks to the 2018 election and Senator Jeff Flake's decision not to run for re-election. Representatives Martha McSally and Kyrsten Sinema are vying for the open Senate seat. Rep. McSally has represented District 2 located in the southeastern corner of the state consisting of all of Cochise County and part of eastern Pima County, including most of the eastern half of Tucson. Representative Sinema represents a much more urban District 9, which is entirely within Maricopa County and includes all of Tempe, parts of Chandler, Mesa, and Scottsdale.

Maybe this was destiny as the 2018 election is not the only race they've both run. McSally and Sinema both ran in and finished the long-endurance Ironman event.

On November 6th Arizona voters will decide who the next U.S. Senator from Arizona will be.

To help our members better understand where these two women stand on agricultural issues, they were invited to participate in the Arizona Farm Bureau's candidate questionnaire. Specifically, they were asked:

1. *Arizona's agriculture and natural resource industries are important economic engines for Arizona and our rural communities. In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing these industries?*

2. *What role should the Senate seat play in overcoming this challenge?*

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We asked Candidates about Arizona Agriculture

AZFB's National Government Relations Committee goes to Washington, D.C.

By Ana Kennedy Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

Arizona Farm Bureau leaders including President Stefanie Smallhouse, Second Vice-President Richie Kennedy (wife, Heather, and son, Karsen), Rick Evans (daughter Natalie), Ashley Jeffers-Sample, and Nick Kenny were in Washington, D.C. the first week of September to meet with the Arizona Congressional delegation. Our leaders spent time discussing ag labor (Goodlatte bill), the farm bill, trade, Endangered Species Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act reform legislation, and forest management.



While in D.C., Congresswoman McSally received the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Friend of Farm Bureau award. Both McSally and Congressman Schweikert qualified for the award by having a 70% or better voting record in support of AFBF positions.

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The first and possibly only Farm Bill Conference Committee hearing took place on September 5th. Most of the Arizona Farm Bureau delegation attended the meeting in the Senate Agriculture Committee Room, while the rest watched from an overflow room. The Committee hearing was informative (and rather calm when compared to other Committee hearing that were taking place at the same time, i.e. Kavanaugh confirmation hearings) with the 47 House members and 9 Senators,

who make up the rather large Conference Committee, spending nearly 3 hours giving short opening statements. Although, some members noted concerns with various portions of the farm bill, many mentioned wanting to work together in a bipartisan fashion to see the farm bill passed before it expires on September 30th.

In addition to the Farm Bill Conference meeting, Arizona Farm Bureau leaders met with House Agriculture Committee staff to discuss various issues related to the Farm Bill, the Pasture, Range and Forage Program, and regulatory issues such as FSMA. Committee staff noted, that although they too would like to see the farm bill completed by September 30th, there is still significant negotiations and work to be done in a short amount of time and several other issues that the House must complete by the end of the month, including funding the government for the next fiscal year. If the farm bill is not done by the 30th of September, our delegation members and House Ag Committee staff, believe the bill be passed by the end of the year.

President Smallhouse and Arizona Farm Bureau Chief Executive Officer Phil Bashaw also had an opportunity to meet with several officials at USDA to discuss recent problems that have arisen with the Pasture, Range, and Forage program administered through the Risk Management Agency.

On the importance of the work done by the AZFB National Government Relations Committee, President Stefanie Smallhouse said, "Washington D.C. is a long way from the farms and ranches of Arizona in so many ways. AZ Farm Bureau has always considered it very important to get our farmers and ranchers out of their fields, off the rangelands and into the offices of our congressional delegation at least twice a year. Hearing directly from producers as to how pending legislation and federal bureaucracies impact their ability to grow food and fiber is the best way to get the message to federal policy makers. With every trip we gain some ground and will continue to beat the drum for those issues our members care about. It's a great learning experience and strengthens relationships for everyone involved"

Interior's Sue and Settle Order Exposes Secret Settlements

AFBF and AZFB Staff Reports

Activist groups have grown rich by suing the government and reaping billions of taxpayers' dollars – and all in secret. The U.S. Department of Interior, however, has issued an order to curb this abuse of basic, democratic processes and to open back-room deals to public scrutiny. The American Farm Bureau Federation applauds this overdue action.

Interior alone paid out more than \$4.4 billion in monetary awards under terms of 460 settlement agreements and consent decrees between Jan. 1, 2012, and Jan. 19, 2017.

In other words, Interior paid out an average of more than \$800 million a year while keeping key aspects of litigation secret.

"There is no doubt that agency decisions are influenced by the sue and settle community but shouldn't we have had this type of transparency long ago," asks Arizona Farm Bureau President and southeast Arizona rancher Stefanie Smallhouse. "In fact, this environment has brought paralysis to agency decision-makers and negatively impacted the management of our federal lands. Natural resource management decisions should be based upon sound scientific information."

It's easy to see why so many outside observers fear an unaccountable bureaucracy cutting deals with activists. "The Department of Interior is shining light on a corner of government most people don't even know exists," AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. "Basic transparency demands that citizens know what their government is doing. When activists



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Candidates in the 2018 Arizona General Election Share Their Plans for Arizona Agriculture

With the General Election only a few short weeks away, the Arizona Farm Bureau reached out to candidates in key races to solicit their response to our 2018 General Election Candidate Questionnaire. The agriculture-focused questions were designed to give members an overview of the agriculture-related positions held by candidates in key races. Specifically, candidates were asked:

1. Arizona's agriculture and natural resource industries are important economic engines for Arizona and our rural communities. In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing these industries?
2. What role should the [office for which you are running] play in overcoming this challenge?

"While reading your candidates' responses is critical to how you decide to vote in your district, assessing what all the candidates are saying in this article helps you understand where they stand when it comes to agriculture and natural resources and how it will impact your business and livelihood," said Arizona Farm Bureau CEO Philip Bashaw.

Important Points to Remember

- Candidates questioned were those in key races of particular importance to agriculture.
- All responses are published below in alphabetical by political party.
- There are some candidates that have yet to respond. Please watch out for an updated version of this article on our blog on azfb.org.



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Congressional District 1 Casa Grande, Show Low, Flagstaff, Kayenta

Wendy Rogers (R)

Arizona's congressional delegation must work to put an end to the adjudication process and federally reserved water rights.

Water sheds are an absolute mess as logging has ceased, small dog-hair pine thickets have taken over, and the Forest Service has adopted a "let it burn" attitude. Water sheds have been "managed" not by land stewards, but by judges in cases brought by the environmental community whose goal is to drive out all-natural resource users.

Water sheds are vital to agriculture and urban areas of the state. Decades ago, the feds introduced the salt cedar tamarisk as an erosion control method. The salt cedar, however, has choked and infested water sheds throughout the state. The feds should be required to clean up the mess they created.

When forest reserves were created under the Organic Act, the two original purposes were silviculture and watershed management. Now both are ignored and have been replaced by recreation and wildlife concerns.

A concerted effort to revitalize water sheds should be a critical focal point of Arizona's congressional delegation. While the delegation cannot end the drought, it can push to restore watersheds, resulting in more water available for both agriculture and urban areas.

Congressional District 2 Benson, Willcox, Sierra Vista, Douglas

Ann Kirkpatrick (D)

Arizona's agriculture and natural resource industries have a major challenge in finding a reliable, legal workforce to make up for a shortage of labor in certain regions of our state. The demand for farmworkers in Arizona has been steadily growing for years. No farmer should ever have to look into their fields and watch their crop rot because people are unavailable to harvest it. That is why I am an advocate for guest labor reform that is sufficient and productive for the entire Arizona agricultural community resulting in a steady and reliable flow of workers.

Guest labor reform has not been addressed by our federal government in more than a decade and is vital to farming operations, especially on farms in Arizona's second congressional district. Since my first term in office, I have consistently joined with Arizona's business owners, farmers, ranchers and so many others in supporting comprehensive immigration reform that secures our border, keeps families together, but also addresses the labor workforce needs of Arizona's agricultural economy. Specifically, guest labor programs need reformed to increase a sufficient and reliable flow of workers, as well as be developed with input from business owners, farmers, ranchers and farm workers. Additionally, Arizona's congressional delegation needs to put politics aside and work together to significantly increase opportunities for our states farmers. We need to elect principled leaders who have the ability to break the gridlock in Washington and find common ground to pass real solutions that create jobs and boost our economy.

Lea Marquez-Peterson (R)

Over-regulation! I very much appreciate and respect agriculture and natural resource producers, and their combined \$30B economic contribution to Arizona's economy. I'm from Southern Arizona, and I know firsthand that these industries are key to the entire economy of our rural areas. From large corporations to small family businesses, they all face many challenges from regulatory overreach by our government, which has forgotten it is supposed to be for the people!

Whether the regulations have to do with the environment, land and water use, the labor force, or trade -- government is killing job-creating natural resource industries with often well-intended but ineffective and downright harmful regulations. I have spent my entire career helping businesses succeed; that is my passion. When it comes to sustainability, our farmers, ranchers and small businesspeople are what needs to be sustained, and I am going to Congress to do just that!

In Congress, I will be a strong advocate and work to get government off the backs of our hardworking farmers, ranchers and miners who are producing the things the rest of us rely on for life, both here and around the world. Being one of a very few border districts, CD-2 is at the epicenter of border security, international trade, environmental and water issues, which gives me a strong platform to implement change from.

I have a history of working with others and getting things done. Thanks to many years of work by the Farm Bureau and other advocacy groups, Congress has a chance to modernize the Endangered Species Act, reign in the EPA, and implement commonsense tort reform to stop the use of our court system to unreasonably hinder natural resource production. You know what the solutions are. I will be your voice in Washington and together, we will make solutions happen!

Congressional District 8 Surprise, Anthem, New River, Youngstown, Litchfield Park

Debbie Lesko (R)

Arizona has a robust agricultural and natural resource industry that needs to be protected and grown. The Arizona climate allows our farmers and ranchers to be year-round producers. Arizona also has an abundance of natural resources like copper and other minerals that need to be utilized. In our ever-increasing modernizing economy, we tend to forget about these vital industries and we must allow these industries to continue to flourish under a strong economy. One of the biggest challenges these industries face are crippling regulations from the federal government. Regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency and laws like the Endangered Species Act make it tougher for these industries to grow and do their work. Furthermore, having a lower and more consistent tax code is also crucial to protecting these critical industries in Arizona. I also believe that in Arizona, we need to have strong and fair-trade deals for Arizona farmers. Because of the strength of Arizona's agriculture, we are uniquely positioned to export many of our products.

My office is here to represent the constituents of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and protect the interests of Arizona. As the current Congresswoman from Congressional District 8, it has been an honor to serve and fight for the people of Arizona. I will continue to advocate for policies that not only serve for the benefit of the entire country, but also have Arizona's best interests in mind. That is why, I voted for the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2), which included important programs for Arizona farmers and also reformed food stamps to include work requirements for able-bodied adults. The Farm Bill also included the repeal of the devastating Waters of the United States, also known as WOTUS, rule. I was also an active participant in the most recent immigration debate. I met with President Trump to discuss my concerns and what Arizona needed. That is why I was a cosponsor of Securing America's Future Act (H.R. 4760), which would have closed immigration loopholes, funded the wall and border security, and reformed agricultural workforce issues. I am also a cosponsor of making the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent (H.R. 4886), so there is stability and strength in our tax code. As your Congresswoman from Arizona, I will continue to fight and work with the Arizona delegation in Congress to ensure that the needs of our state are met. That is why it is vitally important to me that I am accessible and responsive to your needs. Your representative in Congress should represent your interests and your needs and that is exactly what I plan on containing to do.

Congressional District 9 Tempe, Mesa, Arcadia

Greg Stanton (D)

As the Mayor of Arizona's largest city I learned that when our rural communities flourish so do our urban communities and vice versa. Therefore, while Congressional District 9 is completely urban, the health of our rural communities and the continued growth of the economic activities that drive them is a vital concern to me. In my view, the biggest long-term challenge that our agricultural and natural resources industries face is one that we all share, and that is long-term water security. Over the past decade we have made great strides in building effective and innovative water storage and management strategies and, once in Congress, I look forward to continuing to work with these vital Arizona industries and our rural communities to ensure no one is left out of these discussions.

I support the drought contingency plan and process in which all of Arizona's key interests, both urban and rural are adequately addressed. Arizona has had great leaders in Congress to advocate for our interests during difficult water negotiations and I look forward to continuing that essential, bipartisan tradition. It's critical that the outstanding, long-term water planning that's been done in Arizona is protected in any future multi-state discussions.

Dr. Steve Ferrara (R)

In terms of pressing challenges requiring strong advocacy at the federal level, environmental regulations, water rights, and workforce are three that top my list. While it's difficult to rank them since they are all so critically important, ensuring a reliable labor supply is certainly front and center. Our dysfunctional immigration system is taking its toll on the nation in many regards, but here in Arizona it's also adversely affecting our agriculture industry. Thanks to our recent economic renaissance, our economy has created more jobs than there are workers to fill them based on both numbers and skill sets. This magnifies the long overdue need for holistic immigration reform that provides border security yet supports our economy. This is a problem that must be addressed by Congress, and since Arizona has such a uniquely vital interest in this policy our delegation should lead the way. We must expand the visa limits while streamlining and simplifying the H-2A program for agricultural foreign workers. A successful plan will be sensitive to the seasonal and geographically varied nature of agriculture work. Arizona's agribusiness industry provides over \$23 billion in economic impact to the state and supports roughly 140,000 jobs in mostly family-owned enterprises. As a doctor, I understand the bigger picture: these growers provide Americans with healthy foods at affordable prices. It's crucial that Arizona's congressional delegation ensures that these job, health, and wealth creators have an efficient and reliable source of labor so that they can continue to thrive.



ARIZONA GOVERNOR

David García (D)

The agricultural and natural resource industries face many, many important challenges, ranging from water availability and the price of land, to government regulation and fallout from the President's trade war. As governor, I will work closely with growers and ranchers to address these issues, so that the needs of your communities are recognized and met. This is important to me because your industries are a key part of Arizona's economy, but also because they are a cornerstone of our nation's economic independence and national security.

One issue I would particularly like to address with your members is the legal use of guest workers. We have years of data showing that Americans workers are unwilling to do these jobs, and whether we live in rural or urban communities, this is a fact that threatens our way of life. And regardless of which political Party you choose to affiliate with, it is clear that Republican politicians have so boxed themselves in that they will never be able to talk about the issue, much less do anything helpful.

As a 4th generation Arizonan, an Army veteran who served to protect our borders, a Latino, and the Governor of a border state, I will be in a unique position to bring attention to this issue and use the governor's bully pulpit to make a positive difference. And because it is essential to the future of our state, I will.



Candidates

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Doug Ducey (R)

The challenge continues to be the overreach and difficulties created by government. My Administration has reduced regulatory burdens and invited natural resource industries to help Arizona improve business. My job as Governor is to work with the industry, and my staff, so that we have sound policy that serves businesses and the public in our state and the nation.

Our efforts have included or resulted in:

- Convening face-to-face meetings with agriculture leaders and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to improve federal agriculture policy and border issues;
- A successful challenge with other states on the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule and a coordinated effort with industry and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to lead in redefining WOTUS with the Environmental Protection Agency;
- A successful challenge with other states on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) 108(b) Rule that would have devastated the mining industry;
- Working with the agriculture industry on legislation and rules required to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in Arizona through the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) - and not the federal government;
- Eliminating 121 unnecessary regulations at the ADA;
- And moving numerous ADA processes and services online.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Katie Hobbs (D)

Arizona wouldn't be what it is today without access to water and we must protect that access for everyone - agriculture, development, municipalities, and recreation. We are facing a crisis when it comes to our water supply and there is a lack of leadership on this issue. It is being politicized - deals are being made behind closed doors in Phoenix, without including everyone who should be at the table. A long-term solution must be reached in a collaborative and transparent way.

While the secretary of state's office does not have a direct role in managing water issues, the secretary of state is next in line of succession to the governor, and so it is important for the next secretary of state to understand this complex issue and be ready to take action should they become governor. As the senate minority leader, I have the knowledge and ability to do this on day one.

Steve Gaynor (R)

Arizona has a rich history in agriculture. Agriculture represents more than 8 percent of the Arizona's total economic output. The biggest challenge facing Arizona agriculture is the availability of water. If the level of Lake Mead falls below 1,075 feet elevation, Arizona could lose half of its allocation of Colorado River water. Other sources of water are also at risk if drought conditions continue. We need to find creative ways to plan for and deal with the increasing scarcity of this vital resource so that we can maintain our agricultural economy and ensure the state's long term viability.

To my knowledge, the Secretary of State's office does not have any direct connection with state water policy with regard to agriculture, or otherwise. However, the Secretary of State is effectively the state's Lieutenant Governor. In that role, I would offer to join the Governor whenever possible to engage all parties with an interest in water policy and assist in dealing with what could become a major challenge for Arizona's agricultural economy and way of life.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark Brnovich (R)

More than a dozen federal agencies and departments have some sort of regulatory authority over the environment and the shaping of natural resource policies. Unfortunately, heavy-handed regulation and unnecessary government action from agencies such as the EPA, the Department of Interior, and the Department of Agriculture have had a tremendous impact on our economy, our property, and the rights of the American people. Here in the western states, federal public lands constitute over 50% of the total land, and we've seen recent attempts by federal authorities to further reduce access to our land. Policies regarding water, federal public lands, energy, and endangered species are all examples of areas where the federal government has had a negative impact on Arizona's agriculture and natural resources industries. I love Arizona and want to preserve our landscapes and protect our environment, but we must push back against efforts to control our local economies guised under the false banner of environmental protection.

We have played a significant role and continue to demonstrate a significant impact in overcoming the regulatory challenges facing Arizona's agriculture and natural resources communities. In my first year in office, we established the first ever Federalism Unit. We have filed several legal challenges and joined other states in pushing back against government regulations and special interest group litigation that would result in devastating impacts for our rural communities. For example, we are part of the lawsuit challenging the Waterways of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking, we are part of the effort to repeal the EPA Clean Power Plan, and we objected to the federal government's original Mexican gray wolf reintroduction proposal when they failed to consider input from Arizona ranchers and local wildlife management experts. If reelected as attorney general, I will continue to fight on behalf of Arizona.

STATE TREASURER

Mark Manoil (D)

The biggest challenge facing Arizona's agriculture and natural resources industries is the struggle to maintain profitability while balancing multiple societal factors. These industries must balance long-term profitability with environmental stewardship and sustainable practices while simultaneously experiencing decreased access to capital in many parts of rural Arizona. There needs to be a continued commitment to the agricultural and natural resources economic sectors within public policy making as they serve as major economic drivers - particularly as sources of income from outside the state.

The State Treasurer's office should focus on developing a healthier local financial service industry in Arizona in order to provide banking services and better credit availability to entrepreneurs, businesses, and hardworking families. Increasing Arizona's agriculture and natural resources industries' access to capital will help maximize their opportunities, fund their operations, and allow them to overcome the many barriers that they face. The Treasurer's office should also play a watchdog role to ensure that the Legislature no longer redirects state shared revenue away from rural communities, which causes local tax hikes to pay for essential governmental services. I will work to create a robust community banking system which will allow family farms and small businesses to have access to low interest loans and basic banking services. There is a stark difference in the commitment politicians used to have for our students and teachers when I was growing up to now. While all of Arizona's schools are being affected, rural communities are being hit the hardest. I will work to ensure that our schools have the funding that they need and guarantee educational opportunities which will allow Arizona's family businesses to stay within their families.

Kimberly Yee (R)

I have been a strong advocate of the Arizona Farm Bureau during my time in the Arizona Legislature because I support businesses and those who build the foundation of our robust Arizona economy. Our farmers and ranchers create jobs and produce a boundless marketplace of products for consumers in Arizona and beyond our state's borders. The biggest challenge to face these industries is the current policy debate around water, one of our most precious resources. It is important that rural Arizona farmers and ranchers are at the table to provide their critical input when policymakers are creating new laws surrounding water supply issues. I would oppose any government regulations that could harm the farming industry and their day to day operations because I believe the result could negatively impact the economic marketplace and Arizona's economy.

The Office of the Arizona Treasurer does not directly influence decisions concerning these issues as would the Arizona Legislature. As State Treasurer, it would be important, however, to discuss how the State can continue its successful course to a pathway of economic activity and prosperity. The ranching and farming industries support those economic efforts. As State Treasurer, I would advocate for rural communities in Arizona and continue to be a friend of the farming industry.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Kathy Hoffman (D)

With our rapidly changing economy, our agricultural workers are often some of the most impacted. This particularly true when we consider the tremendously volatile ups and downs of the stock market, which heavily impacts both the natural resource and agriculture industries. One has to look no further than the effects of the threatened "trade war" with China has had on many local farmers. As a teacher, I believe we need to begin engaging students with these issues and invest in the agricultural education programs in our schools.

Arizona's education system can help to overcome these challenges by first recognizing them, and then working with experts in the field to create solutions. I believe that with a Superintendent and school board who are responsive and respectful of these issues, we can create programs that help educate students on these issues and offers students opportunities to enter the field with a background knowledge in agriculture and natural resources if they so choose. Many such programs exist across the nation but, unfortunately, they are dwindling. With an increase in funding and focus, we can begin to address these issues through well-developed programs in our education system. We must begin looking toward the future and I know that Arizona's future starts in our schools.

Frank Riggs (R)

The biggest challenge facing Arizona's agriculture and natural resource industries is the regulatory restrictions placed on those industries, especially at the federal level. Zealous environmental organizations have sought to limit the use of private property as well public lands to produce the food and fiber products that are vital to our economy and mankind's very survival. Only 17.6% of all land in Arizona is privately-owned. As Arizona's population continues to grow, we must ensure that increasing urbanization does not encroach upon our resource-based industries or reduce essential water supplies needed to sustain those industries. We must also ensure that federal and state forest lands are selectively harvested for fire suppression purposes and the health of the forests and watersheds.

We should educate our students on the vital importance of our agricultural and resource industries, dating back to our country's founding. They should learn about the source of the products they use and consume, from the food products used in school meals to pencil and paper in the classroom. They should also learn about the 5th Amendment protection against private property takings as part of basic civics instruction on our country's founding documents and principles as a Constitutional Republic.

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Sandra Kennedy (D)

The biggest challenge facing these industries is water.

The Commission regulates about 300 private water companies, and it can use its authorities to require water conservation. But the Commission has no authority over agricultural water usage and natural resource industries and their operations

Kiana Sears (D)

I believe that the biggest challenge facing Arizona agricultural industries are the foreign companies that now operate in Arizona. The reason these foreign companies are a problem is because they are siphoning natural resources away from companies that operate in Arizona for Arizona. An example of this is alfalfa farmers that send their exports overseas to the Middle East and China. These companies come to Arizona in order to obtain low cost water and other resources and have little economic benefit for Arizona. This makes water, which is already a scarce commodity, more difficult to obtain. Because this practice has begun relatively recently, Arizona does not have the policies to handle these incoming companies.

The Arizona corporation commission needs to reform its policies in regards to agricultural and industrial industries to protect Arizona companies and resources. The main aim of reforming these policies would be to prevent such companies from water farming in Arizona. Frameworks can be established to raise the price of natural resources use to companies that are specifically looking to export large amount of products that absorb water and nature resources to other countries.

Rodney Glassman (R)

Water is the biggest issue facing our state and the Corporation Commission, which regulates Arizona's private water providers, will play a critical role in Arizona's water future. As a former Arizona State Farm Bureau board member, member of a three-generation farming family in Central California, and Air Force Veteran with my PhD in Arid Land Resource Sciences (water) from the University of Arizona, I'm uniquely qualified to serve as a voice for agriculture on the Commission.

I grew up in production agriculture and know that for many parts of our state, agriculture is the basis for the local community. I understand, first-hand, the relationship between agriculture, economic development, conservation and the entities supplying power and water. Most folks have only a drive-by sense of how agriculture impacts the creation of capital.

While the two Democrats are pushing hard for mandates that will distort the markets and make water and power scarcer and more expensive in the name of environmentalism, I know that agriculture needs affordable and reliable water and power and that requires regulators who are informed, impartial, and forward-looking. I'll continue advocating for restoring integrity at the Commission through adoption of the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct and I'll keep long-term planning, with an emphasis on water, the central element of my campaign. Everyone talks about it -- I've got the know-how to get it done.

Justin Olson (R)

It has been an honor to serve on the Arizona Corporation Commission since being appointed by Governor Ducey in October of last year.

My number one priority on the Commission has been to serve with the highest standards of ethics and integrity and to do everything in my power to strengthen the public confidence in the Commission.

With my fellow Commissioners, I voted to enact Arizona's first-ever Commissioner's Code of Ethics. I offered amendments to the Code of Ethics to prohibit all candidates for the Commission from accepting campaign contributions from entities that the Commission regulates, mirroring the policy that my campaign had already adopted.

On the Commission, I have been a voice for low utility rates and reliable public services. With my background as a tax manager, I led an effort at the Commission to require utilities to reduce their rates and pass their income tax savings on to ratepayers. Ratepayers will pay \$190 million less annually as a result of these efforts.

Prior to serving on the Commission, I was a conservative leader in the State Legislature. I earned an MBA in Finance from ASU. I'm a native Arizonan, a husband and father.

Arizona's agriculture and natural resources industries are clearly an important part of Arizona's economy. The extensive length of the current drought presents a significant challenge to these vital industries.

The Corporation Commission can play a critical role in highlighting this important topic at the state level. As a Commissioner, I have met with farmers and ranchers from all across the state and have heard first-hand the challenges they face in maintaining their vital water rights. On the Commission, I have worked to amplify the messages that I hear from these hard working farmers while I advocate for low utility rates and reliable public services.



Candidates

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STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES

District 5 Mohave Valley, La Paz Valley

Leo Biasiucci (R)

I think the biggest challenge facing Arizona's agricultural and natural resource industries are regulations. It is important that we allow these industries to thrive. When overregulation exists, these industries suffer, and in turn the Arizona economy suffers. These industries, and many others, do a great job of regulating themselves. We still need to make sure we have some oversight, but as Legislators, we need to do what we can to remove the unnecessary regulations that are negatively impacting our industry.

District 6 Flagstaff, Payson, Snowflake

Felicia French (D)

Water shortages along with new trade tariffs imposed by the federal government are the most detrimental challenges to Arizona's agriculture and natural resource industries.

To overcome these challenges, state legislators need to ensure that water conservation measures and policies are in place that addresses business, residential and recreational overuse, ensuring that adequate agriculture and drinking water is a priority.

As a representative of rural Arizona, I will fight to make sure that the agriculture industry receives the water they need to grow food and other cash crops, while also incentivizing farmers to conserve water and provide transition assistance to grow less water-intensive crops so that there is water available for all farmers and Arizonans for many years to come.

Before new trade tariffs were imposed by the federal government this year, Arizonan farmers were selling their beef, cotton, and dairy overseas. About 97% of Arizona's cotton was exported to China and other countries. However, due to the federal government's new trade wars, many Arizonan farmers are struggling to sell their crops, and therefore are not able to make an income without government assistance.

As an Arizona legislator, I will work across the aisle and with farmers to find new and sustainable markets for their crops and protect their livelihoods from arbitrary federal trade wars.

Walt Blackman (R)

The biggest challenges currently facing our agriculture and natural resource industries are the corporatization of sectors as well as the complications that arise from our presently chaotic trade policy. Small farms, which had been for decades the backbone of our agricultural industry in Arizona, are being bought out and rolled over by the desire for corporate profits and influence. With that comes a loss of a way of life and the threat of stagnation in terms of agricultural development. Agriculture in Arizona succeeds in generating over \$13 billion in economic activity despite constant threats many from nature, and some from the government. Trade, tax reform, access to water, food safety, and many more federal issues can have a severe impact on our farmers and ranchers. It's vital that we recognize these challenges and reasonably address them.

The expansion and contraction of the state legislator have significant implications for environmental policy, raising questions about the appropriate scope and role for government in protecting the environment. My office along with the executive needs to reach out to stakeholders and use their expertise to come to a workable solution to correct these issues.

Bob Thorpe (R)

Thank you! I am so proud of our hard-working citizens on Arizona's 15,000 farms and ranches, contributing over \$10 billion annually to our growing economy, feeding and clothing our citizens here, across our nation and around the world. This year, I was honored to run a bill and include in the State budget the long overdue livestock inspector's pay raise, to better compensate and thus help recruit and retain these important public servants.

One of the biggest challenges facing agricultural will continue to be available water resources within our arid state. Any changes to water policy must originate and be agreed upon by our AG stakeholders, and not be imposed by bureaucrats, the Governor's office or within the halls of the State Legislature.

District 8 Casa Grande, San Tan Valley, Coolidge, Oracle, Globe, Miami

Carmen Casillas (D)

I believe there is more than one big challenge facing these industries, for example: explosive growth and development, current levels of air and water pollution, inadequate water supplies in some areas, and the loss of natural habitats. throughout our State are reshaping Arizona

Even though Arizona has made a great effort to balance the benefits of population and economic growth while trying to safe guard the features that attract people to our beautiful State, explosive growth has resulted in an assortment of features that impact Agriculture and natural resources.

Traffic congestion which lessens quality of life as it contributes to air pollution, which in turn reduces the visibility of our State's natural beauty. The swift flood of new residents has contributed to higher housing costs and increased utilization of potable water and energy resources.

Environmental impacts include the creation of diminished air quality, destruction of habitat, loss of lowland rivers and streams, loss of grasslands and the invasion of non native species. Arizona has had mixed success in managing growth and should take adequate steps to ensure future statewide effectiveness.

Demographic and infrastructure changes play off against each other. For instance greater interest in vertical housing and business, development along the route, Renewed interest in urban living is demonstrated by the movement of young professionals into inner city areas, although technology can facilitate working-from-home options that may ease infrastructure demands while the aging population puts new demand on the in fracture, particularly with respect to health care facilities, transportation and a desire for self-sufficient communities that meet the needs of residents with limited mobility and those unable to drive.

As your State Representative my efforts will be placed on working with governmental entities, businesses and constituents on the implementation of new technology and resource conservation planning along with increased funding.

Also, minimize the conversion of agricultural lands to residential developments and work on the transportation of water to areas in need.

TJ Shope (R)

There are many significant issues that face Arizona over the next several years. Some are new and others, like availability of water, stand the test of time in our desert climate. While Arizona has many things to be proud of in regards to water, we still need to be vigilant as we move in to the future. Continued drought conditions all across the western United States as well as overcrowded forests and invasive plant species which tax our water supply will continue to cause us to find creative solutions to the age-old issue of water scarcity.

For those of us who have been here in Arizona for generations, we know that drought conditions ebb and flow so we need to be asking candidates for office what they will be doing to protect Arizona's share of water. We need to be investing and re-investing in agencies such as the Central Arizona Project and Arizona Department of Water Resources so that the best minds in Arizona can help our farmers & ranchers as well as developers ensure that there is enough water for everybody, especially those of us in Pinal County! Our job as legislators is to see in to the future and develop policies that will stand the test of time and with your support, I hope to continue to do that.

District 11 Maricopa, Stanfield, Marana

Hollace "Holly" Lyon (D)

Rapid growth and development continue to cause competition for land and water use. According to the 2006 88th AZ Town Hall report, "Current levels of air and water pollution, inadequate water supplies in some areas, and the loss of natural habitats, biodiversity and agricultural lands raise concerns that Arizona may have exceeded its carrying capacity in these areas."

Twelve years later, our population is up 18 percent and we are still rapidly developing.

My tendency is to minimize Legislative involvement as much as possible, while creating the framework and incentives, that allow localities and counties to collaborate and self-regulate their planning and execution. Where needed, the Legislature should create or strengthen mechanisms for Arizona to be fully engaged and active with the Western States Water Council and other regional planning cooperatives. All stakeholders must have a seat at the table and Arizona must speak with one voice in the region.

Mark Finchem (R)

The biggest challenge of course is assured water supply. As I have said before, the agriculture community has been top performers in developing and implementing water conservation strategies. Unfortunately, we cannot conserve our way out of a supply issue, especially when faced with population growth. We must develop a strategy that increases supply. This is likely to include purification and desalination. Purification of the abundant brackish water we have buys us time. Desalination is a longer strategy to support growth and will require intergovernmental cooperation with multiple states and the federal government, but Israel has proven it is a viable supply side solution.

The Legislature is the policy setting body in government, extending the intergovernmental agreement invitation to other legislatures and the federal government is a first step. When the federal government sees that there is a Legislature ready, willing and able to work with it to accomplish a meaningful public works project, ala CAP, there is interest in moving projects from concept to reality

District 13 Buckeye, Tonopah, Wellton, Yuma

Tim Dunn (R)

Water availability is the biggest challenge effecting Agriculture in the state. The effects of the 20-year drought are taking its toll on our states aquifers and the level of lake Mead. Arizona has been visionary since before we were a state on taming the rivers and developing sound water policy. As your State Representative from LD 13 I have traveled the state with our energy committee holding hearings. I have met many friends and heard first hand of your challenges. Each region has unique challenges that can't be fixed with one or two legislative bills nor should they. Stake holder meetings are and will continue to occur through the DCP process. I understand the value Agriculture brings to the all of Arizona and am committed to being a strong voice at the Capital.

Joanne Osborne (R)

I believe the biggest challenge facing Arizona's Agriculture and Natural Resource industries first and foremost, is water. Our state has been in an 18-year drought and a Shortage Declaration on Lake Mead is anticipated in the near future. The district I would like to represent, LD13, encompasses the heart of Yuma Agriculture. I have been on the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association for the past two years and understand the tough decisions that need to be made.

District 14 Safford, Willcox, Sierra Vista

Bob Karp (D)

The major issue facing agriculture and natural resource industries in Arizona is access to water and water rights. This is particularly important in the rural communities of southeast Arizona. The crisis is not just in water availability, it is also in the lack of a defined, sustainable and comprehensive water policy that all stakeholders will embrace. We cannot have continued economic growth with about some certainty to state-wide water policy. The public does not understand the history of water rights in Arizona and the various legal cases and agreements that have been made since Arizona became a state. This creates an inability to get consensus on this very difficult issue.

Because jurisdiction over water policy is fragmented between federal, state and local entities there must be leadership to resolve issues and create a unified and accepted water policy. I believe this takes leadership from the governor in bringing state stakeholders together to provide a more coherent set of arguments and proposed solutions when negotiating with EPA, BLM and other federal entities. As a state representative I would lobby and support the governor's effort to create a state-wide commission on water rights. I would not support legislation that focused only on a local solution.

Gail Griffin (R)

Arizona needs a strong voice at the capital for our rural issues and agriculture industries. I have been that voice for many years and I will continue to stand up and fight for the protection of water and property rights as well as our Natural Resource Industries. Water and Land Use Issues and challenges are among the top concerns for the agriculture industry.

Other issues we need to address (and challenge) are the continuing overreach of government at both the state and federal levels. Over regulation... mandates... and the loss of private property reduces the tax base of our local communities.

We need more transparency in government. We need real science when addressing threatened and endangered species. Government should not use the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act or other federal programs to take or restrict private property historic uses.

I believe in Limited Government, Lower Taxes, Personal Responsibility and in the Free Enterprise System.

I support the Agriculture Industry and will continue to be your voice. I will continue to support and defend our Constitution.

I am a successful businesswoman. I have been involved in local, state and federal issues for many years.

I am a Life Member of the NRA, a member of the Arizona Farm Bureau and the Arizona Cattle Growers.

As Chairman of the Senate Natural Resource, Energy and Water Committee, I have received many awards for my work on rural issues and I promise to continue to WORK for the PEOPLE.

I am running for the Arizona House of Representatives and I ask for your vote and your continued support.

My door is always open to discuss issues and concerns you may have. Thank you.

Becky Nutt (R)

The primary sectors of Arizona's economy are agriculture and extractive industries—agriculture has a \$23.3 billion impact and the extractive industries have an \$11 billion impact. Although there are other industries that belong in the category of natural resources, I am focusing on these two as both are heavily in my legislative district.



Candidates

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These two sectors drive Arizona's economy and face the same challenge: water scarcity and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation. Although these industries are very different, the goods which are not produced by the agriculture community are probably produced by the mining community.

The drought conditions of our state have led to more than a year of on-going discussions surrounding a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). One issue at the Legislature last year was to protect agriculture in Pinal County with manageable mitigation efforts before the DCP would be approved. It wasn't approved. The current focus of discussions is on mitigation.

One of the water issues facing my district is hot grounds, relating to the Globe Equity Decree. Simply put, farmers back in the early 1900s had to pay for decreed water rights to irrigate their land. They did not obtain rights to irrigate certain portions of their land which may have had a shed on it. Fast forward 110 years and those small portions of land without rights have shifted. Land owners cannot irrigate those portions of land, some are unusual geometrical shapes sitting in the middle of the farmer's field.

NAFTA discussions several months ago were very concerning for the agricultural community and mining. Currently there is a bilateral agreement in place with Mexico that needs a blessing from Congress. The agreement has given agriculture and mining some peace of mind.

I have and will continue to protect these industries for my district and Arizona.

District 16 Mesa, San Tan Valley, Apache Junction, Gold Canyon

John Fillmore (R)

I believe that Arizona's agriculture and natural resources industries are important economic engines for Arizona and the biggest threat to them in my opinion is water rights and the security in keeping the water available. I am not coached in all aspects of the water issues, but I believe that past administrations have given too many water rights away to other states (as in the Arizona canal and to the Indian communities). The ability for our state to manage the water is being challenged by the changes in the environment and weather patterns. It is incumbent upon us to protect the farmers and communities that need the water in this arid state and I will work with those better qualified to assure that this is the path Arizona takes.



STATE SENATE CANDIDATES

District 6 Flagstaff, Payson, Snowflake

Wade Carlisle (D)

The biggest issues facing the industry are: water rights, farm labor, preservation of agricultural land, notification of adjacent agricultural use, land use planning and notification of owners, "uses-by-right" for farms and ranches, Eminent Domain Condemnations, mineral rights, floor plain condemnation and designations, invasive plants and animal, food quality standards and air quality and dust management.

There are many ways to address the issues facing Arizona. Agriculture is a \$23.3 billion industry in Arizona, and its greatest threat right now is water availability, and the biggest concern is water rights. We need to develop a water use plan to support the increasing city populations. There is also a serious demand for quality farm labor, and we need to focus on meeting the demands of the agriculture industry. There is also a need for protecting agricultural land from development, encroachment, condemnation, annexation and zoning. Part of that will require ensuring that we adequately fund the Arizona Department of Agriculture. We should also ensure that when it comes to herbicide and pesticide use that we are looking to peer-reviewed research and scientific data to set the standards by which public health is measured. Finally, we must ensure that any regulation passed to address air quality and dust management takes into consideration and is supportive of the agricultural industry.

Sylvia Allen (R)

I've been involved with natural resources issues for over 20 years going back to the Timber Wars of the 90's. Today some progress has been made with the new administration in Washington, but federal regulations are still a huge concern for timber and ranching families. We still are not able to keep a steady flow of timber sales and thinning projects, and Four Forest Restoration Project is still struggling. So, the state must continue to push for forest health.

The wolf in my part of the state is still causing problems for our ranching families we must continue to assert state rights and put pressure upon our Arizona Congressional Delegation to help us with these federal lands issues. On a state level we must support the AZ Department of Ag, State Forestry, and our State Lands Department with adequate funding and be sure we do not weight down these agencies with any burdensome regulations. As for water we must protect our rural water supplies and those who have private water rights and our irrigation districts. I have sat on the Senate Natural Resource, Water and Environment Committee since I have been in the Senate. I will continue to be part of this most important committee to protect our rural natural resource producers and our water.

District 8 LOCATION

Sharon Girard (D)

The biggest challenge to economics, agriculture, and our rural communities is water management. Water conservation, resources and renewal will be the biggest issue for the future if Arizona wants to compete, develop and endure. We must become proactive and work for responsible water management. The 1980 Groundwater Management Act was historic but we need to do more. In the midst of a drought and situated in the desert, Arizona must act now to protect all in the future.

As a legislator we must act now for the future of our state. Water impacts agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and sustains our citizens. I will work with stakeholders and experts to come up with a viable, proactive plan that protect and works for everyone.

Frank Pratt (R)

Water! Arizona's growth has been based on where water flows. Increasing pressure from the expanding needs of municipalities and industries has changed the flow from rural Arizona to urban areas. This puts rural economies in jeopardy. This is happening to traditional commercial crop production, other rural small business operations, and the utilization of rangeland.

There has been increased demand on land and water from outside interests. Water basins without sufficient recharge are under pressure due the service needs of areas like northwest Arizona. Sub flows have been redefined as Colorado River water and could possibly be redirected to neighboring states.

While I believe that a land use owner has a right to sell their land for a profit, we need to protect water as a resource. This water must be used wisely for the food supply and the related economies of other rural enterprises. Water is also needed to support homebuilding, mining, manufacturing and industry. Arizona needs policy decisions to protect the long-term multitude of interests and economies that rely on water.

District 12 Gilbert, Queen Creek, San Tan

Eddie Farnsworth (R)

Having been raised by a farmer and while growing up spending many hours working on the farm, I understand the importance of agriculture and the many challenges that agriculture faces. With that said, I believe the biggest issue facing agriculture is water.

Arizona's drought has lasted for nearly two decades and has resulted in a marked reduction in water reserves available to Arizona. It is estimated that the record-low snowpack levels in the Colorado River Basin will result in only a 42 percent of the long-term average runoff into Lake Powell. Looming on the horizon is a federal shortage call on the Colorado River which would further restrict surface water available to Arizona agriculture that relies upon Colorado River allocations. This type of shortage declaration is unprecedented and would have a significant, if not devastating, impact on Arizona agriculture.

The Arizona Legislature must consider all options in confronting the imminent water crisis and be prepared to deal with a shortage call.

First, Arizona must adopt water conservation measures that will address the priorities of water usage if a shortage call is issued. The water conservation plan should include a change that removes Arizona agriculture as the first industry to receive water reductions. We all like to eat and it takes a lot of water to bring agricultural products to market. We must make agricultural access to water a top priority. Non-essential urban water use, such as watering lawns, should be prioritized at the bottom of the use list.

Second, Arizona should reduce the need for water by proper forest management. Arizona must pressure the feds to thin overgrown forests and reduce wildfires.

Third, Arizona should continue to explore alternative sources of fresh water. Though Desalination faces some hurdles, it could provide a means to desalinate Arizona's significant brackish aquifer reserves.

Finally, Arizona must work in cooperation with the other Colorado River Basin states in coming to a solution that is a win-win.

District 13 Buckeye, Tonopah, Wellton, Yuma

Michelle Harris (D)

The greatest challenge facing Arizona is the continued drought and drop in the Colorado River. We are approaching the level that would require implementation of drought plans. However, our elected leaders have failed come up with a plan, let alone put legislation in place to support that plan. This must be done next legislative session, or else the federal government will force one on us. We need to take concrete steps to ensure we cut water usage, principally in residential markets, to protect our agricultural water supply. If we don't take steps now the drought could permanently impact our state's economy and everyone who lives here.

As a legislator, leading the way to overcome politics to develop and approve a drought contingency plan is one of my top priorities once elected. Additionally, we need to develop policies that enhance low-water building codes, and also expand our capacity to treat and reuse effluent and gray water, especially when it comes to residential and commercial non-ag irrigation. I'd also like to partner with Corporation Commissioners to help develop new rate structures that incentivize conservation without hurting the utility providers.

Sine Kerr (R)

I believe the greatest challenge facing agriculture and our natural resources industries is water. Access to a dependable supply of water needed for our farms, ranches, mining, and other natural resources industries is absolutely critical to their ability to stay in business and remain viable and sustainable. Our rural communities benefit from a thriving agriculture and natural resources industry due to the many support businesses that are dependent upon those industries for economic success.

The role the legislature can play in overcoming this challenge is to understand the priority we need to give to our various water concerns and issues across the state. Water legislation takes time and must be carefully crafted so that no harm is done to one region while trying to resolve an issue in another area of the state.

It's vital that stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the legislative process. This allows transparency, accountability, and industry connection for the best chance of successful water policy.

District 14 Safford, Willcox, Sierra Vista

David Gowan (R)

Federal overreach and private property rights are huge, but the biggest challenge is the future of Arizona's water supply, which is the most critical natural resource asset needed to promote and grow Arizona's \$23 billion agricultural industry. With Lake Mead below the 150 ft. mark -- leaving us dangerously close to a level that can trigger federal mandatory cutbacks of our share of Colorado River water -- Arizona is at risk of being the first to lose out. This would have a dramatic effect on our farmers, ranchers, and rural regions. The Legislature can do something and must do something to always protect our water rights. It will take leadership and tenacity to fight for those water rights and to craft legislative solutions. It isn't particularly glamorous work, but just as I did as your State Representative in 2015 when I fought and passed legislation that created the first public College of Veterinarian Medicine in our State at the University of Arizona, I'll grind and get the job done. I promise, as your State Senator from LD14, I will fight to protect our rural water supplies with all my strength and power.

District 18 Phoenix, Ahwatukee, Chandler, Tempe, Mesa

Frank Schmuck (R)

Not much agriculture in LD18 but I do support the agriculture industry by having purchased red fence posts for my political signs that are made in the USA and sold from southern Arizona.

I look at issues holistically and determine their solutions by asking: First, is it safe? Second, is it efficient? and third does it deliver for the people we serve?

You can expect that I will approach agricultural issues this way.



Don't forget to vote
November 6.





Getting the Most out of Farm Bureau's Annual Convention

Delegates Carry the Ultimate Power in Farm Bureau

Staff Reports

You campaigned or received encouragement from your County Farm Bureau president, and earned the coveted slot of being a delegate representing your county at the Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Convention this coming November 7, 8 and 9th. Or, maybe you didn't attend your county Farm Bureau meeting but leadership decided to elect you as a delegate. Either way, delegates are sitting atop a golden opportunity to influence agriculture's most important and hot topics while having a good time, learning a lot and visiting with fellow farmers and ranchers throughout Arizona.

In preparation for the meeting and exercising your vote, it's a good idea to visit with your County President or Policy Development Chair to learn which policies your county has submitted for consideration at the state level and key policies that other counties have submitted. This is often discussed at your county's October board meeting, so you'll want to attend this month's scheduled county board meetings.

Of course, if you were in the thick of your county's policy development you already know what policy issues are most important to your county. The value of being involved in such discussion is by the time you make it to the state's November Annual Meeting is that you've been able to establish and have an informed opinion about the issues.

Be sure to register for the hotel and convention (see Registration Form nearby), and then it's on to the convention in November.

Thursday, November the 8th is a full day of working on resolutions, as well as hearing from some great speakers. All Farm Bureau policies start at the county level and are discussed, amended and approved by delegates elected by the grassroots members. Working together during the resolutions session, your county delegates will be able to influence the final language to be adopted as state policy or sent on to American Farm Bureau. This may mean convincing delegates from other counties to support your policy positions.

The day ends with an elegant awards banquet recognizing people who have made their mark on agriculture and Farm Bureau. Great music and dancing will finish off Thursday night. Friday has a great line-up of political and informational speakers that you won't want to miss.

So be sure to get registered and prepared to fully participate in the Annual Convention. You'll go home to the farm or ranch reinvigorated with new knowledge and new friendships. And you'll have made a mark on the industry that you love and want to see prosper in our country – agriculture. 🐔



Delegates from County Farm Bureaus around the state discuss and vote on policies that lead Farm Bureau's work on key issues that will impact agriculture. Delegates should be prepared to weigh in on proposed policies. Here Delegate Ava Alcaida and President from La Paz County participate in policy issues during last year's Annual Meeting.

2018 AZFB Annual Convention Registration Form

**** Submit before Oct. 24**
One Form for each family!**



Name (s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 County Farm Bureau: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 E-mail: _____

Select Your Role:

Self

- Attendee
- Trade Show Vendor
- Sponsor
- Guest
- Staff/County staff

Spouse

- Attendee
- Trade Show Vendor
- Sponsor
- Guest
- Staff/County staff

"Check box for ALL events you will attend!"

Adults	Self (check all that apply)	Spouse	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> No Meals Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> County Farm Bureau Appreciation Dinner....FREE Wed., 5:00 p.m. (County Farm Bureau and spouses only)	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> President's Luncheon..... \$45 per person Thurs., 12:00 p.m.	_____	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Service to Agriculture Awards Dinner \$55 per person Thurs., 6:15 p.m.	_____	_____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Breakfast.....\$35 per person Fri., 7:00 a.m.	_____	_____	\$ _____

Children

<input type="checkbox"/> President's Luncheon..... Child meal \$30 ea Thurs., 12:00 p.m.	# _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Service to Agriculture Awards Dinner....Child meal \$30 ea Thurs., 6:15 p.m.	# _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Breakfast.....Child meal \$25 ea Fri., 7:00 a.m.	# _____	\$ _____

Total (submit check, money order or complete the credit card section below)

Total: _____

Credit Card number: _____
 Expiration Date _____ CSV _____ (3 digit code)
 Authorized signature _____
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ELECTION 2018

Office	I Will Vote For	
Arizona Governor		
U.S. Representative		
U.S. Senator		
State Senator		
State Representative		
State Representative		
Secretary of State		
Attorney General		
State Treasurer		
Superintendent of Public Instruction		
Propositions	Farm Bureau Position	I will Vote
Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona	No	
Other	N/A	

**HOW DO WE LIKE OUR EGGS?
LOCAL.**

HICKMAN'S
FAMILY FARMS



Richins

continued from page 1

Richins: Again, we would love to get as much Arizona meat and produce as possible. If you have excess, don't let it go to waste. United Food Bank will take it and distribute it to supplement the meals we are delivering every day. If our capacity is maxed, we can connect you with one of our agencies. Together, we can do more to help feed Arizona.

Arizona Agriculture: What are your current goals for United Food Bank?

Richins: We are focused on reducing poverty. Our role is in reducing food insecurity. 1.4 million people visited a United Food Bank agency for food assistance and we are delivering 61,000 meals daily. To fight poverty, we need the community to act. Volunteering, becoming a monthly donor or hosting a food drive are ways we can win this battle.

Arizona Agriculture: Though it doesn't feel like it, summer has ended, and you had a goal to serve a million meals these last few months. How did United do?

Richins: For the first time in our 35-year history, we were left with food on shelves. It was an achievement definitely worth celebrating.

Arizona Agriculture: If you had an audience before our entire farm and ranch membership, what would you tell them?

Richins: We stand with our farmers in feeding Arizona. I can't express enough the gratitude we have for farmers everywhere who feed the nation. At United Food Bank, we're in the business of feeding people who might not have enough food. No matter what circumstances brought them to a place of food insecurity, it is our mission to make sure they can receive nourishing food. Please contribute generously to community food drives and consider hosting one of your own in your neighborhood, church or workplace. Also, for every \$1 donated, United Food Bank can provide 5 nutritious meals. Visit unitedfoodbank.org to learn more or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at United Food Bank.

Arizona Agriculture: Can we ever end hunger in America?

Richins: Hunger in America is situational. It is often related to losing a job, living on a fixed income, or a disability. We have solved starvation. Nobody in America will starve to death. If we can solve starvation, we can solve hunger. It's all about people understanding the resources available at the time they may need them. Whether its employment, housing, mental health or hunger, there are resources available in America for those willing to utilize them. You can get out of poverty if you are willing to commit to the journey. 🐾

Editor's Note: To be a part of the solution to Arizona's food insecurity issues, consider attending the Arizona Food Summit January 8 and 9, 2019 in Tucson. The summit connects people, producers, resources and food. For more information contact mmellott@azda.gov. Also, regarding the Help Yourself Program, go to unitedfoodbank.org and search Help Yourself. Or, contact the United Food Bank at 480.926.4897 and ask to be connected to the person in charge of the Help Yourself program.



Sue and Settle

continued from page 2

sue, they can tie up the government with dozens of frivolous claims but still recover attorneys' fees if a judge upholds even one, solitary claim.

"Faced with a barrage of allegations that sap agency time and resources whether they have merit or not, the government is too often motivated to capitulate through secret settlements. Some agencies have even been known to invite litigation with the purpose of entering a settlement to provide political cover for controversial agency policies. And in settling, agencies often agree to pay legal fees, which further fuels the sue-and-settle machine. This action is a solid first step to fixing the problem. Every other federal agency should follow suit."

"Seeking redress from government is fundamental to our system. However, the general public should know and have access to the information related to financial settlements that redirect agency funds away from their core mission and send taxpayer dollars to private hands as a result of these lawsuits," adds Smallhouse.

Among other things, the department has committed to:

- Establish a publicly accessible webpage that details ongoing litigation.
- Post a searchable list and text of final judicial and administrative consent decrees and settlement agreements that govern departmental actions along with details of attorneys' fees paid.
- Post any proposed consent decree or settlement agreement that commits DOI to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization from Congress or formally reprogram appropriated funds.
- Publish notice of proposed consent decrees and settlements in the Federal Register and provide a public comment period of at least 30 days.

"We appreciate AFBF reporting on this and hope other agencies follow the Interior's lead in making their actions more transparent," concludes Smallhouse. 🐾

Why AgPAC Needs to Matter to You

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director



With extensive vetting of candidates, the AgPAC seeks out candidates who believe, and have demonstrated their beliefs in the principles to which Arizona agriculture is dedicated.

You've heard it before. Agriculture is clearly a minority in this state. So, it makes sense that the AG Political Action Committee of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation (AgPAC) would be established to provide individuals interested in the future of the agricultural industry an ability to contribute to worthy candidates for Arizona's offices.

See AgPAC Page 10

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New Senator

continued from page 1



Martha McSally (R)

There are many challenges facing our agriculture and natural resources industries and Arizona, but the biggest one is the burdensome and overreaching regulatory atmosphere imposed by the Federal government.

From H-2A visas, pesticide and insecticide repellents, the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, and land use hoops, Arizona's farmers and ranchers are expected to comply with an extremely complicated web of rules and regulations. These requirements mean that Arizona's producers

spend too much time and money complying and too little time doing what they do best.

As a Member of Congress who represents many farmers and ranchers, I have heard firsthand testimony about the challenges and costs to the economy of federal regulations. I have a proven record of fighting for our producers and stakeholders, and if elected to the U.S. Senate I will continue leading our state delegation in opposing burdensome red-tape and regulations and fostering a business-friendly climate.

Recently, I advocated and voted in favor of the Farm Bill that allows certain environmental reviews and red tape that are not applicable to be waived which saves precious time and resources for America's producers. I have also voiced my opposition to rules and regulations such as the WOTUS rule. I voted to repeal it and continue to support this Administration's efforts to roll back sweeping regulations written by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats.

Beyond simply opposing harmful policies, we also need to foster a business-friendly climate. That's why I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which lowers taxes and provides relief from the "death tax" so that farmers, ranchers, and business owners can pass down their business to the next generation.



Kyrsten Sinema (D)

As I travel the state, I hear many of the same concerns from Arizona families. No matter how Arizonans make their living, everyone wants access to quality health care, good jobs, and a fair shot at success.

When I talk to Arizona farmers, I hear about these same concerns and also about how we can ensure continued access to markets across the world. The chaos and dysfunction of Washington is causing uncertainty for farmers and rural economies across the state.

No one wins a trade war. Arizona family farmers depend on commonsense trade policies that provide certainty, protect jobs, and strengthen rural communities. That's why I'm working across the aisle to support the Trade Authority Protection Act, which requires Congressional approval before new tariffs or trade policies go into effect, so we ensure they work for Arizona. The last thing we need are tariffs that hurt our farmers, or policies that spur our trading partners to retaliate and harm hardworking Arizonans.

Any trade plan we put forward needs to help everyday Arizonans get ahead. I'll work with people on both sides of the aisle to cut through the partisan games and get things done for Arizona.

Bring Your Derby Hats and Get Ready for Some Pig Racing!

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

We're putting the "FUN" back in fundraising with a **Racin' Bacon Derby Dinner** to benefit agricultural education in Arizona! Smithfield Foods and the Arizona Pork Council have teamed up to present this inaugural night of fun, pig racing, and derby hat wearing on October 20th, 2018. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person and tables can be reserved for \$500 (includes 8 tickets). All proceeds will support *The Arizona Farm Bureau's Educational Farming Company* (Educational Foundation) and its mission to promote youth development in agriculture, bring Agricultural Education to Arizona's classrooms, and inform the public about farming and ranching.

All attendees will have the opportunity to place a bet on their favorite pig, participate in a Derby Hat Contest, eat a delicious meal of pulled pork while enjoying local drinks and desserts, and go home with an array of goodies! There will also be both Silent and Live Auctions with exclusive items only available at the event! No matter your interests, we are sure to have something you'll enjoy. Looking for passes to go on a family vacation? You don't want to miss this! Are you a foodie lover with an appetite for local treats? We have you covered! Arizona Cardinals fan? Rodeo enthusiast? Gun aficionado? We have it all!

Meet us for the event on the South Lawn at Arizona Farm Bureau (325 S. Higley Road in Gilbert, AZ) from 4:00 to 8 p.m. The attire is Sunday Casual and don't forget your Derby Hat! Prizes will be awarded for the best homemade and store-bought Derby Hats! For ticket purchases please call Paula Jensen at (480) 635-3605. Advanced ticket purchases are required as this event is sure to sell out fast!

Want additional information? Email katieaikins@azfb.org to find out more about these exciting festivities.



For ticket purchases please call Paula Jensen at (480) 635-3605. Advanced ticket purchases are required as this event is sure to sell out fast!

AgPAC

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And so, AgPAC was formed. With extensive vetting of candidates, the AgPAC seeks out candidates who believe, and have demonstrated their beliefs in the principles to which Arizona agriculture is dedicated.

Plus, AgPAC gives us another opportunity to open a door to legislators that predominately represent urban constituents. These legislators' constituents are far removed from the everyday workings and technology of your farm, ranch, dairy, feedlot, plant nursery or vineyard. AgPAC raises funds to support the candidates of any party affiliation who are committed to working for the best interests of Arizona agriculture.

These urban constituents routinely question:

- Agriculture's use of water,
- Our use of technology in crop and livestock production,
- The health effects of dust caused by normal farming practices,
- The working conditions of our laborers,
- If we are treating our animals humanely,
- Our sales tax exemptions,
- The safety of our food,
- Grazing on federal and state trust lands,
- And, funding the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Our fundraising strength will serve as a reminder to political leaders that farmers and ranchers remain stakeholders in Arizona's future. This won't happen, however, if you don't donate to the cause.

With the continued support of Farm Bureau members like you, our voice will be heard at the State Capitol and in Washington D. C. Elections Matter! Consider supporting agriculture through a contribution to AgPAC.

To contribute to AgPAC go online to azfb.org/Public-Polic/AgPAC or write a check to "AgPAC" and send to 325 South Higley Road in Gilbert, Arizona 85296.

Editor's Note: The purpose of AgPAC is to receive, administer and expend funds for political purposes in connection with promoting and supporting candidates who are supportive of the policies of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation. Contributions are voluntary. Members have the right to contribute without any advantage conditioned upon making the contribution or reprisal or threat of reprisal related to the failure to make a contribution. AgPAC cannot accept corporate contributions. Contributions to AgPAC are not tax deductible as a business expense or as a charitable contribution.

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Track-Out Policy for Maricopa County Reached

Staff Reports from Arizona Department of Agriculture

A compromise between growers in Maricopa County and the Maricopa County Air Quality Department concerning track-out has been reached. A change to the current Maricopa County track-out ordinance has led to a clarification to when track-out must be cleaned up. Track-out is dirt, mud, or other debris adhered to vehicle tires and equipment that has fallen onto a paved surface. As track-out is deposited onto paved roads it breaks down into dust emissions by way of vehicle traffic driving over it.

What you need to do:

1. If wind or vehicles driving over the track-out are causing visible dust, start cleaning the track-out immediately.
2. If no dust emissions are visible, start clean up within four hours after track-out is deposited.
3. Clean all track-out from paved areas by the end of the work day.

Helpful Hints by the Maricopa County Air Quality Department:

1. Read the complete substantive policy statement for track-out at the Maricopa County Air Quality Department website.
2. Create a track-out control plan to identify ways to prevent and clean track-out.
3. Designate an on-site individual to check for track-out and respond when track-out occurs.
4. Make sure track-out is not causing visible dust emissions and that it is cleaned by the end of the day.
5. Ensure that vehicles are exiting at designated locations.
6. Consider using a rumble gate or a gravel pad to remove dirt and mud from vehicles before they exit. Refer to "Track-out Control Devices" in your Guide to Agricultural PM10 Best Management Practices.

Too much dust in the air impacts all of us. Air quality problems occur when the amount of particles released into the air increases in concentration, sensitive groups such as elderly, children, and people with lung disease are the most affected. 🚗

Remember the Annual Meeting November 7-9



SNOWMELT. Water conservation starts long before it reaches our homes and businesses. SRP constantly monitors snowmelt in northern Arizona to help determine how much runoff will be produced. Managing water through a system of rivers, lakes, dams, and canals is something SRP has been doing for more than 100 years. SRP's stewardship of water continues today with support for forest health initiatives, watershed partnerships, and conservation programs. Working together, we're confident we can meet Arizona's water and power needs for another 100 years.

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Vote No on Prop 127 to Keep Electrical Rates Economical!

Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona Initiative, Prop 127: Vote No!

By Chelsea McGuire and Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau

An average 2,200-cow Arizona dairy can easily run annual energy bills of \$500,000. Proposition 127, Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona, on this year's ballot could easily end up adding another \$200,000 to a dairy farmer's energy bill to run his dairy and keep his cows comfortable.

For crop farmers in southeastern Arizona, their well-pumping bills runs around \$200,000 annually. Again, factor a minimum 40% estimated increase due to the requirements to be met under Prop 127, they'll be paying an extra \$80,000 on energy costs to run their agriculture business.

Arizona farmers of all shapes and sizes rely on affordable power to run their operations.

Whether it's pumping water to crops and livestock or powering the machinery that processes the food we eat, energy and agriculture are inextricably connected. As a result, access to affordable power is essential to make sure our families have affordable, abundant food on our tables.

For homeowners, the cost increase to their electrical bills will be just as brutal. Most homeowners will have to annual pay nearly an extra \$2,000 for their energy costs. That's how much the Seidman Research Institute at ASU estimates Prop 127 will cost the average Arizona family, according to Arizonans for Affordable Electricity.

Don't let the Sweet-Sounding Title Fool You

Spearheaded by an outside group from California, the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona proposition has the potential to cripple the agricultural industry by limiting access to affordable power and vastly increasing the costs of producing food. And the feel-good title of the initiative belies the true intent of its authors. By ignoring the value of existing, reliable, sustainable energy sources and disregarding the realities of the current energy market, the initiative will make the cost of energy needed to produce our food exponentially more expensive – and that cost will place burdens on farmers and consumers alike.

Not only will the initiative make food more expensive, it is also expected to significantly increase the average household's electricity bill. This cost increase will be the most difficult to bear in rural Arizona, where small energy providers have less ability to diversify and modify their existing energy infrastructure. Many Arizona Farm Bureau members are also proud residents of rural Arizona. We cannot support a measure that would devastate their ability to power their homes and businesses.

Others researching Prop 127 also list a variety of other considerations, listed below.

- Double electricity bills for the average Arizona family.
- Create Financial Hardship for seniors and low-income Arizonans.
- Kill Thousands of good jobs.
- Hurt K-12 schools by increasing heating/cooling costs and diverting money from the classroom.
- Do little to improve our environment.

There is no one who better appreciates the importance of wise environmental stewardship than the farmer or rancher; after all, he relies on the sustainability of his resources not only for his livelihood, but for his very way of life. But by ignoring the needs of agriculture and rural Arizona, Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona would destroy Arizona's sustainability rather than improve it. Moreover, at a time when farm income has fallen by more than 50%, according to the USDA, the timing on this proposition will be brutal to Arizona agriculture's \$23.3 billion industry – all while providing no appreciable environmental benefit.

Join us in opposing the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona Initiative. Vote NO this November! 🚗

Meet Arizona Agriculture's Meier Family

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Once reliable irrigation systems were built, Phoenix became a true agriculture center in the early 1900s and on. Farmers, like Robert Meier, could farm in the heart of Phoenix managing crops like citrus, other fruits and cotton as main crops.

The Meier's family, beginning with his father, Bill, had always farmed hundreds of acres in what we'd consider close to the heart of Phoenix, much of it on land that now has houses instead of crops. Father and son grew Pima cotton, short-staple cotton, beets, grain and more. Bob also tended beehives and sold citrus, mesquite and cotton-blossom honey.

I recently met up with, Kathleen, in the home the Meier family built in Phoenix in the 1950s. From Cleveland, Kathleen came to Arizona with her family when her father started a restaurant and an air-conditioning business out here.

Nearly 90-year-old Kathleen has spunk and reminds me of so many farm and ranch wives that are partnered with their husbands in the business. She and Bob met on a blind date when both were attending the University of Arizona in Tucson. Little did this city girl know she'd soon begin the life of an Arizona farmer.



Kiki and Bobo Meier

Meier

continued from page 11

"I love my tractor," she said. "I won't give that up. I did just hire someone to do all my yard work for the first time [on a spread that's three quarters of an acre]. But I still got my tractor and when I feel like it I still love getting on it and driving around."

And though Robert John Meier passed away in March of 2017, Kathleen can speak to their days farming and ranching as if they happened just yesterday. "We tried everything. We also raised bees, eggs, Charolais cattle and harvested honey."

Bob had a passion for Arizona agriculture. He loved his time on the farm and the wonderful friends he met through the farming and ranching industry, including Farm Bureau where he served as membership chair for many years with the Maricopa County Farm Bureau. In fact, he invested countless years with the Farm Bureau and served on the U. of A. Alumni Association board.

He was devoted to his church, Bethany Bible, and mission work, traveling to Russia, Turkey, Scotland and Iceland with Campus Crusade for Christ.



Daughter Sally on the tractor with her dad.

Arizona Farm Bureau's Ongoing Series of farm and ranch families.

Interview with Kathleen Meier of Phoenix, Arizona.

Tell me the story of how the Meier family began farming and a bit more background on the family in general. Bob's father, William Meier, came here in the 1920's, starting in Tempe. He was one of the first farmers in the valley to farm sugar beets. He even invented a thrasher machine. I imagine William's father farmed in Colorado since the family's recent history is from there.

However, I am a big city girl. The only thing I know about agriculture was what I learned after I married Bob. I took ag 1 and ag 2 and animal husbandry one and two just to become more acquainted with what it takes to be a farmer at the U of A. Bob also studied at U of A and got a bachelor's in Agriculture Science.

Bob also served in World War II.

To go way back, Bob was born January 12, 1925 in Alhambra, Arizona to Ida and William Meier. From his earliest years, he worked on the family farm and kept an eye on his three sisters: Helen, Lucille and Sally. He attended North High, graduating in 1943.

We raised two daughters, Sally and Robin, in the Royal Palm district of Phoenix. We were active with 4-H, quarter horse shows and our church.

He was "Bobo" to his grandchildren: Josh, Tyler (Randi), Kristin (Kelly) and Andrew (Shannon). He so loved his seven great grandchildren: Jack, Raegan, Luke, Kate, David, Caelyn and Grace. [Kathleen was Kiki to the grandchildren.]

In fact, the grandchildren were convinced BoBo could fix everything. "He had the patience and ability to do anything," says daughter Sally Colace. "Mom has a Jeopardy-type of mind and visits with the grandchildren about everything including sports. She's well read and will talk to anyone."

What other crops besides cotton and citrus did you farm? We farmed a lot of different things including all kinds of vegetable crops. You name it we have farmed it! We also had chickens and Charolais cattle and grew sugar beets for seed. Our farm was located between Indian School and Camelback. We lived on the farm before we moved to Phoenix.

What farming practices are a highlight to you? Bob, and his father Bill, would put together whatever things they needed to get the job done. He was really good with baling wire and duct tape, if it called for it. He never saw a piece of string he didn't think he could use.

What else was the Meier family farm involved in that no one really knows about? We also raised bees and harvested honey. Bob had a milk route when he was eight-years-old. Bob once headed out the door saying, "The pulling chains [used during a difficult delivery] are in the pantry," since one of our mares was about to foal. I went into the living room and cried, pulled myself together and told myself to be ready if the situation called for it. I had never used the pulling chains before. It turned out I didn't have to use them.

I also happen to be an avid gardener and I love my friends. [Life lesson I learned interviewing Kathleen: always make friends with people younger than you.]

What impressed you about your husband's farming? Probably that he was the most honest person I have ever known.

What were some of the highlights to coming into a farming family? Well, we never got to go on vacations and he wouldn't come home at times because he would have to take care of irrigation. If the night irrigator didn't show up, he'd have to do the job. He'd drive to the other end of the field, take his boots off, lie down in the furrow with his feet forward toward the coming flow of water. A few hours later, when the water washed over his feet, he knew the water was at the end of the row.

What's an interesting hobby Bob took part in that most people don't know? Bob was quite the collector, he never found a string he couldn't use.

Daughter Sally remembers her parents waking her up in the middle of the night to watch a foal being born. "It was special; magical."

Plus, "Both my parents loved to do yardwork togeth-

er. Dad at 92 before he passed away and mom at 88. They were still doing it together. And, Mom, up until recently was doing it on her own."

What kept you as farm bureau members? Well, Bob loved agriculture and it was in his blood. He loved what Farm Bureau stood for and believed the organization was a protector of the industry. [The Meier family have been Farm Bureau members for decades. Their insurance agent, Steve Goucher, says Bob once told him he became a Farm Bureau insurance client at 16; 76 years as Farm Bureau members.]

How is the next generation of the Meier family staying in agriculture? One of my two girls married a farmer whose operation is in California. They farm an assortment of different things. They met while in college at the University of Arizona.

How will the next generation of agriculturalist have to operate? They will have to get bigger. The cost to farm keeps getting more expensive.

What is the best business advice you have ever received or been given? Stay on the right path. Be honest and operate with integrity.

You talk to the family and you hear the same character traits about Bobo: Gentle. Kind. Loving. Humble. "My dad was a beautiful picture of someone who loved God and people," says Colace. "I am so proud to call him my father." 🍷

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in our azfb.org blog, *The Voice*. Check our blog on azfb.org for regular farm and ranch profiles.



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