



Don't California Arizona with Higher Energy Bills

Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona Initiative: Vote No!

By Chelsea McGuire and Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau

A typical 1,800 square-foot Arizona home for a family of four might run energy bills of \$208 to \$215 per month. If the “Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona” Initiative on the November ballot passes, your monthly energy bill is estimated to increase by 40%.

Due to the requirements to be met under this November initiative, you'll be paying an extra \$1,000 to \$1,032 annually on energy costs to keep your home comfortable and well lit.

Arizona families of all shapes and sizes rely on affordable power to run their homes. Whether it's using more power in the summer months to keep your house cool or heating your pool in the winter, energy and our daily lives are inextricably connected. As a result, access to affordable power is essential to make sure our families have affordable, reliable and clean energy.



Experts estimate that your energy bill could rise as much as 40% if the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona initiative passes this November.

his water pumps). 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 such as Arizona's incredible hydro-electric power 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 as noted above. 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.

There is no one who better appreciates the importance of wise environmental stewardship than the farmer or rancher and so many of our Arizona families; after all, you rely on the sustainability of your resources not only for your livelihood, but for your very way of life. But by ignoring the needs of agriculture, Arizona families and rural Arizona, Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona would destroy Arizona's sustainability rather than improve it.

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

Don't Let the “Feel Good” Title Fool You!

This bill won't only impact your personal family budget, it could cripple Arizona agriculture's \$23.3 billion-dollar industry and ultimately also raise your costs to buy food. *Spearheaded by an outside group from California*, the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona initiative has the potential to cripple the agricultural industry by limiting access to affordable power and vastly increasing the costs of producing food (cost increases for farmers and dairyman can run as much as \$200,000 for a dairy farm to \$80,000 for a crop farmer running

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Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

Three New Member Benefits

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

Want a Date?

What's soft, sweet, totally yummy and good for you? In Arizona, Medjool date harvest began the end of August. Most of the dates ranches in Arizona are family owned and have a country store where you'll find Medjool dates by the pound, in gift boxes and baskets. And if you are feeling totally decadent, you might try a Medjool date stuffed with nuts or dipped in chocolate. I'm drooling just thinking about eating one.

Dates are high in potassium, high fiber, no fat and low sodium. I discovered that gift baskets full of gourmet products, fruits and nuts are family favorites for holidays and celebrations.

Have you ever had a date milkshake? Oh my...you must try one at Sphinx Ranch in Scottsdale or Martha's Gardens in Yuma.

Classic Date Bars

- 3 cups Medjool dates, pitted and chopped
- ¼ cups granulated sugar
- 1 ½ cups water
- ¾ cup shortening or butter
- 1 cup brown sugar

- 1 ¾ cups all purpose flour
 - 1 ½ cups old fashion oats
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 tsp baking soda
- Preheat Oven to 400 degrees



Filling

Combine dates, granulated sugar, and water in med/large sauté pan. Cook at medium low heat for 10 min, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool. Puree if desired.

Crust

Beat shortening or butter in large bowl with brown sugar. Add flour, baking soda and salt to brown sugar/butter (in small amounts). Mix or cut w/ pastry cutter. Add oats and stir to combine.

Bars

Grease 13 x 9 baking dish. Pat ½ of crust along bottom. Spread filling evenly, leaving about a one inch space from edge. Take remaining crust and sprinkle over filling until covered. Bake in 400 degree oven 25-30 minutes or until top is lightly browned. ■

By: *Sphinx Date Ranch*

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Fall Pumpkin and Corn Maze Festivals

Cochise County

Apple Annie's

Fall Pumpkin Celebration, family fun picking your own pumpkins, fall vegetables and apples.
Apple Annie's Produce & Pumpkins
6405 West Williams Rd
Willcox, AZ 85643
For more information, call 520.384.4685 or visit AppleAnnies.com.

Maricopa County

MacDonald Ranch

Annual Pumpkin Patch
Family fun includes: A Petting Zoo; Run through the Hay Maze; Learn to pan for gold; Hayride and Train ride to the Pumpkin Patch; Play Western Games; "New" Pedal carts for kids! September 29 to October 3, 2018
MacDonald Ranch
26540 N Scottsdale Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
For more information, visit macdonaldranch.com/pumpkin-patch.htm or call 480.585.0239.

Mother Nature's Farm

Come to the Pumpkin Patch. Enjoy a fall gourd show, U-pick pumpkins, squash, and much more.
Mother's Nature's Farm
1663 E Baseline Rd
Gilbert AZ 85233
For more information, call 480.892.5874 or visit news@mothernaturesfarm.com

Rocker 7 Farm Patch

Enjoy a fun, family farm experience as you explore the pumpkin patch, corn maze, sunflower field and many farm-related activity areas for children.
Rocker 7 Farm Patch
19601 W Broadway Rd
Buckeye, AZ 85326
For more information, visit rocker7farmpatch.com or call 623.208.8676

Schnepf Farms

Pumpkin & Chili Party starts October 4.
Schnepf Farms
24610 S Rittenhouse Rd
Queen Creek, AZ 85142
For more information, call 480.987.3100 or visit schnepffarms.com



Tolmachoff Farms

Pumpkin Days & Fall Maze. Visit one of the last family farms in the city!
Tolmachoff Farms
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Glendale, AZ 85303
For more information, call 602.999.3276 or visit tolmachoff-farms.com

Vertuccio Farms

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4011 S. Power Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85212
For more information, call 480.882.1482 or visit vertucciofarms.com/fall-festival

Pima County

Buckelew Farm Annual Pumpkin Festival & Corn Maze

Enjoy a day at the farm with horse drawn wagon rides out to the pumpkin patch to pick your pumpkin off of the vine.
Buckelew Farm
17000 W Ajo Hwy
Tucson, AZ 85735
For more information, call 520.822.2277 or visit buckelewfarm.com.



Marana Pumpkin Patch

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Marana Pumpkin Patch
14901 N Wentz Road
Marana, AZ
For more information 520.305.5481 or visit maranapumpkinpatch.com

Sahuarita Pecan Festival

This unique festival, centered in the Santa Cruz River Valley, is family focused and community oriented. Held on the grounds of the Green Valley Pecan Company for one day.
November 10 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
For more information, visit www.sahuaritapecanfestival.com

Pinal County

Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch

Family owned and operated. Stop by and feed the ostrich, deer, miniature donkeys, goats, ducks, and Rainbow Lorikeets.
Interstate-10 at the Picacho Peak exit #219
17599 E Peak Ln.
Picacho, AZ 85141
For more information, call 520.466.3658 or visit roostercoburn.com

See **FESTIVALS** page 6



Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

You're Invited to the Racin' Bacon Derby Dinner

Join us for a night of fun, pig racing, and supporting Agricultural Education! October 20th, 2018 marks the inaugural Racin' Bacon Derby Dinner extravaganza presented by Smithfield Foods and the Arizona Pork Council in support of The Arizona Farm Bureau's Educational Farming Company (Educational Foundation). Tickets for this event are \$50/person and tables can be reserved for \$500 (includes 8 tickets). All proceeds will benefit programs promoting agricultural literacy. Not sure what the Educational Farming Company is? Visit <https://youtu.be/rQQFmeNSIXI> to view a short video.



You don't want to miss out on this fun night of festivities! Everyone in attendance will get to place a bet on their favorite pig, participate in a Derby Hat Contest, eat a delicious meal of pulled pork and local drinks and desserts, and go home with all sorts of goodies! There will also be Live and Silent Auctions with items you can't get anywhere else! Are you an Arizona Cardinals fan? Enjoy hunting and the outdoors? We have something for you! There will also be plenty of local products and commodity organizations represented!

This event will take place on the South Lawn at Arizona Farm Bureau (325 S. Higley Road in Gilbert, AZ) and run from 4- 8 p.m. The attire is Sunday Casual and Derby Hats! You could win a prize for having the best homemade or bought Derby Hat around! For ticket purchases please call Paula Jensen at (480) 635-3605. Advanced ticket purchases are required as this event will sell out fast!

For additional information, email katieaikins@azfb.org to find out more about this exciting event. ■

Arizona Farm Bureau
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Safety Tips that Will Help Protect Your Family

By Peggy Jo Goodfellow, Arizona Farm Bureau Marketing Manager



Recently one of our smoke alarms at home began to chirp... the sound that tells you the battery is low and it needs to be replaced. As happens with smoke alarms, it was 4 a.m. and the chirping alarm belonged to

the one that's the hardest to reach. We were a bit grumpy by the time we got the chirping to stop. As we turned on the television to watch the morning news, they were reporting that a fire had destroyed a family home. All of the people got out okay, but not their pets. Our

See **SAFETY TIPS** page 6

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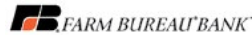
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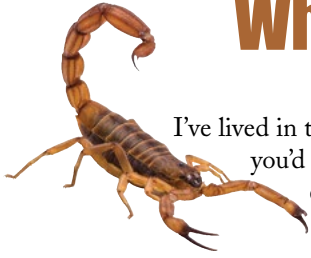
Yavapai County

Mortimer Family Farms

Family Fun Day and Pumpkin Harvest begins September 28
Mortimer Family Farms
12907 E State Route 169
Dewey, AZ 86327
For more information, call 928.830.1116 or visit
mortimerfarmsaz.com.



Remember...you can always go to fillyourplate.org for a complete direct-market list of farmers and ranchers. For more Fall Farm information, go to azfb.org.



Which Bug in Arizona Gives You the Shivers?

By Peggy Jo Goodfellow, Arizona Farm Bureau Marketing Manager

I've lived in the desert for over 40 years now so you'd think I'd be used to seeing the common everyday bugs we have in Arizona and for the most part I am. But when I encounter a scorpion anywhere around my home, it sends a shiver up my spine! Fortunately, through a member benefits program with Truly Nolen Pest Control, Arizona Farm Bureau members receive a discount. Here's a few things you should know about some of Arizona's most common pests.

Termites: Most of Arizona sits on top of one of the most active subtropical termite belts in the United States. Subterranean termites are one of the costliest pests in Arizona.

Ants: Ants are a major problem throughout the United States and Arizona is no exception. Among the most damaging are fire ants, which have a painful sting and carpenter ants, which tunnel into damp wood to build their nests.

Cockroaches: Many different species of cockroaches live in Arizona and all are known for their ability to carry germs. Two types make their homes indoors, the German and brown-banded species. They are extremely hard to get rid of since they eat not only human and pet foods, but such materials as leather and glue.

Spiders: Arizona is home to both the black widow and

the brown recluse. These spiders have dangerous bits, making it important to seek medical treatment right away.

Scorpions: All scorpions are considered venomous, though most have a sting no worse than a bee sting. The exception is the Arizona Bark scorpion, that is about 2-3 inches long including the tail. Their venom is highly toxic causing intense pain and in some cases breathing difficulties and even convulsions. Swift medical treatment is always recommended.

Ticks: More than 25 species of ticks live in Arizona. The most common is the brown dog tick. While these ticks prefer dogs, they will feed on humans. They can carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever that should be treated with antibiotics as soon as possible.

Bees/wasps: Bees and wasps are common in Arizona, especially during the summer months. Although they are generally more annoying than dangerous, allergies are not uncommon. The "killer bees" are more aggressive than other types of bees and tend to attack in swarms. ■

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

Safety Tips *Continued from page 5*

hearts ached for this family. We counted our blessings that we only had the inconvenience of waking up early...not to a house fire, but simply a smoke alarm telling us to replace a battery. We put new batteries in all five of our smoke alarms that day.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) someone in the United States dies in a house fire every three hours, averaging approximately 3,000 deaths each year. Arm yourself with the right equipment to help prevent a small self-contained fire from spreading out of control.

Don't be a statistic. Be Safe.

Here are a few tips that can help shield your family from danger at home.

- Replace Smoke Alarms every 10 years
- Place a fire extinguisher within reach on every level of your home
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on each floor and near bedrooms
- Create an escape plan with your family

Farm Bureau members are fortunate to have Grainger as a member benefit provider. Members can receive 10% off plus free shipping on everything they order at Grainger.com. Not just smoke alarms but fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors and a wide variety of home improvement items. ■



This is Not Your Grandparents' ATV

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) - 4-wheeled beasts on the track or back trails - loved by the off-road enthusiasts and treasured by farmers and ranchers first made their appearance in the 1960s. The am-

The Old and New

1960s	2018
<p>adventuring anywhere anytime any weather in your VERBATREK JIGER</p>	

Insurance companies are seeing an increase in ATV accidents in Arizona involving underage operators. Children under 16 should not be driving ATVs.

phibious 6-wheelers like the Jiger in 1961 look nothing like what are parked in American's garages and barns today.

The first ATV as we know it emerged as a 3-wheeler in 1967 and was manufactured in 1968. However, it was Honda that made 3-wheelers a household name and set the path for today's ATV. While the look, speed, and all-terrain abilities of these vehicles have certainly changed, one thing has not, they are dangerous and safety

precautions should be followed, especially by children and youth.

According to Bruce Cain of Farm Bureau Financial Services, "The company is seeing an increase in ATV accidents in Arizona involving youthful operators, children hurting children. Warning stickers on the units generally advised that children under the age of 16 should not be operating the units. When these losses occur, it is usually a roll-over accident that causes injury to the occupants. These injuries can range from damage to arms or legs to more serious and debilitating injuries. When parents allow underage children to operate ATV's with other young passengers the damages are compounded."

WARNING

Improper ATV use can result in SEVERE INJURY or DEATH

ALWAYS USE AN APPROVED HELMET AND PROTECTIVE GEAR	NEVER USE ON PUBLIC ROADS	NEVER CARRY PASSENGERS	NEVER USE WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

NEVER operate:

- without proper training or instruction
- at speeds too fast for your skills or the conditions
- on public roads - a collision can occur with another vehicle
- with a passenger - passengers affect balance and steering and increase risk of losing control

ALWAYS:

- use proper riding techniques to avoid vehicle overturns on hills and rough terrain and in turns
- avoid paved surfaces - pavement may seriously affect handling and control

LOCATE AND READ OWNER'S MANUAL. FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS.

Read all safety instructions before using your new ATV

Operating ATVs is not something to take lightly, especially for the safety of your children, on or off the farm and ranch. Accidents happen quickly and are more dangerous in remote areas without first responders nearby. According to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, below are some safety requirements that should be followed by all ATV owners and operators.

- Do not drive ATVs with a passenger or ride as a passenger.
- Always follow the manufacturer's minimum-age recommendation warning label on the ATV.
- Wear a helmet or protective gear.
- Do not drive ATVs on paved roads.
- Adhere to the manufacturer's safety warning on your ATV.

Each state has its own guidelines and laws regarding ATVs. Arizona's laws can be found under Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 28 - Transportation.

Stay safe, don't hope for a miracle! ■



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Periodicals

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Go to azfb.org



Arizona Agriculture's
CHOICES

Maricopa County Farmer Mark Freeman

- Husband, father of 3 children and grandfather of 8, lives in Mesa.
- His family has farmed in Arizona since 1878
- Grows alfalfa and corn
- Currently President of the Maricopa County Farm Bureau
- Currently a Mesa City Councilman
- Mark is a retired Mesa Firefighter

