

Top 10 Truths about Arizona Agriculture

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication Director

Some of my favorite “truths” or facts about Arizona agriculture are quite unique to this desert state’s agriculture industry. They make us shine. They tell our story.

These agriculture facts about Arizona are obviously not the only ones. But, they’re special ones.

So, I share them here.

1. In Arizona, we can be planting and/or harvesting a vast variety of crops – from asparagus to zucchini -- 12 months out of the year. California and Florida can probably claim this one too, but in our little desert state this makes it even more amazing!

2. In the west and specifically in Arizona, only 20% of the agriculture lands can be found here. But, we produce 60% of the total value of all agriculture products. This is mostly due to targeted, managed and conservation-conscious irrigation.

3. In the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture (done every 5 years), Arizona had 20,005 farms and ranches listed. The previous census (2007) the number was 15,637, a 28% increase. Why the large increase? More subsistence farms and ranches on tribal lands are being counted, a unique cultural and historical distinction for our state. While other states do have tribal farms counted, ours represent well over 50% of the farms and ranches counted.

4. And too that point, Arizona has the highest number of Amer-

ican Indian farmers in the United States.

5. The 2012 Census of Agriculture recorded more than 26 million acres in agriculture production in Arizona, up 1% from the previous census in 2007.

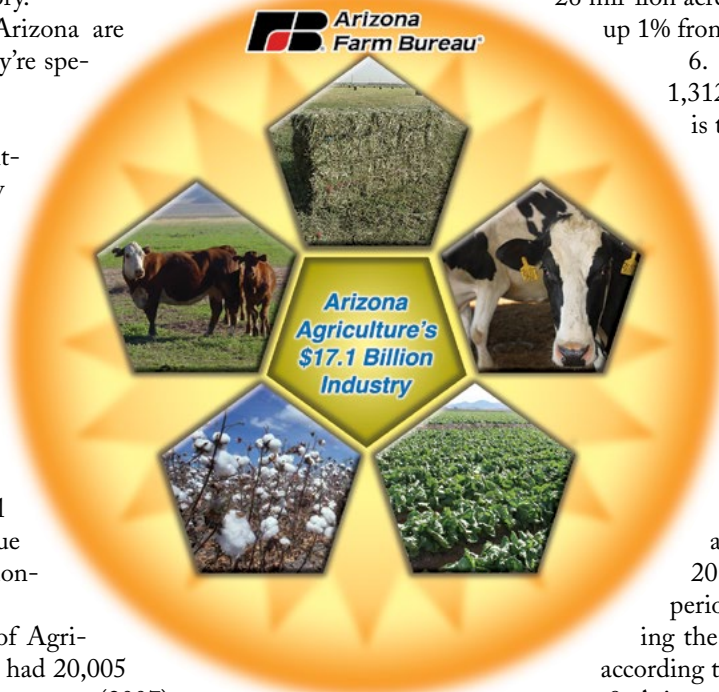
6. The average size farm in Arizona is 1,312 acres, representing a bigger farm than is typical across the United States.

7. The market value of Arizona agriculture products sold during the 2012 Census of Agriculture period was just under \$4 billion, up 15% from the 2007 census.

8. In Arizona, we have the five “Cs”: Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus and Climate. And, every one of them including copper and climate have an agriculture connection (mining is considered a form of agriculture). The value of cattle, cotton and citrus production that was sold in 2012 during the Census of Agriculture period totaled nearly \$940 million, excluding the more than \$760 million in milk sales, according to the USDA.

9. Arizona agriculture is a \$17 billion industry.

10. Arizona agriculture grows three high-quality biotech crops: cotton, alfalfa and field (feed) corn. So many more interesting and unique truths about Arizona agriculture exist but these are some of the ones that rank in my top ten list. Join us on “The Voice” blog at www.azfb.org and get to know more about this amazing industry in Arizona. ■



A Man and his Truck

By Linda Merrell, Greenlee County Farmer

There was never any question where Donald Merrell would purchase this first truck or what make it would be. He bought it from his Dad at Merrell Motors Ford Dealership in Duncan, Arizona. Fenly Merrell had the reputation of being honest and fair. He made it possible for a family man to have a way to work at the mine in Morenci forty miles away; a farmer to have a motor-



ized “workhorse” to help grow and harvest his crop; a teenage kid to realize the thrill of a first car. Merrell Motors- a name you could trust,

See **Man** page 7

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Planning on Buying a New Vehicle this Year?

Don't Forget the Farm Bureau/Ford Bonus Cash Rebate Program

Eligible Arizona Farm Bureau members can get a \$500 rebate toward the purchase of most new Ford vehicles

- You must be a member of the Arizona Farm Bureau for at least **30 days prior to date** of delivery to be eligible for this rebate.

- To obtain your certificate and verify membership go to <http://www.fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/az>. The Farm Bureau member must present the certificate and membership card to the dealer at time of purchase

- To redeem, take your certificate to your Ford dealer. The \$500 rebate will be applied to the deal at the time of purchase.

For more information, call Peggy Jo Goodfellow at 480.635.3609 or email peggyjogoodfellow@azfb.org. ■



“Lettuce” Make a Great Salad

Yuma, Arizona is widely known as the nation's winter salad bowl. That means that 90 percent of the nation's vegetables for salads are grown right in Yuma during the winter months. That makes Yuma County agriculture more than a \$1.5 billion industry. Wow!

To celebrate, three Farm Bureau members are sharing their favorite recipes for salad and dressing.

Join the Party Salad

Ingredients

- 1 head of iceberg lettuce
- 1 cup of chopped celery
- ½ cup of chopped green bell pepper
- ½ cup of chopped green onion
- ¼ cup of sliced radishes (optional)
- 1 ½ cup of mayonnaise
- 4 to 5 sliced hard-boiled eggs
- 8 to 10 bacon slices fried and crumbled
- 1 ¼ cup of grated cheddar cheese
- 1 small package frozen peas (cooked)



In a large container, layer the lettuce torn into bite size pieces on the bottom. Add celery, green bell pepper, green onions, radishes and peas. Spread the mayonnaise and then top with eggs, bacon and cheese. Cover and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours. Toss before serving.

Peggy G. Phoenix

Harkins Increases Rates but Members Still Save

Harkins Theatres

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As of January 1, Harkins Theatres tickets increased 50 cents per ticket to \$7.25 per ticket or \$72.50 for the 10 pack. Compared to the normal admission price, Farm Bureau members still save \$3 on theatre tickets. Members can order tickets at www.azfb.org. ■

Easy Raspberry Vinaigrette

Ingredients

- 2 cups of Italian dressing (not sugar added)
- ½ cup of fresh raspberries
- ¼ cup of sugar substitute

In a blender, add the Italian dressing, raspberries and the sugar substitute. Blend for a minute until smooth. Pour over your favorite lettuce mix and serve.

Lorraine W.,

Yuma

Asian Lettuce Wraps

Ingredients

- Each person can build their own fresh, delicious wrap!
- 16 Romaine or Iceberg lettuce leaves
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 Tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 large onion, chopped

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Salad *Continued from page 2*

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 tsp. Brown sugar

Rinse whole lettuce leaves and pat dry, being careful not to tear them. Set aside.

In a medium skillet over high heat, brown the ground beef in 1

tablespoon of oil, stirring often and reducing the heat to medium, if necessary. Drain, and set aside to cool. Cook the onion in the same pan, stirring frequently. Add the garlic and soy sauce to the onions, and stir. Add the green onions, brown sugar, and continue cooking until the onions just begin to wilt, about 2 minutes.

Arrange lettuce leaves around the outer edge of a large serving platter, and pile meat mixture in the center. To serve, allow each person to spoon a portion of the meat into a lettuce leaf. Wrap the lettuce around the meat like a burrito, and enjoy! ■

Misty M, Yuma

New Farm Bureau Option for Worker's Compensation

By **Kevin Rogers**, Arizona Farm Bureau President

After 42 years, the Arizona Farm Bureau has ended its contractual relationship with CopperPoint Mutual Insurance Company (formally SCF Arizona). Our relationship was an exclusive use of CopperPoint for our employer member's worker's compensation insurance needs. CopperPoint will continue to service Farm Bureau members who are insured with them and market worker's compensation within the agricultural community.

We know employers have options when it comes to protecting their workers and now there is an additional option ---



your Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

Farm Bureau Property and Casualty Insurance Company already protects farms and ranches and other commercial businesses with property and liability coverage. We are the largest writer of farm and ranch business in Arizona. As of January 1, 2016, worker's compensation coverage can be added to these other commercial protections.

If you are already commercially insured with Farm Bureau, call your agent for a quote. If you are looking for options to protect your business and employees, go to www.fbfs.com and find a Farm Bureau agent in your area or call Angel Doss at 480-635-3622.

We thank CopperPoint for the many years of partnership to protect workers and plan to continue our working together on agricultural safety. ■

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Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

Have you Taken Advantage of Farm I

By Peggy Jo Goodfellow, Ar

During a recent visit to our doctor's office, I struck up a conversation with a woman in the waiting room. We introduced ourselves and talked about what we do for a living. Turns out she is insured by a Farm Bureau Financial Services agent and is a member of Arizona Farm Bureau. I talked about the great member benefits and she said, "You mean to say that I have member benefits and discounts? Where can I find out what they are and how to use them?"

I decided right then to remind Arizona Farm Bureau members about all the great benefit discounts available to them. Not only do these benefits exist but they mean real savings to you and your family, if you use them. (They're listed below but also available on a mobile App)

Because you belong

- Farm Bureau Financial Services: access to insurance and investments
- Farm Bureau Bank: credit cards, checking, savings; vehicle and home loans
- AmeriGas: \$.05 off per gallon of propane
- Ford vehicles: \$500 rebate on new Ford cars and trucks
- Lincoln vehicles: \$750 rebate on new Lincoln vehicles
- Sears Commerical: on-line savings

- ClearValue Hearing Healthcare benefit: Up to 55% discount
- Choice Hotels: 20% discount
- Grainger: 10% discount on catalog items. Free shipping for online orders
- Wyndham Hotel Group: 20% discount
- Sea World tickets: save up to 20% on adult and child admission
- Harkins Theatre tickets: save up to \$3 per ticket
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- Knott's Berry Farm: discount tickets
- Verde Canyon Railroad: 10% discount
- Phoenix Zoo: save \$2.00 per ticket or 10% on the annual pass
- Jiffy Lube: 15% discount
- LEGOLAND: Save \$34 on adult and \$29 on child tickets
- San Diego Zoo & Safari Park: discount tickets
- Advanced Auto Service & Tire Center: 10% off at 14 locations
- Case IH: \$300 - \$500 off select equipment
- Polaris: \$200 - \$300 off utility and sport vehicles
- Avis: up to 25% discount
- Enterprise, Alamo and National car rentals: save up to 20%
- Life Line Screening: 30% off health screenings



Great Benefits for Farm Bureau Members

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Arizona Farm Bureau Federation



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- Office Depot/Office Max: 80% off online purchases
- Truly Nolan : \$35 off initial pest treatment, \$75 off initial Termite treatment
- USAPetmeds.com: 15 – 55% off pet and livestock medications & supplements
- WorkBoots.com: Save 10%
- Caterpillar: Save up to \$2,000 on equipment
- \$200 gift card from Arrowhead Harley-Davidson
- Local/Regional benefits: Over 145 discount locations offered statewide

- Two Blogs: The Voice and Fill Your Plate find and follow on azfb.org
- FillYourPlate.org: Farmers and Ranchers that sell direct to you

If you need more information, visit www.azfb.org or call 480-635-3609. ■

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 (FB Benefits) to your smart phone for easy, everyday access to your benefits.

Member Benefits on the Go!

Maximize the value of your membership with the new Farm Bureau Member Benefits App! With just a few taps you can use your current location to gain quick access to benefits designed specifically for you. Download from the App Store or Play Store today!

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Arizona Agriculture's CHOICES

New Member Benefit from Arrowhead Harley-Davidson



Member families of the Arizona Farm Bureau (AZFB) will be entitled to a \$200 Arrowhead Harley-Davidson gift card* with the purchase of a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle. This gift card cannot be applied toward the motorcycle purchase.

Offer good at the following locations:

- Arrowhead Harley-Davidson
- Chandler Harley-Davidson
- Harley-Davidson of Tucson
- Sierra Vista Harley-Davidson

For more information, visit www.azfb.org.

Tax Time Tidbits: Remember the Basics

Having the right information at hand is half the battle when doing your taxes. Whether you are completing your taxes or having them prepared below is your checklist to double check.

- Your social security number
- Your Spouse's full name and social security number
- Dates of birth and social security numbers of your children
- Childcare records (including the provider's ID number) if applicable
- Forms 1098-T and 1098-E, if you have them
- Forms W-2
- Interest, dividend income



- IRA – amount contributed for 2015
- State tax refund (1099-G)
- Forms 1098 or other mortgage statements
- Amount of state/local income tax paid
- Amount paid for preparation of your 2014 tax return
- Amounts donated to houses of worship, schools, and charitable organizations, plus records of any non-cash donations

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Go Further

*Program #3210: \$500 Bonus Cash offer exclusively for active Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee Farm Bureau members who are members of their general status. Offer is valid from 10/1/2013 through 11/30/2015 for the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2014/2015/2016 model year Ford vehicle including Hybrid and Plug-In vehicles. Incentive not available on Mustang Shelby GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Mustang Special 50th Anniversary Edition, F-150 Raptor. Offer is subject to change based on vehicle eligibility. This offer may only be used in conjunction with other Ford Motor Company private incentives or SCC. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. You must be an eligible association member for at least 30 consecutive days and must show proof of membership. Limit one \$500 Bonus Cash offer per vehicle purchase or lease per Farm Bureau member during program period. See your Ford Dealer for complete details and qualifications.



Man *Continued from page 1*

selling a Ford vehicle you could trust.

Merrell Motors is now a pleasant memory. Donald still lives in Duncan. He raises livestock on irrigated pasture where his current truck and daily companion is a 1998 Ford F-150. They have been together for 17 years and traveled more than 500,000 miles. During that time it's been proven that both man and truck are built Ford Tough. With a minimum of maintenance they just keep going.

The only question now is...where will this man and truck be now that the odometer turned to 5-0-0,-0-0-0? Will they be bringing a heifer and calf to the corral or feeding supplements? Will they be on a bumpy ranch road delivering animal AI (artificial incemination) supplies or at home checking a fence? Or will they be on the way to an Arizona Farm Bureau meeting?

Wherever it is, you can be sure that Donald will stop his trusty Ford truck and get out to take a "for posterity" picture. Then he will smile, pat the hood, get back in the driver's seat and...just keep going.

Arizona Farm Bureau members can receive \$500 off a new Ford and \$750 off Lincoln vehicles when they print out a bonus cash certificate and take it to their dealership at the time they purchase a new vehicle. ■

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Arizona Agriculture's
CHOICES

Arizona Agriculture's Top 16 in 2016
Some "truths" or facts about Arizona agriculture are quite unique to this desert state's agriculture industry. (See story inside)

