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Conversation with a Financial Guru about Agriculture's Future: Jim Manos

Perhaps with a degree of intrigue, Manos suggests agriculture manage its own food production. Exactly how is the debate.

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

Member of the Governor's Advisory Council to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) and Hickman's Family Farms Chief Financial Officer, Jim Manos is a city kid with a big heart for agriculture. And, his experience working as Controller for Shamrock Dairy and Controller and Vice President for Parker Dairy Farms in the 1980s helped shape his love of agriculture and his advocacy stance on behalf of the industry.

With a BS in Accounting from Arizona State University, Manos honed his professional experience managing a chapter 11 reorganization for a multi-state homebuilder in the early 1980s. His big take-away from that experience was to manage growth and to use good cycles to build a company's war chest for the inevitable bad cycles, something the agriculture industry knows all too well.

In addition to his work with ADA, Manos previously served as vice chair of the governing board of Central Arizona Shelter Service where he served as chairman of the audit and finance committee.

He is also a past member of the governing board of St. Joseph the Worker in addition to sitting on an advisory panel to Kyrsten Sinema when she was on President Obama's healthcare advisory board. Manos advised her on the impacts various healthcare initiatives might have on small businesses.

Manos is known for having said, "Converts have a greater appreciation for their conversion than those born into it and that is how I feel about agriculture." In this conversation article we're about to find out why he believes converts are agriculture's best advocates.

Arizona Agriculture: What's been the most pleasantly surprising aspect of working for a family farm?

Manos: I have spent most of my professional life working for family-owned com-

panies. First a homebuilder, then a dairy and now Hickman's [Family Farms]. There are similarities in the three. Owners of family businesses tend to be passionate about their companies, and that is a good thing. A good family-owned business is one in which the owners pass that enthusiasm on through to the employees. Hickman's has grown from about 110 employees to over 800 in the years since I have been here. That kind of growth makes it difficult to continue generating the owners' passion in the lowest-level employee. So, I don't think I would use the word surprising, but I do like that the Hickmans have worked hard at showing their appreciation for all employees; worked hard at making every employee feel they matter. As a company grows, that is what will make it successful. Employees are the number one component of a successful company, be it Google or Hickman's Family Farms.

Arizona Agriculture: As Chief Financial Officer for a large family farm and fully focused on commodity prices, what price horizons on commodities, especially corn, do you have to watch for? Anything you're preparing for and anticipating in 2017?

Manos: In a word, labor. We can deal with price fluctuations in our inputs such as corn. We have been doing that for years. There are so many tools available to us to limit the impact a price fluctuation in corn or soybean meal can have on us. Even such things as Director Killian's annual symposium help us in making decisions about what levels of feed inputs we need to lock and at what price points. But labor is different. Factors outside of our control play way too big a part. It just came out at the big Farm Bureau [Annual] meeting held in Phoenix in January that we have lost a lot of the immigrant labor, not to increased enforcement of our nation's immigration laws, but to the rise in Mexico's own economy. I think any agricultural operation would



Hickman's Family Farms Chief Financial Officer, Jim Manos, is a city kid with a big heart for agriculture.

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2017 Ag Fest: The Great Arizona Meet Up!

Legislation important to agriculture is also identified for us.

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director and Ana Kennedy Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

This year's Arizona Farm Bureau Legislative Agricultural Festival (Ag Fest) in January at the Arizona Department of Agriculture drew 54 Arizona Legislators. Additionally, 73 Farm Bureau member leaders were on hand to host their state senators and representatives and introduce them to agricultural products, families and issues from counties throughout Arizona. Special guests, including representatives of the various agricultural commodity groups, numbered 42 this year.

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

Connect with Your Legislators throughout the Coming Year

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

The specific bills introduced to consider in the 2017 legislative session follow. Use these bills and the issues they represent to help you dialogue with your state senators and representatives when you connect. Consider inviting them to one of your county Farm Bureau meetings.

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



This year during Ag Fest, the Rovey family loaned us their Watusi for a photo opportunity with our Arizona legislators. Here, Graham County Farm Bureau leader Jeff Larson hosts his legislator, Drew John, at Ag Fest.

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Farm to Football Winners - Page 2
Cardinals' Penny Treats Children to Exercise

Chief Administrator - Page 2
Joe Sigg

BLM Planning 2.0 Rule - Page 5
Effort to Stop it Moves Ahead

From Farm to Football Coin Drive Winners Get Penny

By Katie Aikins, Arizona Farm Bureau Ag Education Director



Arizona Cardinals Running Back, Elijahhaa Penny joined Hickman's Family Farms and Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom for an afternoon on the field with students at Trinity Lutheran School in Litchfield Park.

The winners of the *From Farm to Football Harvest for All Coin Drive* received a surprise in the form of a Penny. Arizona Cardinals Running Back, Elijahhaa Penny joined Hickman's Family Farms and Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom for an afternoon on the field with students at Trinity Lutheran School in Litchfield Park. The Trinity Tigers won this unique opportunity after Ms. Haddad's Kindergarten class raised \$565.01, the most of any of the 36 participating classrooms, through the *From Farm to Football Harvest for All Coin Drive*.

Students were rewarded for their coin collecting with 1 ½ hours of football stretches and drills with Coach Mo. Hickman Family Farms "Funky" and Cardinals "Big Red" were also in attendance cheering on students as they demonstrated their football skills in each of the 5 stations. A special Thank You to all the running backs and quarter backs -- rather volunteers -- that trained the football players and executed the plays!

The From Farm to Football program connects students with agriculture and football in an educational way to explain one of America's favorite sports and the country's most important industry, farming and ranching.

Be sure to sign-up for *From Farm to Football 2017* for your opportunity to win an event for your school! Visit www.azfb.org to complete the fillable form. 🚗

Joseph Sigg Named Chief Administrative Officer

Arizona Farm Bureau named Joseph Sigg as Chief Administrative Officer. He will spearhead oversight and direction of the 24,000-member organization representing farmers and ranchers and non-agriculture constituents.

As Government Relations Director for the organization, Sigg lobbied on behalf of Arizona Farm Bureau at both the state and federal level.

Previously, he was Deputy Director for the Arizona Department of Agriculture and has more than 25 years' experience in banking and trust, all involving agriculture and agribusiness in 30 states and abroad.

He has an M.A. in Public Administration from Ohio State University and has resided in Arizona for 25 years.

Sigg takes over this role from Jim Klinker, who had recently announced his retirement after a 40-year career with Farm Bureau.

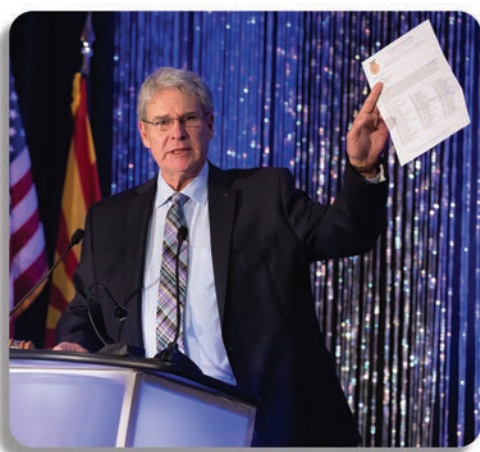
"We're pleased to have Joe at the helm," said Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers. 🚗



Sigg will spearhead oversight and direction of the 24,000-member organization representing farmers and ranchers and non-agriculture constituents.

Arizona Farm Bureau's Jim Klinker is FFA's Agriculturalist of the Year

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director



FFA's most recent Agriculturalist of the Year recipient, Jim Klinker is encouraged by the students going through the program, saying that they are our future.

Arizona FFA recently named Arizona Farm Bureau's Jim Klinker Agriculturalist of the Year. This distinguished recognition was presented to him during its inaugural Blue & Gold Gala at the end of January.

For those who know him, this recognition is very appropriate especially because of his life-long support of the FFA. "I've known Jim Klinker since 1976 when he came out to Parker and helped my parents and I move furniture into my dad's new Farm Bureau Insurance Office," explained Stephen Goucher, agent and financial advisor with Farm Bureau Financial Services. "From that day forward, Jim has dedicated his life to serving Arizona Agriculture, helping the industry survive and prosper."

Also FFA Foundation President, Goucher added, "Arizona is a better state because of Jim Klinker. Jim personifies the true spirit and meaning of this recognition as the Agriculturalist of the Year."

Part of a select list of recipients, the recognition comes to Klinker as he prepared to retire after 44 years with the Arizona Farm Bureau, most recently as its Chief Administrative Officer.

Klinker is quite optimistic about the future of the agriculture industry with the interest in applied science fostered by those students in FFA. "I know FFA is our future," he said. "We're seeing a rebirth of our industry. More young people are going into it for the science." 🚗

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be telling a lie if they said that they find the youngest of our workforce as a group that accepts dirty, manual labor. And with the rise in the minimum wage, they have alternatives. So, we need to work on how we manage that input, for labor is our second most expensive input. It will be our biggest challenge for the coming few years.

Arizona Agriculture: Compare your financial role on behalf of a farm versus your previous work for a multi-state homebuilder.

Manos: Unfortunately, I didn't have a very long run at the homebuilder during normal business times. In less than a year of my employment, the company filed Chapter 11 and I spent most of my time managing the bankruptcy. Although, it was a great experience, I had to make trips to Dallas and Houston to shut down those divisions, it didn't provide me with much in the way of a normal CFO-type experience. But being threatened with a shotgun at age 28, and with a newly pregnant wife, by an unpaid subcontractor was a great life lesson and I vowed to do everything in my power to help any company for which I worked not to get to that point again. The big take-away for me was to manage growth and to utilize good cycles to build your war chests for the inevitable bad cycles. Homebuilders, just like egg producers, are subject to good and bad cycles.

Arizona Agriculture: You've discussed the "price-taker," not "price-maker," environment of the agriculture industry and how low agriculture prices put farmers and ranchers at great risk. You advocate a bit of an unconventional solution. Can you explain?

Manos: Of everything that is produced in this country, nothing is as important as food. We can all live without 65-inch televisions or even cellphones (as much as our grandkids may deny that). But food is obviously needed to sustain life. And I would contend of all the things we need to not depend on a foreign country producing for us, food is at the top of the list. We were all concerned a few years back about being dependent on foreign sources of oil. And there is no doubt a seriousness to that. But I would rather be dependent on Mexico for oil than being dependent on Mexico for food. Not that I don't appreciate foreign trade and I really appreciate that Mexico can provide me the raspberries I mix with my Greek yogurt in the morning during the times of year they cannot be produced in our country. Foreign trade is an important part of agriculture and we should all support it. Being dependent, though, on foreign food is something different. We can be dependent on other countries for our food diversity without being dependent for our sustenance.

Many years ago, some very smart people realized this and enacted laws to protect our food supply. These protections are called subsidies, kind of a dirty word these days. And twice every decade, when new farm bills are discussed, these subsidies come under pressure. Like almost every other type of entitlement program their origins were well meaning and even effective. But like all other entitlements, they no longer are the best way to accomplish the goal of making sure the people of this country can feed their families.

One of the problems with farm subsidies is that they are not uniform across all agriculture. Eggs, for example, receive no government support whatsoever.

My suggestion is to let agriculture manage its own food production. It is advantageous to the general populace for us to over produce. Not because it drives prices down

but because it assures there will be adequate food available if Mother Nature throws us a curveball. Take what happened with eggs during 2015 for example. We had plenty of chickens and plenty of eggs until the Avian Flu hit and wiped out over 35 million laying hens. All of a sudden, eggs were in short supply. Had we not been at overcapacity just a couple of months previously, you would not have been able to buy eggs at your neighborhood Basha's. It would have been like the gas lines of the early 1970s.

The problem, though, with being over produced is that in years when something like AI doesn't hit, the farmers are left to sell their commodity at below cost. The cost of guaranteeing that every person has access to inexpensive food falls on the shoulders of the American farmer. My solution is simple albeit somewhat controversial. Let the farmers manage their supply. That means that we let industry groups talk about production levels without fears of price-fixing lawsuits. I am not suggesting that we should be able to talk about what prices we charge or set standard prices for our goods but I am suggesting we be allowed to discuss production levels. We could then eliminate all subsidies and live or die as the results of our own devices, not because the American taxpayer bails us out. I am a firm believer in making people responsible for their own success or failure. Doing so in agriculture means our hands have to be untied and we must be allowed to manage our own production levels.

Arizona Agriculture: You've said, "Converts have a greater appreciation for their conversion than those born into it and that is how I feel about agriculture." Talk about this a bit more.

Manos: My maternal grandfather was a convert to Catholicism and one of the best Catholics I have ever known. To this day, he serves as an inspiration to me. I think when we adopt a belief or religion or in my case, an industry that we didn't grow up with, we see the good things in it that others may take for granted. There is an inherent "goodness" about most people who work in agriculture that I didn't see in other industries. We tend to care more about others in our own industry. We see the importance of food and thus, we give freely to organizations who help provide it to those who are food insecure. Most contracts are sealed not with a signature but a handshake. And the most important thing for me, we are feeding children, we are feeding the elderly and we are providing a cheap commodity that even those economically challenged can afford. Not to demean CPAs but when I worked for a CPA firm and went home at night, I could make no argument that I helped make the world a better place. Providing eggs, I am proud I am doing a little bit to that end.

Arizona Agriculture: USDA claims that agriculture will generate 50,000 new jobs in Agriculture every year through 2020. What should interested students start preparing for now?

Manos: One of the topics of frequent discussion between Director Killian and me is that we need to get the word out that a job in agriculture does not mean learning to drive a tractor, or how to pick lettuce or how to milk a cow. These are all great and important jobs but probably not that attractive to a college student. But there is so much more to agriculture now. We need people to fill positions such as mine, good finance people with an interest in doing something constructive with their degree. We need Ag

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Effort to Stop BLM Planning 2.0 Rule Moving Ahead

By Ana Kennedy Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.J. Res 44 to overturn the BLM's Planning 2.0 rule. Good news for our farm and ranch families. Now the bill goes before the Senate.

The Arizona Farm Bureau voiced its concerns about this rule during the federal commenting period last year and opposed the final rule that was promulgated this past December. Arizona Farm Bureau is carefully watching H.J. Res 44 move through Congress.

As written, Planning 2.0 rule would result in the loss of local and state control and dilute the input and authority of cooperating agencies. Furthermore, it ignores the statutory requirements that federal lands be managed for multiple use. During the debate on H.J. Res 44, Rep. Paul Gosar cited additional concerns from Farm Bureau, noting "[Farm Bureau is] concerned that the Planning 2.0 rule will diminish the statutory requirements of multiple-use and dismantle the cooperative ideals of Federalism...BLM Planning 2.0 lacked appropriate input and open and honest evaluation of the costs and impacts of the rulemaking. BLM did not fully evaluate the impacts on consumers, public lands-dependent ranching families, energy, mining, recreation, and rural communities across the American West."

Only four Democrats voted in favor of H.J. Res 44, and we appreciate that one of them was from Arizona, Representative Kyrsten Sinema. Also supporting the measure from Arizona's Congressional delegation were Representatives Andy Biggs, Trent Franks, Paul Gosar, Martha McSally, and David Schweikert.

H.J. Res 44 now moves onto the Senate for further consideration. 🚗



As written, the BLM's Planning 2.0 rule would result in the loss of local and state control and dilute the input and authority of cooperating agencies.

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economists to be bankers and to help us advocate to governments. We need programmers and engineers to program and design robotic solutions to our labor problems. We need law students to put an emphasis on agriculture and the unique legal issues we have. And we need people who have a fundamental knowledge of, and an appreciation for, agriculture to run for public office. The opportunities in agriculture are as varied as the groups from which we need to solicit interest.

Arizona Agriculture: You're a strong advocate for getting more youth involved in this industry earlier. You've mentioned that we don't see enough young people at our industry gatherings. Expand on this point.

Manos: If I could impact any area of agriculture, this would be my choice. It is a simple question with complex answers. The first thing we need to do, and to start at a very early age, is to teach kids from where food comes. And to do so, we need to get help from people who have no connection to agriculture themselves. Too often, we design the lessons we want teachers to use and we always do so from our own perspective. I am a member of a family of teachers. And they are really good at figuring out how to teach a subject. I may know how to read but I could not more teach a 6 year old first grader how to do so then I could fly to the moon. My wife on the other hand, has taught hundreds of kids to read. We need to give teachers an incentive to teach about agriculture and help them with facts and then, stay out of the way. Let them figure out how to teach it. Provide funds, they surely don't have any, and support but not lesson plans. Next, we need to start exposing older kids to the opportunities that exist in agriculture. As my answer to the question above hints at, there are more types of jobs than most people know. We need to reach out to high school and college students and bring them to industry meetings. We need to be active on college campuses and to offer internships. The banking industry recognized a while ago that hiring interns was the best way to fill the ever increasing vacancies for sharp minds. My final suggestion is probably the most difficult for the owners of family farms. We need to let go of the reigns a bit. When you have grown up in a family farm, when it is all you have known and when your name is on the door, it is difficult to give up any control. Even if you are someone like me who has been in a position of authority inside a family company for so long, it is difficult to allow someone to come in and make any type of substantive decision. But as parents we all know that the only way to raise independent kids is to allow them to make some decisions on their own and to make a few failed decisions as well. The same holds true for family owned businesses. As we grow, we have to empower others to help us manage. And the best and brightest require not just a good wage but they want to feel that their roles are important. To accomplish this, we have to turn over some of the important decisions. As the father of four adults, I use raising kids as a template for raising good employees. When you are raising kids, there is a fine line between letting them make their own decisions and keeping them safe. You may start by letting them dress themselves. You may step in only if they are not dressed appropriately for the weather but look past if their outfit matches. We need to "raise" good managers the same way. If their approach is different but their effect is the same, we must accept that. I catch myself every time I start to say, "Well, I wouldn't do it that way." I have to think and make sure that I am protecting them from the cold not from the embarrassment of having an outfit that doesn't match. The best and brightest will gravitate to the companies who let them dress themselves.

Arizona Agriculture: Farm families struggle with succession planning and perhaps one of the reasons we might see the next generation locked out of the engagement. From your perspective, what could families be doing to improve their family's succession plan?

Manos: I think the answer to this lies in the answer to number seven above. Kids must know that they will be allowed to live outside their parents' shadow and to make a mistake or two and to do things their own way.

Arizona Agriculture: What do we, in the agriculture community, need to be better at for continued success?

Manos: One of the most important changes I would like to see in agriculture would be more cooperation between the different elements of agriculture. We may produce eggs and you may produce hay and you may be a lobbyist for the dairy industry but we all have an interest in emphasizing to the general populace the importance of agriculture. And more importantly, it is important that we speak with a united voice to our elected officials. In the end, we all make our livings from producing food. That gives us a common goal and should forge a partnership. Too often I see groups think they can improve their lot only by diminishing some others. That is why groups like the Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture are important. They speak for us all, even when we have a hard time speaking for each other. 🚗

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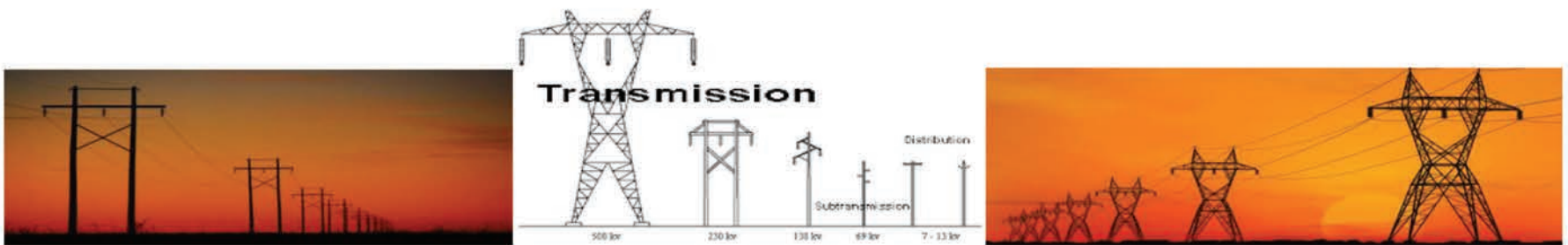
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Bills Impacting Arizona Agriculture

KEY


— Monitoring  Farm Bureau Opposes  Farm Bureau Supports

Animal Bills:

HB2242: animal cruelty; domestic animals; classification


The list of acts constituting cruelty to animals is expanded to include intentionally or knowingly subjecting a “domestic animal” (defined) to cruel mistreatment and intentionally or knowingly killing a domestic animal without either legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal’s owner or handler. Cruelty to animals under these circumstances is a class 5 (second-lowest) felony. **Oppose** 

SB 1182: G&F; protected species; taking prohibition

It is unlawful for a person to knowingly take a “protected felid” (defined as any bobcat, Canada lynx, jaguar, mountain lion or ocelot). Some exceptions, including for a livestock operator who has had livestock attacked or killed by the protected felid if the livestock operator takes a list of specified steps prior to the taking. The civil penalty for unlawfully taking a protected felid is \$8,000. **Oppose** 

Appropriations Bills:

HB 2253: state veterinarian; animal identification; appropriation

The Department of Agriculture is prohibited from submitting to the federal government any premises registration data, animal identification or tracking data, producer information or other information relating to animal identification unless the submission is either required by state law or authorized by a voluntary participant in the national animal identification system. Appropriates \$217,976 and 4 FTE positions from the general fund in FY2017-18 to the Department of Agriculture for the State Veterinarian. **Support** 


Boards and Councils Bills:

HB 2105: state fair board; continuation


The statutory life of the Arizona Exposition and State Fair Board is extended eight years to July 1, 2025. Retroactive to July 1, 2017. **Support** 

Senate Concurrent Memorial – which urge Congress or a Federal Agency to act

SCR 1019: BLM planning 2.0 rule; opposition

The members of the Legislature oppose the Bureau of Land Management’s Planning 2.0 rule. **Support** 


SCM 1001: critical habitat; expansion; urging repeal

The Legislature urges the U.S. President and U.S. Congress to repeal the final rules expanding the definition of “critical habitat” for purposes of the federal Endangered Species Act. **Support** 


SCM 1009: urging delisting of gray wolf

The Legislature urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. **Support** 


SCM 1010: urging BLM; travel management plans

The Legislature urges the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to coordinate and consult with all affected stakeholders in affected areas in the development of Travel Management Plans affecting Arizona. **Support**. 

SCM 1011: antiquities act; monuments; urging Congress

The Legislature urges the U.S. Congress to protect local economies and preserve local customs and cultures by repealing or amending the Antiquities Act to require congressional, state, county and local approval in order to designate a national monument. **Support** 

SCM 1002: division; ninth circuit; urging Congress


The Legislature urges the U.S. Congress to take action to divide the Ninth Circuit into two circuits by enacting HR 250 or other similar legislation. **Support** 

Tax Bills

HB 2325: property tax assessment of greenhouses


“Greenhouses” that are used for growing and processing vegetables, fruit or citrus and that total at least 100,000 square feet in area must be valued and assessed as agricultural tangible personal property for property tax purposes. **Neutral** —

HB 2366: agricultural land; fallowing; property tax


In a county with a population of less than 400,000 persons, when classifying property as used for agricultural purposes for property tax purposes, a temporary reduction or transfer of the available water supply or irrigation district water allotments (which allows agricultural property to be inactive or partially inactive and keep the agricultural classification) must be verified by an official certification from the irrigation district to the county assessor that confirms the reduction or transfer. **Support** 


Water Bills

SB 1280: groundwater; extinguishment credits; Pinal AMA

The Department of Water Resources is prohibited from adopting or implementing any administrative rule in the Pinal Active Management Area that reduces the amount or quantity of credits for the extinguishment of irrigation grandfathered rights. **Support** 

SB 1412: surface water; adjudication sequence

For the purpose of adjudication of water rights, a sequential order of claims is established: first, claims based on federal law; second, claims that are not based on federal law and that do not make “small water use claims” (defined); and third, small water use claims. **Support** 

Since the first regular session of the Fifty-third Arizona Legislature is in full swing, Arizona Farm Bureau wants to make a way for you to easily track the bills. The list is also available at the following link: <https://www.azfb.org/Public-Policy/Action-Center>. Click on “View key legislation” to find the bill you want to track and more information will be provided regarding recent action on the bill. You can also access the bill tracker at www.azfb.org under the Public Policy section. 



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Environmental Attorney to Farmers: Fight for Your Rights

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

When government agencies have the power to write, enforce and interpret the law, private citizens are disadvantaged and the government always wins, said Anthony Francois, senior staff attorney, environmental and property rights law for Pacific Legal Foundation.

In a workshop at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2017 Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show earlier this year, Francois discussed forces that are making government so different from what it was intended to be, and what can be done to return it to its original design.

"The purpose of the government's founding documents was generally to protect freedom," Francois said, "and yet a lot of people don't get that customer service experience."

Constitutional law, separation of powers, limited powers and due process, which Francois calls the "elements of freedom," are the main areas where government has lost sight of the design.

"For the government to follow the law, it can't be its own judge in that," Francois said. "And it can't simply re-write the law in order to say it followed it."

Francois explained how the "four Ds" – division, delegation, deference and due process – have created an "administrative state" in which agencies have in many ways become the government. And in some cases, one junior staffer within an agency can overrule a judge in a legal proceeding.

Division, or the separation of powers in the Constitution, assures that no one branch of government has absolute power. When division is ceded, agencies become the "bully on the playground" who always wins, Francois said. Delegation, in which Congress surrenders lawmaking power to agencies, concentrates power in those agencies. Deference, in which courts accept agencies' interpretations of the law, means that by rule agencies always win. Finally, when citizens are deprived of due process, they have no access to government information or decisions, no ability to make their own case, and the government ceases to be a neutral decision-maker by eliminating the burden of proof on federal agencies.

"The Obama Administration chose to bypass the hard work of governing through

our system of checks and balances and take what appeared to be a short cut to a partisan agenda," said Arizona Farm Bureau First Vice President Stefanie Smallhouse. "Not only were many of his administrative actions illegal, but will have essentially been a waste of time, energy and money for both sides of the issue when they are walked back by the new administration or our courts."

This concentration of government power can have devastating results for farmers and ranchers.

Referencing the case of California farmer John Duarte, which the American Farm Bureau has championed, Francois described "a half-baked, drive-by investigation of a 450-acre field, surveilled for a total of 30 minutes from a pickup truck on the road, from which you cannot see the whole field, which concluded, falsely, that all 450 acres had been plowed three-feet deep, permanently destroying three dozen acres of wetlands."

Added Arizona Farm Bureau's Smallhouse, "The Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts had to be passed by a bipartisan body after months of negotiation, fact finding, and deliberation. These are not resources to manage via political whim. We have this system for a reason.

"When the Endangered Species Act states in order for habitat to be considered as critical the species must have actually existed there and relied upon it for survival, and when the Clean Water Act states that regulated waters of the U.S. must be navigable it's pretty clear what that all means. Yet, political appointees of the previous administration twisted the language of these Acts to the point where dry washes are considered navigable, field furrows are mountains and valleys and everywhere has the potential to be habitat for any species whether it or the habitat ever existed there or not. At best it's ridiculous and at worst its abuse of power over our freedoms."

Francois said everyone should be aware of these issues and encourage their neighbors to stand up and keep fighting, because this is a long-term process. "If everyone who was entitled to a due process hearing before an administrative agency demanded one, all work of all administrative agencies would grind to a halt. So, if you're looking for a way to 'fight the machine,' if you have an opportunity for a hearing, demand it." 🗣️

Scholarships

By Amber Morin, Arizona Farm Bureau Field Manager

Paying for college can be cumbersome for many students, and student debt is a burden that many parents do **not** want their children saddled with. Arizona's county Farm Bureaus understand this and are here to help!



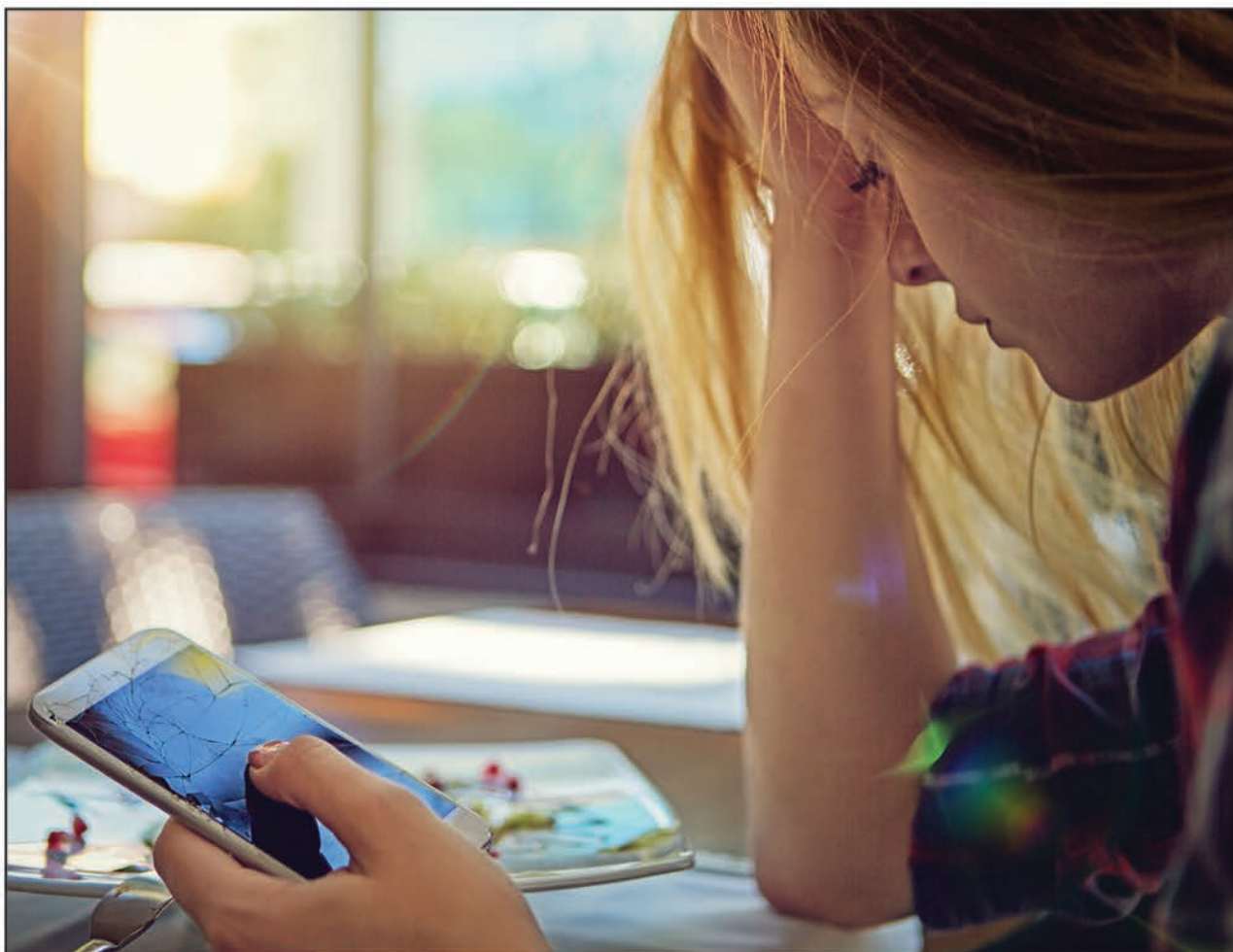
Local county Farm Bureaus from across Arizona provide financial support to students pursuing agricultural related degrees and career paths. The goal being to invest in the future of agriculture – you, the students!

Go to azfb.org for upcoming scholarship opportunities. Select Programs in the top menu and then select "Scholarships" in the bar down the left side. Plus, find below a **list in chronological order of their deadlines.**

1. Pinal County Farm Bureau – March 1, 2017
2. Mohave County Farm Bureau – March 31 & November 1, 2017
3. La Paz County Farm Bureau – April 1, 2017
4. Pima County Farm Bureau – April 30, 2017
5. Maricopa County Farm Bureau – May 1, 2017
6. Yuma County Farm Bureau – May 1, 2017
7. Cochise County Farm Bureau – June 1, 2017
8. Coconino County Farm Bureau – August 1, 2017

Our Farm Bureau counties are always providing opportunities for students and scholarships is one way to make a difference in our futures. 🗣️

Editor's Note: Applications are being updated regularly, if the application you are looking at is from 2016, please check this site again soon.



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