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Conversation with a Trade Specialist: David Salmonsens

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

David Salmonsens is currently senior director of governmental relations with the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) office in Washington, D.C. As a member of the International and Agriculture Policy Team his responsibilities include trade negotiations along with being the principal Washington contact for several Northeastern State Farm Bureaus.

Prior to joining the American Farm Bureau in 1996, Salmonsens was Assistant to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. He was also Senior Director of Governmental Relations with the New York Farm Bureau.

David grew up on a dairy and vegetable farm in Manlius, New York. He graduated from the University at Albany and from the Washington College of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the American Agricultural Law Association and is admitted to the bar in New York. He serves as the American Farm Bureau liaison to the President's Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany. He was a member of Class V of the LEAD-NY program.

In February, while attending AFBF's FUSION conference as a speaker, I slipped into the workshop on trade that David Salmonsens was leading. Listening to his keen insights on the topic and knowing that trade is one of Arizona Farm Bureau's priority issues, I decided to ask Salmonsens to participate in our conversation series. Here's what he had to say about trade and the coming months under the new administration.

Arizona Agriculture: Give an overview of why trade is so critical to American agriculture.

Salmonsens: U.S. agricultural exports have grown from a value of \$50 billion in 2000 to over \$132 billion in 2016. Soybeans are 16 percent of the value of agricultural exports; red meats are 10 percent; corn is seven percent; tree nuts are 6 percent, wheat is



Senior Director of Governmental Relations for American Farm Bureau, David Salmonsens, says both bilateral and multilateral trade agreements have worked for U.S. agriculture. Under the new administration, we may see more bilateral than multilateral agreements.

5 percent; vegetables are 5 percent; fruit is 4.5 percent; poultry is 4 percent and cotton is 3 percent. As a share of U.S. production that is exported, cotton leads the list of export-dependent crops with over 75 percent of U.S. produced cotton exported. Many other U.S. crops also depend on foreign markets such as tree nuts with 70 percent exported; wheat with 47 percent; soybeans at 46 percent; rice at 35 percent; pork at 22 percent; corn with 11.5 percent of production exported and beef at 10 percent. Soybeans and meats have consistently improved their export growth over the last decade.

Arizona Agriculture: With Trump abandoning the Trans-Pacific Partnership, how does American Farm Bureau pivot to this new trade environment?

Salmonsens: The U.S. formally withdrew from the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) on January 30, 2017. This action leads us to encourage the Trump Administration to secure the gains of the TPP in market access and improved standards through bilateral agreements, especially with Japan. There are planned discussions between the U.S. and Japan on trade, which have the potential to lead to a negotiation. Most of the \$5.3 billion annually in expanded agricultural exports through TPP were with Japan. Vietnam and Malaysia are also in the TPP and are significant markets that should be considered for trade agreements.

Arizona Agriculture: In your presentation during February's FUSION conference, you mentioned a new environment of bilateral agreements instead of multilateral. Is there any historical precedent that suggests one approach is more successful than another and what opportunities can American agriculture extract from this new trade environment?

Salmonsens: Both approaches have been successful for U.S. agriculture. The North

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Form I-9 Refresher: The 5 Most Important Things to Remember with Your Employees

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

As 2017 speeds by and a new administration settles in at the White House, it's time to review your employee records and make sure everything is in order, certainly with your I-9 Forms.

Expert counsel suggests employers have taken notice of the current environment and should take steps to prepare for heightened scrutiny of their employment practices. Keep in mind that worksite raids, visits and Form I-9 investigations are part of what's in the government's arsenal to review employee records.

These five reminders will help keep your employee-management house in order.

1. Employers Must Use Form I-9 dated November 14, 2016. Beginning January 22, 2017, employers must use the 11/14/2016 N version of Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification, to verify the identity and work eligibility of every new employee hired, or for the reverification of expiring employment authorization of current employees (if applicable). This date is found

on the lower left hand corner of the form. Prior versions of the form will no longer be valid for use. Employers who fail to use Form I-9 (11/14/2016 N) on or after Jan. 22, 2017 may be subject to all applicable penalties under section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, as enforced by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Go to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website to download the latest form: uscis.gov.



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I'm An Environmentalist

Arizona Farm Bureau's Terisha Driggs McKeighen Graduates from PAL

Staff Reports

Arizona Farm Bureau's Terisha Driggs McKeighen, along with eight other outstanding young farm and ranch leaders were honored in February by the American Farm Bureau Federation as graduates of the organization's Eighth Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) class. Terisha and the other young agricultural leaders were recognized during American Farm Bureau's (AFBF) Advocacy Conference. PAL provides advanced training to the organization's rising stars, with the goal of developing powerful advocates for agriculture and cultivating leaders who can help Farm Bureau advance its policy goals.

"The PAL program has been an amazing experience and I can't wait to use my new advocacy skills to promote agriculture," said Driggs McKeighen, an attorney who has also just recently started a farm business with her husband, Brian, in southern Arizona.

"I am proud of the work that PAL graduates put into this program," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "They understand that farmers and ranchers need to keep telling our stories if we want to be at the heart of shaping policies that affect our farms and our nation's food security."

Other graduates of PAL Class 8 include: Jeremy Barron, Indiana; Jennifer Bergin, Montana; Emily Buck, Ohio; Cameron Edwards, Kentucky; Brian Marshall, Missouri; Chris Pollack, Wisconsin; Derek Sawyer, Kansas; and Julie White, Mississippi.

PAL training involves four learning modules designed to develop specific leadership skills while exploring components of leadership and its theories and philosophies. The modules build on one another over the two years of the program and include intense, in-person, hands-on training.

The PAL program is sponsored by AFBF, Farm Credit and Monsanto Company.

To be eligible for the PAL program, applicants must be between the ages of 30 and 45, with demonstrated leadership skills. 🚗



Terisha Driggs McKeighen graduated from American Farm Bureau's Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) with eight other young farm and rancher leaders from around the country. Presenting her with the PAL, Class 8 recognition were American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall (left) and Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers.

Guess What Farm and Ranch Country is Saying about Trump's Action on WOTUS

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

Well, you certainly can guess that farm and ranch country is cheering President Donald J. Trump and newly-appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for the recent action to reverse the Environmental Protection Agency's previous effort to overregulate our waterways.

For a little background, President Trump in February signed an executive order aimed at rolling back one of former President Barack Obama's major environmental regulations, the clean water rule known as Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

Said the President after signing the executive order, "The EPA's so-called "Waters of the United States" rule is one of the worst examples of federal regulation, and it has truly run amok, and is one of the rules most strongly opposed by farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers all across our land. It's prohibiting them from being allowed to do what they're supposed to be doing. The Clean Water Act says that the EPA can regulate "navigable waters" -- meaning waters that truly affect interstate commerce. But a few years ago, the EPA decided that "navigable waters" can mean nearly every puddle or every ditch on a farmer's land, or anyplace else that they decide -- right? It was a massive power grab. The EPA's regulators were putting people out of jobs by the hundreds of thousands, and regulations and permits started treating our wonderful small farmers and small businesses as if they were a major industrial polluter. They treated them horribly."

The flawed WOTUS rule has proven to be nothing more than a federal land grab, aimed at telling farmers and ranchers how to run their businesses. Photo courtesy of Yuma Farmer, Jonathan Dinsmore.

moment of celebration for all the tough lobbying efforts to protect their land, agriculture and a way of life.

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Arizona Agriculture's High Quality Durum Wheat has Global Celebrity Status

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

True, Arizona celebrates the revival of our heritage wheat varieties, but did you know that Arizona grows prized Desert Durum wheat for its gluten strength, something we've been doing for decades. And, the international markets love our Arizona wheat.

The state has been a major supplier of wheat for Italian pasta makers since the 1980s, often considered one of Arizona's grain industry's biggest success stories but



Arizona has been a major supplier of wheat for Italian pasta makers since the 1980s, often considered one of Arizona's grain industry's biggest success stories.

also our biggest secret. In 2015, there were as many as 150,000 acres grown with a production of 15 million bushels, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Services. However, last year's crop was only 90,000 acres.

Grown in Arizona and California's Imperial Valley, Desert Durum is highly prized for its gluten strength and yellow color.

And wheat, certainly Desert Durum, has quite an impact on Arizona's economy. According to the USDA, Arizona wheat brings in anywhere from \$50 million to \$60 million to the state. According to Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council, the Desert Durum crop from Arizona and southern California averages an annual export rate of about 50%. In 2013, according to USDA Marketing reports, the export percentage was 46. In 2014, it was 52% and in 2015, it was 55%.

The certification mark issued by the U.S. Patent and Trade office for the Desert Durum variety must be grown under irrigation in the low deserts of Arizona and California and must be comprised of at least 90% of a lot to be classified with the Desert Durum label. One reason for this important patent recognition is that the low desert allows growers to produce year after year, field after field, a consistent quality product, unlike, for example North Dakota, that is often hindered due to weather challenges for producing a consistent quality wheat.

Users of the Desert Durum term must obtain permission to do so from the Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council and the California Wheat Commission.

Durum wheat is considered the hardest wheat, making it ideal for milling into semolina to make pasta shapes. And Arizona Desert Durum also has the lowest moisture content at 7% compared to other durum wheat from other parts of the country. The lower moisture content and large uniform kernels yield higher semolina extraction rates than durums from other regions results in shipping less water.

Although Italy is the top importer of Desert Durum, the wheat is also exported to countries including Spain, Morocco and Nigeria. Some of the wheat does stay local, going to the TreeHouse Foods' (formerly American Italian Pasta Company) plant in Tolleson, Arizona.

Wheat other than Durum that Arizona grows is estimated in the 7,000-acre range with production of 600,000 to 700,000 bushels. 🚗

Salmonsens continued from page 1

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among the U.S., Mexico and Canada was implemented on January 1, 1994. For U.S. agriculture, exports to Canada and Mexico have increased from \$8 billion in 1993 to \$38 billion in 2016. Mexico has removed all tariffs on U.S. agricultural imports. Canada, except for the supply managed dairy and poultry sectors, is also tariff free. The removal of these barriers has resulted in the increase of trade among the three countries. We also have increased agricultural trade with bilateral agreement partners such as Australia, South Korea and Colombia. An advantage of a multilateral agreement is that changes in trade rules will apply to more countries once the agreement is approved.

Arizona Agriculture: So much of Arizona's agriculture is exported, especially our cotton. So, obviously trade is important to our state along with the rest of the country's agriculture. If American agriculture doesn't get the trade agreements it needs to move product, what can we expect to see in the near future?

Salmonsens: U.S. agriculture wants to preserve the gains it has achieved in trade agreements so that any renegotiations cannot result in the imposition of new tariffs against our products. We are in competition with other countries for access to markets. For example, Australia already has a preferential deal with Japan on beef that grants them a lower tariff than what the U.S. beef exporter has to pay. Not keeping up with the competition means that we lose market share and this results in lower prices for U.S. producers.

Arizona Agriculture: Despite current challenges to trade policy, what can we get really excited about?

Salmonsens: Even though the U.S. has withdrawn from the TPP, there is strong growth in Asian/Pacific markets, leading with China. A continued commitment to removing trade barriers that these countries have against U.S. agriculture will result in strong future market opportunities.

Arizona Agriculture: Aside from the obvious grassroots lobbying of our states' congressional delegation, what can Farm Bureau members do to keep trade front and center in everyone's mind?

Salmonsens: Congress and the Administration have the leadership on trade policy. Let's remember that both respond to public opinion. Farm Bureau members need to share the benefits of trade to agriculture and to other sectors of our economy, with policymakers in government and with the public. Trade education is necessary more than ever. It is critical to the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers that the U.S. support efforts to expand market opportunities around the world.

Arizona Agriculture: What else regarding trade should we be mindful of in this current environment?

Salmonsens: With over 22 percent of farm income coming from trade, and with the capacity for growth, continued and growing trade is critical to agriculture's economic future.

We also need to make the point that efforts to help a specific industry sector through protection can rebound by retaliation by a trading partner against another economic sector. The sector that is the target of retaliation is often agriculture. 🚗



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What Our Farmers and Ranchers Said

• “President Trump’s executive order to ditch the Waters of the U.S. rule is a welcome relief to farmers and ranchers across the country,” said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. “The flawed WOTUS rule has proven to be nothing more than a federal land grab, aimed at telling farmers and ranchers how to run their businesses. The Environmental Protection Agency failed to listen to farmers’ and ranchers’ concerns when drafting the rule and instead created widespread confusion for agriculture. Under the rule, the smallest pond or ditch could be declared a federal waterway.

“Farmers and ranchers have been calling for a common-sense approach to regulatory reform, and today the Trump administration responded to that call. EPA has too long been characterized by regulatory overreach that disregards the positive conservation efforts of farmers and threatens their very way of life. Today’s action is as much a beginning as an end, and there is much work to do to ensure that any revised rule is transparent and fair for America’s farmers and ranchers.”

• “This is great news from the White House,” said Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers, currently in Washington D.C. for Farm Bureau business. “Arizona farmers and ranchers are relieved that random rain water is now not a water of the U.S. and the EPA must stand down. I thank the President for following through with his pledge to reduce government regulations.”

• Arizona Farm Bureau’s First Vice President Stefanie Smallhouse added pausing

long enough from working with other leaders on trying to reform the Endangered Species Act during a trip to Denver, “The President rescinding the WOTUS rule is not about an attack on water quality as some radicals will say, but about the recognition that this rule was an egregious act of power abuse of the federal government. This is a win for the ‘little guy’ in the classic bully scenario. This will allow for local and state governments as well as industry, to start again with a voice of reason and practicality. This was not permitted before.”

• And, Arizona Farm Bureau’s Young Farmer and Rancher Chair Cassie Lyman posted this on Facebook: “Trump just signed an executive order repealing #WOTUS (Waters of the U.S.) EPA ruling. Eliminated over burdensome, unnecessary regulation that would affect all of us not just Farmers and Ranchers! A win for agriculture and a win for our food supply!”

Now let’s hope our president get this trade thing right. American agriculture depends on global trade and the agriculture that moves in Arizona to other parts of the world is no exception. See the Conversation article on page one of this issue about trade.

Work now begins at redrafting an EPA rule that works for all Americans. American Farm Bureau and Arizona Farm Bureau are asking Farm Bureau leaders to consider writing editorial to their local paper on the issue. Additionally, Farm Bureau is poised to participate in future comment periods related to create a fair and equitable rule for all. 🐾

Arizona Farm Bureau Directors Looking Forward to Helping Forge a Bright Future

Staff Reports

Arizona Farm Bureau announces changes in director-level positions: government relations, communication & organization and agriculture education. This rollout of new people and structure under the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Joe Sigg, is meant to move the organization forward and continue positioning Arizona Farm Bureau as a leading advocate for Arizona agriculture.

Said CAO Sigg, “Chelsea McGuire, Julie Murphree and Katie Aikins are individuals shaped by agriculture.”

Government Relations Director

Attorney and Arizona-native Chelsea McGuire joins Arizona Farm Bureau as the new Government Relations Director, replacing Joseph Sigg who now serves as Arizona Farm Bureau’s Chief Administrative Officer. In her role, McGuire will lead all government relations and policy functions.

Born and raised on her family’s farm in Pinal County, McGuire’s hands-on experience raising county fair



Directors of Agriculture Education, Communication & Organization and Agriculture Education, Katie Aikins (Left), Julie Murphree and Chelsea McGuire intend to help successfully drive the key programming of Arizona Farm Bureau.

animals to operating her own small farm helped ignite a passion for the food and fiber industry.

After graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor’s degree in Agribusiness Economics, McGuire obtained her law degree from Regent University School of Law. After passing the Arizona Bar Exam, McGuire has spent the last three years clerking on the Arizona Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona.

“It is with immense gratitude and excitement that I join the Arizona Farm Bureau government relations team,” said McGuire. “Advocating for Arizona agriculture is both a privilege and a great responsibility, and I look forward to helping ensure that key decision makers hear our industry’s voice.”

Communication and Organization Director

In December, Julie Murphree had Organization added to her plate and is now Communication and Organization Director for Arizona Farm Bureau. In her expanded role, Murphree spearheads all outreach for the organization including

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supporting Farm Bureau county leadership. This includes creating programs that support and help grow the county Farm Bureau structure.

Prior to Farm Bureau, as president of Julie Murphree LLC, Murphree supported several clients with their content development, public relations and marketing requirements.

Earlier, as vice president of AberdeenAccess for the Boston-based research firm Aberdeen, Murphree developed a digital-based outreach platform on behalf of the firm's customers. Having extensive experience in facilitative management, she managed, coordinated and drove a national peer-to-peer community of executive-level professionals on behalf of the purchasing and supply chain management profession. Murphree holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Arizona State University in addition to an executive management certificate in strategic sourcing and supply chain management from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A native of Arizona, Murphree grew up on a cotton and alfalfa farm, also in Pinal County. She partnered with her family in farming through 2005. She is Project CENTRAL Alum, Class VII.

"Our people are our most important asset to this advocacy organization," said Murphree. "I have a passion for supporting our Farm Bureau farm and ranch leaders and all stakeholders, including those representing the general public. In fact, communication and organization are a great fit as it is all about outreach and serving others. I also have a passion for creating high-performing teams, and with the right fundamentals in place for individuals to grow, this can happen."

Agriculture Education Director

Also in December, Katie Aikins was promoted to Director of Agriculture Education. In this role, Aikins performs the educational functions of the Farm Bureau that contributes to an increase in agriculture awareness in the K-12 classroom and beyond. This includes the development of new curriculum and programs that engage the public on hot-button issues in agriculture. Having always specialized in agricultural education, Aikins last worked as the Director of Agriculture in the Classroom and Public Relations for the Cook County Farm Bureau.

Aikins holds a Master's of Science in Agricultural Education from the University of Arizona. She has worked in both the classroom and research side of agricultural literacy. Her Thesis Project entitled "The Academic Impact of Summer Ag Institute on Test Scores of 3rd and 5th Grade Students in the Gilbert Unified School District," allowed Aikins to work with teachers and discover what is important when selecting curriculum to use in their classrooms.

Also a native of Arizona, Aikins grew up in Gilbert in the equine industry.

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue to grow Arizona Farm Bureau's AITC Program through development of new programs and materials that will provide consumers with accurate information about where their food is coming from and show them the care that is put into providing their families with quality food and fiber." Said Aikins. "Consumers are inundated with information about their food. They are told what to think. We want to show them and let them make their own decisions." 🚗

You Should Know, I'm an Environmentalist

By Stefanie Smallhouse, Southern Arizona rancher and Arizona Farm Bureau's First Vice President

My husband, Andy, was taken aback not long ago when a customer opened up a friendly discussion with, "You should know, I'm an environmentalist." An assertion Andy had heard many times but at this moment made him think, "Well okay that's fine and good but what does that make me?" Later that day, standing in our kitchen, Andy repeated the statement to me and said, "What does that even mean?"



Stefanie Smallhouse suggests all ranchers should start introducing themselves as environmentalists, after all that is their life's work.

So, I too wondered, what does such a declaration mean? It rolls off the tongue so easily. This proclamation, I can only guess, is made to garner respect as an expert on the environment, earn kudos for a certain environmental "consciousness" or perhaps just fire a warning shot to pre-empt differing opinions.

When Andy introduces himself as "a rancher," it's because he wakes up every morning and goes about doing all of the work essential to care for our cattle and provide food to others. This requires quite a bit of attention to the environment. Decisions that involve vegetation, soil and water management. Five generations of ranchers in this family managing the same resources do not happen without proper consideration of our environment.

When the farmers I know introduce themselves as farmers, it's because their life is about the work of growing food and fiber. Balancing the needs of the crop with that of the soil. Consideration of water use and chemical applications. Certainly, these farms and ranches serve as an outdoor classroom where the growers are students of the environment with years of experience. The lessons learned will ensure enough food and fiber to be grown on less land with fewer resources for future generations.

When a plant geneticist introduces themselves as a scientist, it's because they spend their days investigating new biotechnologies to develop drought-tolerant seed varieties, genetically modified (GM) corn and cotton grown with the use of fewer pesticides and plants which provide greater nutrients in third world countries. Certainly, this work is actively addressing environmental concerns.

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Form I-9 continued from page 1

2. Employers should continue to follow existing storage and retention, rules for each previously completed Form I-9. For more information visit I-9 Central. Read the USCIS News Alert: Employers Must Use Form I-9 Dated 11/14/2016. The uscis.gov website has a section called retain and store Form I-9 that provides details.

3. Under the new administration, expect more intense worksite enforcement, which could potentially include both I-9 audits, and workplace raids. Prudent employers will ensure that they are properly prepared and diligently following the law with respect to the I-9 employment verification process. Develop a protocol to respond to government investigations or audits.

4. At the time of hiring, do not ask for specific or different documents from the employee. Refer the employee to the List A, B and C for documents that can be presented and let the employee choose the documents to present to complete the I-9. Ensure at the time of hiring that an employee provides documents that appear genuine on their face and relate to the employee.

5. Keep all conversations related to the job at hand and the ongoing duties of the position. Workplace discussion should be about work.

Arizona Farm Bureau remains committed to immigration reform that includes a secure border, a worker visa program and effective cooperation between the federal government and interior enforcement. 🚗

Editor's Note: Information sources included Julie Pace with The Cavanagh Law Firm, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of Labor.



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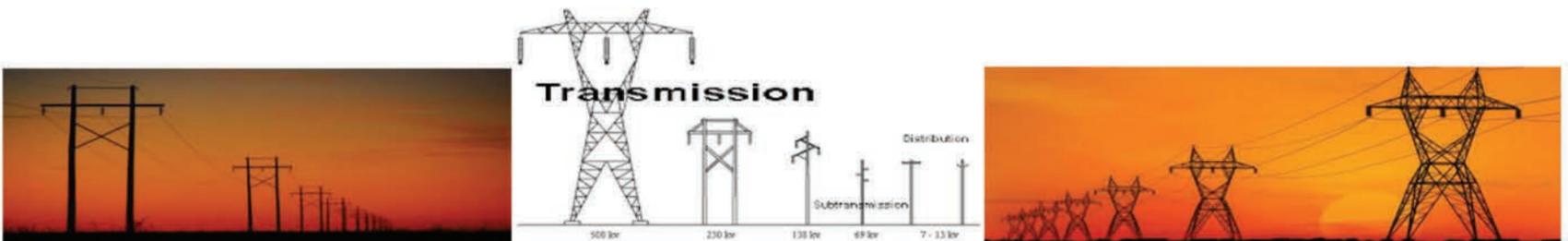
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If these Crops Disappeared So Would \$3.5 Billion

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication & Organization Director

Every year, Arizona Farm Bureau features Arizona agriculture's top 16 crops in an Infographic. At the top of the leader board is cattle and calves and as you go through the chart you discover the diversity and abundance of agriculture in this desert state.

And, if these top 16 agriculture products disappeared tomorrow, we'd have to wipe \$3.5 billion in revenue to the state off of our economic books. This number only counts what the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) calls "cash receipts." Losing the top 16 crops and identifying only cash receipts doesn't factor in wages



If these top 16 agriculture products disappeared tomorrow, we'd have to wipe \$3.5 billion in revenue to the state off of our economic books.

generated from those who work in the industry or even suppliers to the Arizona agriculture industry to help make these top 16 Arizona agriculture products possible.

Yes, these top 16 agriculture products created in our state mean big business; but represented by family farms and ranches. The Arizona agriculture industry is a \$17.1 billion industry and just these top 16 represent a good chunk.

The Infographic highlighted here lists all 16 and also the most recent graphic we've done. Check them out to get to know them. They matter to you and me and make our Arizona economy hum.

Environmentalism

continued from page 6

When a logger introduces themselves as a logger, it's because they go about the work of cutting trees in areas managed for thinning. This thinning takes the place of what fires once managed for our environment. Urban interface and air quality standards inhibit the use of fire today, leading to catastrophic fires which completely devastate forest ecosystems.

How many folks who lay claim to the title of "environmentalist" actually go to work every day with the environment as their partner like farmers and ranchers?

These folks engage on a daily basis in a working relationship with our environment. Especially today with science and technology improvements, it would be self-defeating to make decisions contrary to a sustainable environment, and unlikely given their actual consciousness for the resources they manage and the problems they must solve. How many folks who lay claim to the title of "environmentalist" actually go to work every day with the environment as their partner like farmers and ranchers? Does writing a check to a non-profit or recycling make one an environmentalist? If I donate to the arts, does that make me an artist able to create or read music? I think Andy should start introducing himself as an environmentalist after all that is his life's work.

Editor's Note: A shorter version of this editorial appeared recently in the *Arizona Republic*. We run the article in this issue of Arizona Agriculture on behalf of all of the agriculture community.

Arizona Farm Bureau's 2017 Spring Washington D.C. Trip Renders Results

The Arizona Farm Bureau National Government Relations Committee (Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers, First Vice President Stefanie Smallhouse, John and son, Matthew, Boelts, John and son, Colton, Hart, Sharla Mortimer, Jon Dinsmore, Barbara and husband, Bob, Predmore, and Ana Kennedy Otto) were in Washington, D.C. in late February attending the American Farm Bureau Advocacy Conference and meeting with Arizona's Congressional delegation. Key issues discussed included regulatory reform, tax reform, immigration reform and the farm bill. Also in attendance for the American Farm Bureau Issues Advisory Committee meetings were Jon Dinsmore (Agricultural Labor) and Sharla Mortimer (Organic and Direct Marketing). Smallhouse is on the Federal Lands committee but attended the Western Governors' Association meeting where ESA reform was on the table for discussion.



Arizona Supreme Court Rejects Minimum Wage Increase Challenge; Ag Weighs In

Staff Reports

Arizona Supreme Court rejected a challenge brought by business groups to the minimum wage increase approved by voters last November, also known as Proposition 206.



The brief order from Arizona Supreme Court said the seven justices were turning away a challenge brought by the Arizona Chamber of

Commerce and other business groups.

The business groups argued that higher state costs for elderly and disabled care trigger a state constitutional provision requiring a new funding source.

"We're not surprised by the outcome," said Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers. "Government and business, including agriculture, will struggle to find the new dollars required to fulfill the obligations. The public will ultimately have to pay the price. Plus, small business will feel the impact the most and how they pass these costs on will be telling."

"We do our best as to how we cope with the increase in any input cost," said Arizona Farm Bureau Executive Administrative Officer Joe Sigg. "We struggle."

Classifieds "Career Opportunity"

Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District is seeking applications from interested and qualified candidates for a Deputy General Manager. For details please visit our website www.caidd.com. The deadline for applying for this position is Wednesday, May 24th, 2017.

Electrical District No. 4 of Pinal County is seeking applications from interested and qualified candidates for a Deputy General Manager. For details please visit our website www.ed4.com. The deadline for applying for this position is Wednesday, May 24th, 2017.

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