Interesting Facts about Arizona Apples

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Because "Apple Month" occurs in the fall, October by the way, and Arizona families are focused on making the delicious, healthy fruit such an important part of all their fall and holiday cooking and celebrating, Arizona families need to know that Johnny Appleseed may have made it to our desert state, but it's our apple farmers that are really allowing us to pick this amazing and healthy fruit.

According to Robert E. Call, U. of A. retired extension agent who covered Cochise and Graham counties as a horticulture educa-

tor, "Apples are actually one of the most difficult crops to grow," he says. "To be productive and truly grow them right you have to do 63 different production steps to take care of the trees."

While Briggs & Eggers, farming in the Willcox area, is Arizona's only commercial apple producer, our smaller U-pick apple farms also help us get to our Arizona apples. Plus, Briggs & Eggers is on Fill Your Plate because it sells some roadside stand apples. Briggs and Eggers also ship all over the United States and

is the only grower of Pink Ladies during the fall period in Arizona because of the state's four-week jump on the harvest season.

"We've been USDA certified organic since 1989," says Lance Eggers of Briggs & Eggers. "We can pack 1,000 boxes a day at the height of the season. We produce a quality product and are focused on maintaining a reputation of a real good, high quality grower and packer."

Members of Arizona Farm Bureau, Briggs & Eggers now have approximately 460 acres of apple orchards. They're currently producing 500 tons of apples per year, but once all the trees are producing will ship anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 tons of apples to Florida and New York on the East Coast and San Francisco and San Diego on the west coast and everywhere in between. You can find them in all the specialty organic markets under the Covilli label and watch for the "grown and packed by Briggs and Eggers" to find out they grew in our bright Arizona sun.

Eggers also said he sees "a bright future for apples in Arizona and one of the reasons we're tied in with a national distributor and co-pack for them." He adds, "We see a good market for our organic apples and a lot of opportunity to grow our market."

We also have the well-known Apple Annie's that Arizona families have come to love and make part of their fall family trek to the farm.

<u>The best news?</u> Arizona apples have some unique qualities that Arizona apple growers can be proud of.

- 1. Arizona apples are sweeter overall than just about any other state because they love the sun. Our 300+plus days of sun produce some very sweet fruit.
- 2. This includes the Granny Smith Apple that most people think is sour and tart. The Arizona Granny Smith apple has a sweet tartness to it that's like none other.
 - 3. Because of our climate, our apple harvests get a 3 to 4 week jump on the market.
 - 4. We grow a variety of apples: Delicious, Gala, Fuji, Pink Lady, Sundowner and Granny Smith

Arizona's climate has always been a key component to our state's success in agriculture. As we celebrate Arizona Farm Bureau's centennial in the coming years and the state's 5 "C's" we hope to continue celebrating climate and agriculture into the future. Our Arizona apples certainly do!



More Fun Facts about Apples

- 1. Apples are a member of the rose family, just like pears and plums. They can range in size from as small as a cherry to as big as a grapefruit.
 - 2. The crabapple is the only apple native to North America.
 - 3. An apple tree can live for more than 100 years.
- 4. 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the United States, but only 100 varieties are grown commercially in 36 states in America. They grow in all 50 states. It's estimated that 7,500 varieties of apples are grown throughout the world.
 - 5. Apples come in all shades of red, green, and yellow.
- 6. A standard-size apple tree starts bearing fruit 8 to 10 years after it's planted. A dwarf tree starts bearing in 3 to 5 years. Most apple blossoms are pink when they open, but gradually transition to white.
- 7. Apple trees can be grown farther north than other fruit trees because they bloom late in spring, minimizing the chance of frost damage.
 - 8. 25 percent of an apple's volume is air; that's why they float.
 - 9. Most apples are still picked by hand in the fall.
- 10. Americans eat more apples per capita than almost any other fruit fresh and processed combined (with the possible exception of the tomato, which is a fruit). In fact, the average person eats 65 apples each year.



Every Friday You Can Talk to An Arizona Farmer

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Begun this summer, Arizona Farm Bureau has made it even easier for you to talk to a farmer, or rancher! Through Instagram "Live" feature, we're taking the time to visit with our farmers and ranchers here in Arizona.



We'll be talking with farmers and ranchers from all over the state.

Arizona Farm Bureau's "Talk to a Farmer Friday" program launched so Instagram and Facebook followers to our social media accounts would have an opportunity to see our farmers and ranchers live on their places and even post a question on the Instagram Live feed. It's turned out to be more of a hit than we anticipated.

During the first Instagram Live, more than 100 Instagram followers logged on to view the conversation we had with Trevor Bales, an alfalfa and Sudan grass hay farmer from Buckeye, Arizona. Bales has already attracted quite a following with friends and fans that watch him daily talk about farming in Arizona.

The plan is to do

this every Friday morning between 10:00 and 11:00 in the morning. We'll be talking with farmers and ranchers from all over the state. During the 20 to 25-minute live sessions with the farmers, you'll have a chance to pose a question if you follow Arizona Farm Bureau on Instagram.

One of our more recent "Talk to a Farmer" sessions was with a wine grower, Emil J. Molin of Cover Mesa Vineyard from Cornville. He had great in sights about the wine industry that are surely valuable for those who listen to the taped conversation.

Join us and stay connected to your Arizona farmers and ranchers that love to share their stories about farming in this vast and diverse agriculture state!

Keeping Our Eyes on the Future; Our Hearts in the Fight

Lessons Learned from a Farm Boy Who Had Two Years and 24 Hours to Accomplish the "Impossible."

By Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona Farm Bureau President

Over 50,000 vehicles of all types and 175,000 British, American, Canadian, Free French, Polish and Norwegian soldiers came together as the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF) to invade the beaches of Normandy in the summer of 1944. It took two years of planning and millions of people to carry out an attack that lasted only 24 hours and changed the future of the world: The beginning of the end of Hitler's terror over Europe. Winston Churchill described Operation Overlord, also



Stefanie Smallhouse

known as D-Day, as "The most difficult and complicated operation ever to take place." The Supreme Commander of the AEF and chief architect of the invasion was a farm boy from Kansas – Dwight D. Eisenhower.

My daughter and I were fortunate enough to travel to the U.K. and France for the 75th anniversary of D-Day, retracing the journey of many of those soldiers. We stood at the barbed-wire ledges of Ponte Du Hoc, walked on Utah Beach and sat silently at Omaha Beach while Taps played for the thousands of American soldiers who lay at rest in the American Cemetery. There were plenty of reflective moments to think about the American Spirit and our resolve.

Volumes are written about Operation Overlord and what made it a success, but a few particulars stand out to me: passion for the cause, teamwork, optimism and focus on the long view. Despite President Roosevelt's own reluctancy, General Eisenhower was seen by his peers as well suited to command this effort because of his commitment to teamwork and ability to bring people together. He believed that optimism was infectious and without it, "victory is scarcely

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Smallhouse Continued from page 2

obtainable." Unlike General Rommel, the Commander of Hitler's forces in France, Eisenhower believed deeply in the cause he was fighting for while Rommel approached his fight with professional competence. There was no passion for Rommel in fighting an enemy

he had no reason to hate and looked upon with respect. Eisenhower not only incapsulated the American Spirit with his optimism for victory and passion for freedom, but he considered himself a builder, not a destroyer. That was his long-term goal. In contrast, The Axis Powers during WWII were focused on destroying what others had built and suppressing innovation.

America has become the leader of the free world as the builder of freedom, invention, infrastructure and prosperity; its farmers and ranchers have become the world's leader in technology, efficiencies and conservation as we grow and cultivate. There will always be those whose goals are to tear down and destroy what we have

built and set back the advancements we have made as an industry. Adversity and challenge are inherent in the pursuit to provide food and fiber amidst so many factors out of our control. What we can do is remain optimistic, address our challenges with a team mentality, and translate our passion into action to advance Arizona's agriculture industry. So many of those who challenge our way of doing business and way of life have never hated us but respect us. They aren't fully aware of the care we take in farming and raising livestock and are overwhelmed with propaganda.



Remembering ...

The "Farmer of the Future" will create the future that they ultimately want by looking long into the horizon and building their business through investment and innovation. It's hard to imagine this today through the lens of tariffs, trade wars, adverse weather con-

ditions, labor shortages and agenda driven politics. American agriculture has seen much greater challenges than we see today and yet we are much stronger today than we were when those challenges seemed insurmountable. We continue to build for the future for everyone because we will always need agriculture to be prosperous as a county.

Of course, General Eisenhower became President Eisenhower and went on to build the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Interstate Highway System, becoming one of the great builders in American history despite the destruction he witnessed in WWII. He also famously said, "Farming looks mighty easy when

your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." Let's keep our eyes to the future, our hearts in the fight, and remember we are stronger when we work together to advocate to law makers, communicate to our consumers and educate our detractors.

Editor's Note: This editorial by our Arizona Farm Bureau president, Stefanie Smallhouse, first appeared in Arizona Agriculture's August 2019 issue. Smallhouse ranches with her husband, Andy, in southern Arizona, along with a saguaro cactus plant nursery and other diverse operations.

Ag in the Classroom Goes Hollywood

If you have not yet "liked" AZFB AITC on Instagram and Facebook, you better hot foot on over and give it a click! A new series



of videos is educating students and consumers about a wide variety of topics in a very real way. "These 2-4-minute videos are meant to

engage the consumer and help them with many of their burning questions. Things like, how do I pick a watermelon? What the heck is a dragon fruit? How do I pick and cook sweet corn? How can I shell an egg...there are plenty of fun ways to do this by the way", says Director of Education, Katie Aikins. Aikins stars in these short and entertaining videos with Education Manager Tori Summey.

Do you have a burning food question? Aikins and Summey take requests! If you are wondering how to pick something the next time you are at the produce section or how to cut it once you are home, shoot them a request in the comments to any video or by emailing Katie Aikins at katieaikins@azfb.org.



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Farmboy Restaurant – Market, Meats and Sandwiches

Farm Bureau members now have a new benefit from Farmboy Restaurant in Chandler, Arizona. Farmboy, owned by Oren Molovinsky, is an over 90% farm to table restaurant. Their products come from local farms and ranches in Arizona. Many of the local farms and ranches that feature products are part of the Farm Bureau Family. This includes Crow's Dairy, Crooked Sky Farms, Danzeisen Dairy Farm, Tim Peterson's Arizona Grass Raised Beef, and Barrio Bread.

They also offer Arizona craft beers, wines, and other beverages.

Farmboy market, meats and sandwiches is a fast, casual restaurant concept, following the founder's decades of operating farmer's markets and other restaurants.

I had the chance to stop in Farmboy for brunch and ate the most delicious build-your-own burrito with beef burnt ends. I could smell the beef cooking the moment I stepped in the door. To add to the Farmboy experience, the restaurant is well branded from the walls to the floor mats. You cannot deny the heart put into this restaurant. Farmboy is a must-try!

Farm Bureau members receive a complimentary coffee, soda, iced tea, or lemonade with purchase of a meal. Be prepared to show your membership card upon purchase.

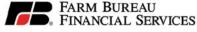
Stop by Farmboy next time you are in Chandler to enjoy a hand-crafted delicious meal and support local farmers and ranchers.

For more information, check out their website: https://www. farmbovaz.com/

Farmboy: 1075 W. Queen Creek Rd., Suite #1, Chandler, AZ 85248

Those big moments in life?

Together, we'll help make sure you have the right coverage. Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.



It's your future. Let's protect it."

fbfs.com

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services LI164 (8-19)

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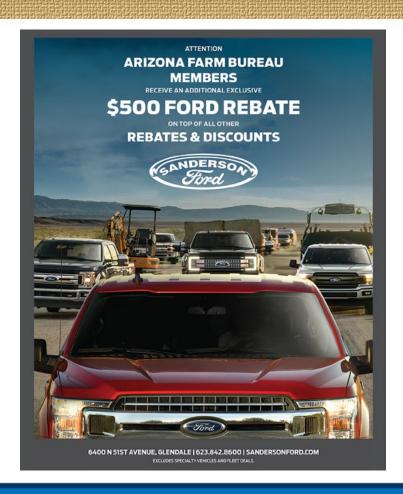


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Discounted health screenings Visit azfb.org or call 877-414-7110





Stay Healthy with Help from Profile by Sanford

If you want nutrition and health guidance for your life, consider Profile by Sanford. Profile by Sanford creates a personalized nutrition, activity and lifestyle coaching program designed to help mem-

bers lose weight and keep it off. Certified Profile coaches educate and motivate members through each stage of a person's health journey. The coaches tailor your program to your lifestyle.

Their meal replacement shakes and protein bars are delicious. With flavors like chocolate brownie, mocha latte, va-

nilla cake batter, salted caramel, strawberry cheesecake and key lime pie, I added a packet of their Profile protein powder to 14oz of water (although 8oz is the packet's recommended amount). Make sure the powder is shaken and dissolved before enjoying.

Arizona Farm Bureau Members receive 50% Off A 1 Year Membership purchase. A smart body scale, access to one on one coaching, smart technology for progress tracking, discounts on Profile food and a personalized meal plan are all included in a membership to Profile. The typical price is \$300, meaning Farm Bureau members pay only \$150 for the entire year.

All local benefits are listed by county and by category on www. azfb.org and the FB Benefits app. Yes, we have an App for that.

Next steps on how to sign up with Profile can be found at www. azfb.org under the benefits tab where you will find access to the discount code. Visit www.profileplan.com to receive more information and to find a location near you in the Phoenix or Tucson area. Profile by Sanford

7131 W Ray Rd Suite 35, Chandler AZ 85226 email: profile.chandler@profileplan.net • www.profileplan.com Call 480-939-5877

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nand Gorn Maze Festivals

Cochise County

Apple Annie's

Fall Pumpkin Celebration, family fun picking your own pumpkins, fall vegetables and apples.

September 21 & 22, September 28 & 29

October 5 & 6, October 12 & 13 October 19 & 20, October 26 & 27

Corn Maze

September 14 Open DAILY through Octo-

ber 31 9 AM - 4 PM (last entry)

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!

Oct 4th- Oct 31st Closed on Tuesday

9am-5pm each day

Halloween 9am-12pm

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.

Pumpkin patch:

Oct 1st- 30th 9am-9pm Oct 31st 9am-6pm

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.

Opening day 2019: Friday Oct 11th 11am-8pm

Oct 12th 9am-8pm, Oct 13th 11am-5pm, Oct 18th 11am-9pm

Oct 19th 9am-8pm, Oct 20th 11am-5pm, Oct 25th 11am-8pm

Oct 26th 9am-8pm, Oct 27th 11am-5pm

Nov 1st 11am-8pm, Nov 2nd 9am-8pm, Nov 3rd 11am-5pm

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.

24610 S Rittenhouse Rd

Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Every Thursday- Sunday oct 4th – oct 28th

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!

Oct 2nd -Nov 3rd 2019

Oct hours: Monday - Tuesday - Closed

Columbus Day Monday October 14th: 10:00am-8:00pm

Wednesday - Thursday: 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 12:00 noon - 11:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Nov hours: Monday - Wednesday: Closed

Thursday - Friday: 12:00 noon - 8:00pm

Saturday: 10:00a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sunday: 10:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Last ticket sold 1 hour before closing

5726 N 75th Ave Glendale, AZ 85303

For more information, call 602.999.3276 or visit tolmachoff-farms.

Vertuccio Farms

7-acre Corn Maze; Giant tube roll; Giant Jump Pad; Extreme air pillow; Mini zip line; Mini Hay and lots more.

Corn Maze & Fall Festival – 2019

September 30th – November 3rd

Monday-Thursday 9am – 9pm

Friday-Saturday 9am – 10pm

Sunday 10am – 6pm

For more information, call 480.882.1482 or visit vertucciofarms.

com/fall-festival

4011 S. Power Rd.

Mesa, AZ 85212

For more information, call 480.882.1482 or visit

vertucciofarms.com/fall-festival

Pima County

Marana Pumpkin Patch

Visit their 50-acre pumpkin patch with tons of surprises in store! Wagon ride to the pumpkin patch; free access to corn mazes; and much more!

Oct 5th- Oct 30th

Monday- Thursday 3-7

Friday-Sunday 9am-7pm

14901 N Wentz Road,

Marana, AZ

For more information 520.305.5481 or visit

maranapumpkinpatch.com

See FALL FESTIVALS page 7



Fall Festivals

Continued from page 6

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 F. Peak L.n.

Picacho, AZ 85141

For more information, call 520.466.3658 or visit roostercoburn.com



Yavapai County

Mortimer Family Farms

Family Fun Day and Pumpkin Harvest begins September 28- Nov 4th

Friday 12-9pm Saturday: 9am-9pm Sunday: 9am-6pm Columbus day: 9am-6pm 12907 E State Route 169 Dewey, AZ 86327

For more information, call 928.830.1116 or visit mortimerfarmsaz.



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.

Big News for Members Looking to Buy a Ford or Lincoln!



Until September 30, 2019 Farm Bureau members are eligible to receive \$500 Bonus Cash + \$500 Conquest Cash on a qualifying Ford vehicle and \$750 Bonus Cash + \$500 Conquest Cash on a Lincoln.

To receive the additional \$500 in Conquest Cash, you must:

- Claim the Farm Bureau member Bonus Cash offer first by downloading a member verification certificate from www.FordFarmBureauAdvantage.

- Own a non-Ford/Lincoln/Mercury vehicle (1995 or newer) registered in your name for at least the last 30 days. (You do not need to trade in that vehicle.)
- Purchase or lease a qualifying 2019/2020 Ford/Lincoln vehicle by September 30, 2019.

See your local Ford or Lincoln dealer for details.

Find the Arizona Ford or Lincoln dealership in your area below.

Location	Dealership
Apache Junction	Robert Horne Ford, LLC
Buckeye	Jones Ford Buckeye
Camp Verde	Jones Ford Verde Valley
Casa Grande	Jones Ford Casa Grande
Chandler	Earnhardt Ford
Flagstaff	Babbitt Ford
Gilbert	San Tan Ford
Glendale	Don Sanderson Ford

Globe	McSpadden Ford, Inc.
Goodyear	Rodeo Ford, Inc.
Green Valley	Jim Click Ford of Sahuarita
Holbrook	Tate's Auto Center
Kingman	Anderson Ford Lincoln
Lake Havasu City	Bradley Ford Lincoln
Mesa	Fiesta Lincoln
Mesa	Berge Ford
Nogales	Horne Ford Of Nogales, LLC
Oracle	Oracle Ford, Inc.
Page	Lake Powell Ford
Parker	Parker Motor Company, Inc.
Peoria	Peoria Ford
Phoenix	Sanderson Lincoln
Phoenix	Camelback Ford Lincoln
Phoenix	Bell Ford
Prescott	Galpin Ford, Inc.
Scottsdale	Chapman Ford
Scottsdale	AutoNation Ford Scottsdale
Show Low	Show Low Ford, Inc.
Sierra Vista	Lawley's Team Ford
Star Valley	Steve Coury Ford
Surprise	Surprise Ford
Thatcher	Horne Freedom Ford
Tucson	Holmes Tuttle Ford Lincoln
Tucson	Jim Click Ford Lincoln
Wickenburg	Jones Ford Wickenburg
Winslow	Winslow Ford
Yuma	Alexander Lincoln
Yuma	Alexander Ford



