



# Arizona Agriculture

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## ARIZONA'S LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP OUTLINES PRIORITIES FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

**W**ith the beginning of a new session comes the opportunity to welcome new leadership into the Arizona Legislature.

This year, we asked our newly elected leaders two questions:

**What are your caucus's top priorities for the upcoming legislative year?**

**Arizona Farm Bureau's top priority heading into the legislative session is protecting agriculture's access to water. Agriculture's water use leads not only to \$23.3 billion in economic activity but also contributes significantly to the food security of our state and nation. What does it mean for Arizona to be water secure, and what do you see as the Legislature's role in helping achieve water security for the state?**

Below are their responses, printed in their entirety and unedited.

We look forward to working with this incoming class of legislators to protect and further agriculture's policy priorities to the benefit of all Arizonans!

...



Senate President Warren Petersen

The Arizona Legislature is embarking on a very unique year, as the political landscape has greatly shifted in the wake of the November 2022 midterm elections. With slim majorities of Republicans again in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, a contrasting dynamic of a Democrat Governor serving Arizona will greatly influence which priorities make it across the finish line at the end of this upcoming legislative session.

Without a doubt, Arizona's water shortage and diminishing supply of Colorado River water is one of the most important issues that our lawmakers will tackle this year. In the last session, the Legislature appropriated more than \$1 billion over the next three years to secure our water future. We expanded the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for a variety of construction, rehabilitation, and improvement projects relating to drinking water, wastewater reclamation, and water quality. In this session, our goal is to ensure WIFA processes are streamlined, and resources are deployed efficiently with minimal bureaucratic delay, in addition to further developing solutions that will support the millions of people living in our state, as well as those moving here, while encouraging continued economic growth.

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of Arizona. They support our food security here at home and across the nation. Arizona's agriculture industry alone produces \$23.3 billion annually in economic activity, despite experiencing severe challenges to their production and their livelihoods in the face of declining water resources. Farmers have maintained a willingness to implement new water-saving technologies, and we will continue to support their drought mitigation strategies. At the end of the day, we will need to continue to work with stakeholders like the Arizona Farm Bureau, as well as other Lower Basin states and the federal government to achieve water security so that further cuts to our state's supply won't need to be made.

Arizona continues to experience positive revenue growth for this fiscal year. In fact, revenues have so far climbed 12% higher than the year prior and are \$677 million above forecast, as of this past fall. The Legislature will explore ways to give some of this money back through further potential tax cuts for the hardworking families and small business owners that have been struggling with record inflation due to poor policies enacted by

the federal government.

Investments in transportation, infrastructure, public safety, border security, homelessness and paying down state debt remain priorities. We're also hopeful that we can get some commonsense bi-partisan legislation passed to improve our elections processes, as November 2022 highlighted some frustrations and deficiencies within the system. We're looking forward to an impactful session!



Senate Democratic Leader Raquel Terán

Due to historic drought conditions caused by accelerating climate change, ensuring the current and future water security of all Arizonans, including Tribal nations, is one of the most important challenges facing our state and the Arizona legislature. First, a unified Arizona must work with the federal government and the other Colorado Basin states to both protect Arizona's Colorado River allocation and secure the river's ongoing viability and infrastructure. To this end, the legislature must increase its investment in the Department of Water Resources in order to lead these efforts. Second, the legislature must build upon last session's bi-partisan initiatives, including SB 1740 - water infrastructure financing; supply; augmentation and SB 1564 - on-farm irrigation efficiency, fund; appropriation to strengthen and diversify Arizona's water conservation, management, infrastructure, augmentation, and data collection laws and initiatives. Third, the legislature must commit to updating Arizona's groundwater code to reflect 21st-century water realities. The legislature needs to engage with local governments, communities, and stakeholders and enact legislation to give both rural and urban Arizona the necessary regulatory tools to secure their water and economic future.

The 56th legislature has the possibility to deliver real results for all Arizonans. Our caucus is committed to dropping, debating, and passing legislation that is grounded in reality. Democrats are working with stakeholders to address dire climate change issues, protect our very limited natural resources, and ensure job growth throughout the state. This past legislative session has shown us that honest bipartisan conversations can lead to transformative legislation - we plan on continuing that trend. From school investment to environmental policy, our top priority is making sure Arizona families are supported, safe, and healthy.

Our House Democratic caucus was inspired this summer when we worked to pass a historic bi-partisan budget that delivered for all corners of the state we all love. And then a few days later we did it again, coming together to help address Arizona's long-term water future with our new Water Infrastructure Finance Authority Board, and investing \$200 million to spur innovation and conservation.

Now with 16 new members brimming with new ideas and new energy, our exceptionally skilled and diverse Democratic Caucus remains 29 strong, and we intend to be there for Arizona again. Democrats are united and absolutely committed to securing our water future, defending our public schools and improving the quality of life for all Arizonans. And we will never stop fighting for freedom and equal rights regardless of where you live, where you're from, or whom you love.

See **PRIORITIES FOR 2023** Page 4

## ARIZONA FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS SETS 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

**A**t its November board meeting, the newly seated AZFB Board of Directors approved the organization's policy priorities for the upcoming year. While these priority issues do not represent an exhaustive list of all the ways our organization will engage government decision-makers, they are where we anticipate needing to focus our lobbying and advocacy efforts this year.

### WATER DOMINATES

To no one's surprise, water issues dominate our organizational priorities. Protecting agriculture's access to water in light of dire drought on the Colorado River, increased pressure to regulate and restrict rural groundwater use, and the expectation that a new WOTUS rule will be published before year-end will require diligent advocacy and constant monitoring throughout the year.

### FARM BILL 2023

We are also gearing up for a new Farm Bill in 2023. This crucial piece of legislation will outline commodity support and conservation program funding for the next five years, and we are already working hard to make sure that western agriculture's unique needs are met by this legislation. In addition to maintaining current funding levels, we are also looking to make significant and needed changes to Mexican gray wolf compensation programs in the 2023 bill.

### MAINTAINING AND INCREASING RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE

With a new gubernatorial administration also comes changes to critical agricultural regulatory agencies. The Board outlined priorities for maintaining and increasing resources for the Department of Agriculture as well as convening a member-led working group to address continuing issues with bovine trichomoniasis in Arizona cattle herds. Federal agencies are on Farm Bureau's radar as well, especially as it relates to fire response with the US Forest Service and public lands grazing with both the Forest Service and BLM. Ensuring that grazing remains a valued use of public lands, and helping grazing become more widely recognized as a fire management tool, are both top-of-mind as we head into the upcoming year.

It's sure to be a busy and challenging year on the advocacy front, but we are confident that our grassroots strength will continue to be effective at shaping policy in Arizona and beyond. To see the full list of approved policy priorities, visit the Advocacy section of our website at [www.azfb.org](http://www.azfb.org).



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# PERSPECTIVE IS CRITICAL IN ADVOCACY AND IN LIFE

By Stefanie Smallhouse, Arizona Farm Bureau President



**T**his past November, at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, we had the opportunity to hear from Paul Schwenesen about his time spent in Ukraine, helping its citizens during the ongoing Russian invasion. His collection of stories and a firsthand account of the people and the conditions in the war-torn country brought to my mind something that I've been thinking a lot about lately, perspective.

With all our connectivity today, one would think that advocacy would be easier, but in some ways, it has become much harder. At times I find myself in meetings wondering, why are we having so much trouble bridging the divide here? I think it might have to do with building relationships in the way that we seek perspective. If you exist in an echo chamber – you see no need to do this. This doesn't mean we must agree before being agreed with, it's really about communica-

tion and the art of persuasion or negotiation. After all, most relationships depend on a *continuous cycle of taking, seeking and coordinating perspectives.*

## WHAT IS PERSPECTIVE?

Every day the perspective which we have as individuals, as community leaders, and as business owners, impacts our lives and those around us. We use perspective as either a tool for persuasion or to give context to our own reality. It guides our reasoning for decision-making and reaching conclusions. Peter Chao of the Eagles Leadership Institute describes perspective as this, "Perspective provides the context to frame an event or decision so that meaningful understanding can emerge to inform decisions or responses. Perspective shapes our assumptions and presuppositions that guide our reasoning."

Since perspective is neither right nor wrong, it just is what it is – it requires that we be generous in our interpretations of others' perspectives to make progress on complicated issues.

It's important to note that even though both our perspectives and our principles reflect and guide our choices, they are not the same. Principles are not generally malleable or changing to any significant extent, but perspective may very well change over time depending on our environment – which is generally always changing in some way or another. Our principles or values heavily weigh our perspectives, but they don't create rigidity because perspective is also influenced by other factors, such as physical and emotional environment, relationships, experiences, upbringing, culture, or just your current state of mind. Folks often consider principles and perspectives to be mutually exclusive to justify decision-making. In other words, I cannot waiver on my principles, and therefore I cannot change my perspective. This is becoming more and more commonplace in politics today and making it more and more difficult to navigate complicated issues.

Seeking and sharing perspectives is critical in relationship development. As spouses, parents, business owners, and executives, and as leaders in our communities and leaders in the Farm Bureau.

## THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET TO PERSPECTIVE IN LEADERSHIP

Many of you either own a business or provide a leadership role within a business. It's crucial in those environments to be self-aware of the lens through which you see the world and be aware of the lens through which those around you see that same world. Peter Chao suggests asking yourself what he calls the Being Lens questions: "How do I relate to others?", "What is my role/impact in this situation?" and "Why am I doing this?" And then there are the Vision Lens questions: Have you used insight to look beyond the obvious, used foresight to imagine what could be, used hindsight to realize that all aspects of reality are part of a broader context that has developed over time (you are not the only influencer), and then brought all this together to motivate achieving what others might not consider doable. These are the key elements considered by Chao to be important in developing a perspective in leadership.

I attribute Farm Bureau's leadership in advocating for agriculture to our ability to bring multiple perspectives together and to ask these questions. We begin this process at the county level with policy development and it extends to the state and national levels. It's important that we bring together different points of view from around the state and from differing sectors to create our positions on everything from property rights and water accessibility to taxation, grazing rights, and agriculture safety net programs. Not only do we bring these perspectives to lawmakers in Phoenix and Washington D.C., but to local town halls, the airwaves, social media channels and the classroom. To share a story is to share a perspective. Think about the multiple perspectives around such controversial issues as immigration. Just within the membership of this organization, a rancher on the border will have a different perspective than a farmer in central Arizona and a rancher in northern Arizona will have a different perspective than a farmer in Yuma. All those perspectives differ from a suburban mom in Mesa, who might differ from a retiree in Sun City or a teacher in the heart of Phoenix. I do believe that someday soon we will be able to mesh all these perspectives because we have done it in Farm Bureau already. But it requires that our leaders and lawmakers who represent a broad spectrum of constituents ask those same questions of perspective and integrates them into several actions which address each concern on the way to a broad-based solution.

I recently traveled to Pennsylvania for the traveling board meeting of the American Farm Bureau, and on the second day, we toured some of the state's agriculture. One of our stops was at a typical dairy in the Northeast. Seeing how different these dairies are from those we are more familiar with in the West and in our own state, helped me to understand how and why their dairy policy differs from ours. Experiencing this doesn't change what I am advocating for from our policy book, but it will change how I advocate for those policies now that I have a better understanding of the broader picture.

There are certainly less complicated issues when all you need is a simple majority of the same perspective, like for tax relief. Or when different perspectives lead you to the same reality, like the need for augmented water supplies in the state of Arizona and what those needs look like across a diverse state.

Then there are times we must ask ourselves where the majority perspective is coming from and the influence of that perspective. We then pivot our efforts to achieve our goals. This is reflected in our efforts to get fair rancher compensation for wolf depredation and avoidance in Northern and Eastern Arizona. We oppose the presence of the wolf, but we must recognize the influence of the pro-wolf advocates and where we can more efficiently expend our efforts on compensation rather than elimination.

Considering perspective also becomes important in our ag education efforts. According to the latest census numbers, Spanish is spoken at home in about 20% of homes, with up to 9% of Arizonans speaking only Spanish. If we are to consider the perspective of a significant percentage of consumers in Arizona, and teachers with limited resources working in low-income communities, then it would be sensible for us to provide some of our educational materials in Spanish. We have done this with our first reader books. We could ignore this perspective, but we would only be hurting our own efforts of informing the public with accurate ag information.

## SENSE OF PLACE

Seeking perspective in leadership helps us work with others to find solutions, but it also helps us to navigate our daily lives.

Paul's stories of Ukraine reflected his point of view on what is happening across a continent and an ocean from where we are today, based on his direct experiences. His initial decision to even engage was largely based on the perspective that he has developed over his lifetime. Hearing his accounts might impact a broader stance on the Russian/Ukrainian Conflict or your own personal

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## PRIORITIES FOR 2023 continued from Page 1



House Democratic Leader  
Andrés Cano

As we lead with our values and a new Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs, Agriculture remains one of the most vital drivers of our economy and is key to our shared future.

Even as a \$23 billion industry that supports nearly 200,000 jobs, Arizona farms are family businesses. And Arizona families deserve better than wells going dry in rural Arizona. They deserve better than losing out to sweetheart deals for Saudi farms pumping away our limited water supplies. They deserve better than letting neighboring states like California shoulder less than their share of necessary cuts to Colorado River water. And they deserve infrastructure – roads, bridges, airports and ports of entry – that are modernized and

in good repair so that goods can get to market.

We have many looming issues that we must face together, but the most pressing is water. Without water, there is nothing else to talk about. We need both parties and all

stakeholders at the table as we build upon our accomplishments this summer with more bi-partisan solutions.

Our goal, always, is to protect Arizona's air, water and land for future generations. As stewards of the land, the Agricultural community is and must remain, an important partner in reaching those goals.

As Governor-Elect Hobbs said, "We've been through a thing or two these last few years. But we are tough. This state is tough. And if we work together, we can tackle our biggest challenges."

Thank you for this opportunity. Despite the challenges we face, I remain filled with optimism about our future, and about the spirit of compromise and collaboration we will bring to Arizona's next chapter, and I look forward to working for all of you in 2023.

**Editor's Note:** Speaker of the House Ben Toma was traveling and unable to submit before our print deadline. Be on the lookout for his article on our digital channels later this month. 🚜

## NEW STUDY REVEALS PISTACHIOS ARE AN ANTIOXIDANT POWERHOUSE

By Staff Reports

**W**e already love the taste of pistachios, and now we know even more about how healthy this tree nut is based on a recent study. While certain fruits and vegetables are often thought of as high-antioxidant foods, a new study conducted by Cornell University produced surprising results. Exciting news for Pistachio growers in California and Arizona.

The study, "Quantification of Phytochemicals, Cellular Antioxidant Activities and Antiproliferative Activities of Raw and Roasted American Pistachios," published in the 2022 issue of *Nutrients*, reports a high antioxidant capacity in pistachios, among the highest when compared to values reported in research of many foods commonly known for their antioxidant capacities, such as blueberries, pomegranates, cherries, and beets.

Researchers from Cornell University wanted to better understand the potential mechanism behind the health benefits that have been linked to pistachios in recent studies. They analyzed pistachios to determine:

- The makeup of pistachio phytochemicals – compounds within plants that may help to lower the risk of chronic diseases and keep the body working properly.
- The antioxidant power of pistachios.
- Whether pistachio extracts can help to inhibit the growth of tumor cells (breast, liver, and colon cancer cells) in a laboratory setting.

"Scientific research continues to prove that pistachios are at the top of the list of high-antioxidant foods," said Jim Graham, owner with his wife, Ruth, of Cochise Groves farming pistachios and wine grapes in southern Arizona. "They stand alone as a plant-based protein food source that does not take special processing, packaging, or refrigeration to be ready to eat as a snack for active people."

The researchers used two different methods to measure the antioxidant potential of pistachios – Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) and Cellular Antioxidant Activity (CAA) – and found that pistachios have a very high level of antioxidant activity.

"We were excited to see that the antioxidant capacity of pistachios measured so high in our study," said Dr. Rui Hai Liu, Professor of Food Science at Cornell University. "When compared to values reported in research for other common, high-antioxidant foods using the same methods, we see the antioxidant activity of pistachios is higher than that of foods often thought of as antioxidant powerhouses including blueberries, cherries, and beets. We believe the high antioxidant activity of pistachios may be due to the unique compounds in pistachios including vitamin E, carotenoids, phenolics and flavonoids. The combination or interaction of these beneficial antioxidants, bioactive compounds, along with other nutrients in pistachios, is likely what contributes to the many health benefits we have seen in pistachio studies from recent years."

Normal metabolisms of daily life – everything from eating, breathing, and exercising to the toxins we encounter in the environment – can generate free radicals in the body. Free radicals attack healthy body cells, and this damage is thought to contribute to inflammation and aging in addition to chronic health conditions, including heart disease and cancer. Health professionals recommend antioxidants from food sources to help protect healthy cells from free radical damage in the body.

Most people know that antioxidants are beneficial to health, but many don't know exactly how antioxidants work within the body.

A summary of additional findings from the study includes:

- Pistachios have a wide variety of important phytochemicals including different members of the vitamin E family ( $\beta$ -tocopherol and  $\gamma$ -tocopherol), carotenoids



A nearly ready-for-harvest Arizona pistachio orchard seen here, pistachios have a high antioxidant capacity that rivals that of popular antioxidant-containing foods.

(lutein, zeaxanthin and beta-carotene), phenolics and flavonoids.

- Pistachios have high antioxidant activities as measured by both ORAC and CAA. CAA measures antioxidant activity in a cell—how the cells take up or absorb the antioxidants—and is a more physiologically relevant assay and considered reflective of what may happen in the human body when compared to the chemical antioxidant assays.

- Pistachio phytochemical extracts showed potent antiproliferative activities against human breast, liver and colon cancer cells in vitro with exceptionally high activity seen against the human breast cancer cells. Pistachio phytochemical extracts were shown to inhibit cancer growth in all three cancer cells (breast, liver and colon) without causing cytotoxicity to the cells. The researchers report that this area of study is worthy of future research to determine how pistachio extracts are blocking the growth of cancer cells as seen in this new study. Interestingly, population studies show an

association between a high frequency of nut consumption and a reduced risk of certain cancers.

"The health benefits of pistachios have been studied over the past 20 years and we are excited to dig further into the specific makeup of pistachios that may be contributing to overall health," notes Amber Wilson, MS, RD, Director of Nutrition Research and Communication for American Pistachio Growers. "The results of this study confirm the high antioxidant potential of pistachios, which is great news for those looking to add more antioxidant whole foods to their diet."

Pistachios used in the Cornell study were grown in California and have a different nutritional profile than those grown in other countries. Pistachios grown in the U.S. are also a plant-based source of complete protein. One serving of pistachios (1 oz or 49 kernels) is an excellent source of copper and a good source of protein, fiber, vitamin B6, phosphorus and thiamin.

"Fortunately, American pistachios have become a popular snack for domestic and foreign consumers," explained Graham in an earlier interview with Arizona Farm Bureau on the pistachio industry. "From the time Ruth and I became involved in the pistachio industry in 1998, we have seen the U.S. production increase dramatically. U.S. acreage and production have increased more than three-fold. Arizona acreage and production have also increased rapidly in the last decade. As consumers become more aware of these benefits, the consumption of U.S. pistachios will need to keep pace with increasingly larger crops."

For more information about research on the health benefits of pistachios, visit the American Pistachios website at <https://americanpistachios.org/nutrition-and-health>.

**Editor's Note:** Why is there such global interest in American-grown pistachios in recent years? Baby Boomers recall the bubble-gum machines that dispensed red-dyed pistachios imported from Iran when they were youngsters. At the time, no pistachios were produced domestically. Pistachios are one of the newest commercial crops in the United States, first established in California in the 1970s from the seed of Iranian pistachios, which grew in a bush form. Through crop improvement, and research conducted by USDA and California universities, a robust pistachio tree was developed, and it thrived in the arid climates in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. The American pistachio is therefore physiologically different, producing a nutmeat with a nutrient profile that differs from the original nuts from Iran and other origins, such as the Bronte region of Italy.

The American Pistachio Growers is a non-profit trade association representing more than 865 growers, member processors, and industry stakeholders in California, Arizona and New Mexico. 🚜

## LET'S MEET AT THE FENCE LINE

By Joel Carr, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Manager-Membership Value

**A**rizona Farm Bureau offers many unique programs including Fence Line. Fence Line, Arizona Farm Bureau's Speakers' Bureau, is a year-round program we use to effectively reach consumers of all backgrounds to give them information about today's agriculture. This outreach opportunity is imperative because the average American is at least three to four generations removed from the farm with less than 2% of the U.S. population comprising farm and ranch families. This phenomenon of being so removed from agriculture creates an opportunity to show the value of agriculture, hence why Fence Line was created.

Plus, we periodically get requests for speakers. Fence Line has allowed us to formalize and manage a program of outreach, plus capture the results.

In fact, over the past year, we reached over 1,000 individuals through Fence Line. These presentations included speaking engagements with Verrado Republican Club, The Chandler Museum and the Girls Can American Association.

Arizona Farm Bureau is grateful for its farmers, ranchers and staff members, all potential speakers for our speaker's bureau. They are incredible advocates for Arizona agriculture and are always more than willing to share the Arizona agriculture story with countless groups in a traditional speaking setting, whether in person or virtually. They are incredibly passionate about what they do especially since our farmer and rancher speakers work in agriculture, so they have firsthand knowledge of their topics and are

quick to dispel any misconceptions regarding agriculture.

For more information about Fence Line, email [joelcarr@azfb.org](mailto:joelcarr@azfb.org) or call 480-635-3609. If you are one of our farm and ranch leaders willing to speak, alert us and we'll keep you as a speaker in our Fence Line database. Let us know if you've recently talked to various groups about Arizona agriculture. 🚜



# THE BEST IN ARIZONA AGRICULTURE CELEBRATED

## Staff Reports



During the Service to Agriculture Awards Banquet during Arizona Farm Bureau's 101st Annual Meeting in November, Janel Rogers accepts the Newly Designated CS Brown Legacy Award on behalf of her husband, Kevin Rogers.

**R**ogers Receives Newly Designated Award: The CS Brown Legacy Award Arizona hosts some of America's top farmers and ranchers. The Arizona Farm Bureau annually recognizes them for their achievements. This year, a new award designation went to former Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers.

The *C.S. Brown Legacy Award* was recently created to honor an individual who has illustrated the same selfless commitment to advocating for agriculture, grassroots leadership in our industry, and a lifetime of service to the Farm Bureau and our members at the local, state, and national levels.

Charles Sidney Brown, otherwise known as "*Farmer Brown*," was one of the early pioneers of our organization's grassroots structure and is considered one of the most influential leaders in the history of the Arizona Farm Bureau.

Our first-ever recipient, Kevin Rogers, tragically passed away last year. Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse said it best in her tribute to Kevin Rogers: "Kevin had farming in his blood and invested much of his life in service to farming and ranching families. Whether this was for the cotton industry, serving on national advisory boards, or his decades of service to Arizona Farm Bureau, I knew him to be an agricultural statesman."

Kevin Rogers was a true reflection of C.S. Brown's local, state, and national-level influence on the Farm Bureau and American agriculture and a deserving representative of this newly established award.

## OUR ADDITIONAL AWARDEE LINE-UP

The other awards given out during the Service to Agriculture Awards Banquet during the 101st Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Tucson include the following.



## AG COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR: JONATHAN DINSMORE

Last year, Yuma farmer Jonathan Dinsmore's TikTok account exploded with likes and followers. But before we tell you why and how first know that Dinsmore is one of Arizona's more prolific social media influencers. He is also Arizona Farm Bureau's 2022 Ag Communicator of the Year.

A Yuma native, Jon Dinsmore, along with his family, owns and operates Dinsmore Farms. Between farming, family and community engagement, you can find this young farmer also engaging on social media to tell his personal agriculture story and even help followers understand Arizona farming.

Managing his social media presence for several years now, he's known better to his followers as @TheFarmerJon. He's always been willing to engage with those who comment on his posts and does so in a positive, engaging and sometimes humorous manner. Late last year, many commenters on Jon's TikTok videos began debating whether the lettuce fields in the background were real or a green screen, Jon leaned into the concept and began setting up his shots specifically to create this effect.

The idea worked and the ensuing videos went viral bringing a lot of attention to Yuma agriculture, specifically produce farming. Jon now has over 337,000 followers on TikTok and has generated 12.3 million "likes." Additionally, Jon began using the hashtag "#GreenScreenFarmer," which had never been used before 2021. The hashtag has been linked to 40 or so of Jon's videos and has been viewed 86.5 million times.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD: PALOMA DAIRY

Paloma Dairy began when the Van Hofwegen brothers combined their four dairies and moved them from Tolleson to Gila Bend. In 2006, they started looking at ways to create new income sources for the dairy that was also environmentally friendly. After more than one attempt, the model that worked was to provide *pipeline-quality natural gas* from the dairy manure.

The manure from the cattle at Paloma Dairy is separated into solids and liquids. The solid manure is placed in anaerobic tanks and produces Biogas. Their system cleans the gas and injects it into the pipeline and is used to generate electricity. The manure is then used on the farm as fertilizer. The Paloma Dairy creates around five megawatts of electricity and environmental credits are sold creating an additional revenue stream for the dairy.

The Van Hofwegen family, while working toward being environmentally friendly and good stewards of their Paloma Dairy, has found a way to also be economically sustainable in the process by utilizing the energy their operation produces. They have created a clean fuel source as well as provided a product from the manure that is beneficial to both the environment as well as the bottom line.



## LIFETIME SERVICE TO FARM BUREAU: DEWAYNE JUSTICE

Maricopa County's DeWayne Justice received the 2022 Lifetime Service to Farm Bureau Award this past November during Arizona Farm Bureau's (AZFB) Annual Meeting. The recipient of this award has contributed significantly to Arizona Farm Bureau.

Justice operates the Justice Brother Ranch. Their operation is the definition of a family farm having farmed in Arizona since 1928. Justice was born into agriculture, and his family runs a cattle ranch and a citrus farm. The Justice family also runs the U of A Extension Citrus farm.

Justice has created quite a legacy of service for Farm Bureau while at the same time being considered a leadership icon for Maricopa County. Justice serves on the Arizona Farm Bureau Board of Directors and is an Electrical District Number 7 Board of Directors member. Justice is also the president of the Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association of Arizona.



## LIFETIME SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE: PEGGY AND ART ALLEN

For Art and Peggy Allen, agriculture has not only been their passion, but it is at the core of who they are. They believe in the opportunities available in the ag industry, and the importance of promoting ag and educating others in the fight to continue to feed the world. Their life reflects this.

Art grew up on the Goodyear Farms labor camp where his dad was a foreman. Prior to starting his own farm and just after graduating from Arizona State University (ASU), Art worked for Farm Credit Services as an agricultural banker. His first farming opportunity came along when he started a farm in the Salt River Valley.

Peggy Accomazzo Allen's family farming legacy dates to 1907 with the Accomazzo and Kruse families. Her grandfather, Dante, immigrated to America in 1905 and established Pacific Farms along with an uncle and brother in the Salt River Valley.

Art and Peggy's entire married life was laced together with a beautiful tapestry of their family, industry and community involvement. Together, they were Laveen Lions Club Officers, Laveen Community BBQ Committee organizers, and Arizona Ag Day Advisors and hosted Arizona legislators.

Throughout her life, Peggy helped continue the important work of a variety of ag organizations and in her community. Her time spent working with children in 4-H gave them valuable skills and life lessons. And most notably, she was always willing to share her deep-rooted knowledge of Arizona agriculture with grace and charm.



## FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD: MARK SMITH

Mark Smith is President of Smith Farms Company of Yuma, Inc., a multi-generation family farming operation specializing in the production of conventional and organic winter vegetables.

In addition to his leadership on water issues, Mark's most recent efforts have focused on the installation of fiber-optic infrastructure to bring broadband internet service to the rural and agricultural areas of Yuma County. His efforts have provided a model for other rural/agricultural areas to forge a similar path and enable a technological future for agricultural production. Throughout 2017 and 2018 Mark led the effort to put political pressure on these companies to step up and invest to deliver the needed services to Yuma County. He made it not just about his operation and agriculture, but all of Yuma County – including underserved citizens, education, healthcare, government, military, business and industry.

Through 2021 and into 2022, Mark worked tirelessly with the Yuma County Broadband Task Force and the Arizona Commerce Authority to convince the Yuma County Board of Supervisors that with agriculture being such a large part of their economy and tax base, they should invest in a middle mile fiber network throughout Yuma County so that service providers in rural areas would have access to the same level of connectivity as more urban areas.

His dogged efforts resulted in the design of a redundant fiber ring network that links urban and rural areas of Yuma County, with no area of the county too far away from future-proof fiber connectivity that will be available on an equal-access basis to all providers. With \$20.7 million from Yuma County and two \$10 million grants from the Arizona Commerce Authority, construction is underway on the County-owned middle-mile fiber network that will attract service providers to make Yuma County as connected as anyplace on the planet. 🚧

## MEET ARIZONA AGRICULTURE'S KELLY FAMILY

By Joel Carr, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Manager-Membership Value

Located in Blue, Arizona, an unincorporated community in Greenlee County, a remote ranch named 6k6 resides in this small community known for the Blue River that runs through it. This Ranch is a cow-calf operation run by the Kelly family, Ty, along with his wife, Megan. They have three children, daughters Adalyn and Canyon and son, Thomas. The current president of Greenlee County Farm Bureau, Ty also served as Arizona Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair.

Like all of our farm and ranch families, theirs is a busy day-to-day as they raise their children, run a business and stay engaged in their community and industry. Though young, Ty already has a long history with Arizona Farm Bureau and county engagement because of his initial involvement with Arizona Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher program. He credits much of what he learned there to helping him with some of his volunteer leadership roles today. "I feel the Arizona Farm Bureau gives me a voice at the local and national levels on the many issues agricultural producers face today," he says.

**A ranch profile of Ty Kelly and his family, owner of 6k6 Ranch in Greenlee County. An ongoing series of our farm and ranch families.**



Ty and Megan Kelly are full of ranch life, growing children and community activities

**Tell us about the Ranch:** The 6k6 Ranch lies on the eastern border of Arizona. It is a remote ranch in the area known as the Blue and the Blue is famous for being the only designated primitive area left in the United States: "The Blue Range Primitive Area is the last designated primitive area in the National Forest System," according to the U.S. Forest Service. The scenic Highway 191, which used to be known as the 666, runs through the middle of the ranch. The small town of Alpine is to the north and Morenci, home of one of the largest Copper mines in the world, is to the south.

The ranch headquarters was originally a logging camp known as Pine Flat. In the 1990s, Mallet and AD Bar ranches combined into the current 6k6 Ranch. The ranch ranges from 8,000 to 4,000 feet in elevation and includes all types of wildlife, from wolves to big horn sheep and coatimundi to elk and rattlesnakes. My family and I currently run a cow-calf operation on the 6k6 Ranch.

**What things stick out most concerning your agricultural roots when**

**you reflect on your childhood?**

Growing up, I loved horses. I spent as much time around horses as I could. My grandfather had a few horses and I also went to the race track with my dad when it used to be in Prescott.

I worked on several ranches at a young age throughout the state of Arizona. My love for the outdoors and adventure led me to become a commercial fisherman in Alaska. Raising cattle and commercial fishing has given me a life full of adventure and memories I hope to pass on to my children.

**Through the years, what are some ranching practices you have implemented to improve the Ranch?**

Low-stress cattle handling, implementing the newest rangeland management practices and striving to be a sustainable operation.

**When you hear the phrase, "Every day is Earth Day to a rancher," what does this mean from your perspective?**

It means the guy with a shovel and dirt in his hands should be making, "Earth Day decisions," not the guy miles away in an office building.

**What do you love the most about the agriculture industry?**

Every day presents new challenges and opportunities to learn or see something new. God gave us this beautiful land to live on and I enjoy spending as much of my time on it as possible. I really enjoy the people who make up the agricultural community and the lifestyle we can live.

**What are some ways you stay active in your community?**

We try to stay involved through agricultural organizations, our local church, and the community center.

I am also a Range Deputy for Greenlee County Sheriff's Office and am involved with Greenlee County Search and Rescue.

**What is one fact or achievement that few people know about you?**

I sailed a catamaran from Long Island, New York on Thanksgiving Day. I went through Tropical Storm Epsilon and got shipwrecked in Bermuda.

**In your opinion, how will the next generation of agriculturalists need to operate to be successful?**

They will need to be more involved in social media and law.

**What is the best life advice that you have received?** I love the quote from the movie Conagher starring Sam Elliott when he says, "Any man who asks for help better not start in the first place."

**Please complete this sentence: "A am still ranching because ..."** I am still ranching because I found out at a young age that I could get paid to ride a horse. I am still doing that today and hopefully will continue to do it in the future. George Washington said it best, "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."

**Please complete this Sentence: "I am an Arizona Farm Bureau member because..."** I am an Arizona Farm Bureau member because the staff and all the members of the Arizona Farm Bureau have always been welcoming. I feel the Arizona Farm Bureau gives me a voice at the local and national levels on the many issues agricultural producers face today. 🚜

## SHOW ME THE MONEY: GRANTS HELP TEACHERS BRING AGRICULTURE INTO THE CLASSROOM

By Katie Aikins, Arizona Farm Bureau Education Director

In a time where the average person is 3 to 4 generations removed from agriculture, it is pivotal that we share the story of food. After all, if we don't tell our story someone is always willing to tell it for us. And as we know; it is not always an accurate one. After 14 years of working with teachers through the Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Program, it has never been more apparent that teachers want to learn the story of their food and they want to share that story with their students. Agriculture organizations are stepping up and providing funding for the classroom to help make that possible. Below are just a couple of opportunities being provided this year!

### ARIZONA PORK COUNCIL CLASSROOM COOKING GRANTS

The Arizona Pork Council (APC) has once again offered Classroom Cooking Grants to Arizona teachers who bring pork into their classroom learning experiences. Thirty (30) teachers, both agricultural and culinary teachers, were chosen to receive the \$100 APC Classroom Cooking Grant that requires that they purchase pork for use in the classroom. As part of the Grant, teachers will utilize pork lessons that were developed by Arizona high school teachers. We look forward to seeing the final reports and all the lessons

students learned about pork!

### ARIZONA PORK COUNCIL SWINE PROJECT STARTER GRANTS

The Arizona Pork Council is continuing the Swine Project Starter Grant Program that launched last year. This program provides youth who are participating in their first swine project through 4-H or FFA with \$500 to help offset some of the start-up costs. The Grant will run in 2-cycles to accommodate both Fall and Spring Fair projects. Follow us on social media @arizonaporkcouncil and @azfbaitc to see updates on youth projects and all they are learning through their swine projects!

### ARIZONA FARM BUREAU SPECIALTY CROP CLASSROOM COOKING GRANTS

The Arizona Farm Bureau is offering Specialty Crop Classroom Cooking Grants to encourage teachers to bring specialty crops into their classroom learning experiences. Twenty (20) teachers were awarded \$150 grants to allow Arizona teachers to purchase specialty crops for use in their classrooms. Grant recipients will select from a variety of lesson plans to enhance their classroom learning. 🍷

## MENTOR PROTÉGÉ CAMP CLASS 2 PROFILE, 1: ALIA RADERSTORF AND MIKE MACAULEY

By Coconino County Farm Bureau First Vice President and rancher Michael Macauley and NRCS Employee Alia Raderstorf



Michael Macauley and Alia Raderstorf spent the day conducting rangeland monitoring and more. They capped off the day with a yummy slice of pie.

The CAMP mentor/protégé series for Class 2 begins. First up is Coconino County Farm Bureau member and first Vice President Michael Macauley and NRCS employee Alia Raderstorf, a civil engineer for the agency.

With the 2021 launch of the Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP) in Arizona, in partnership with Arizona Farm Bureau, The NRCS team has been

Farm Bureau.

Arizona Farm Bureau and NRCS continue to shine a bright light on this exciting program and the experiences our mentors and protégé are going through. So much so that Class 2 began last October.

The Macauley Raderstorf partnership, along with all the mentor protégé partnerships, works to understand Arizona agriculture and conversation opportunities, joining forces to provide firsthand experience of the conservation practices and agricultural happenings in the northern Arizona area. Additionally, another NRCS protégé joined them, Leif Baierl. Leif was able to learn along with Alia regarding rangeland management.

Their first experience out on the ranch? Assessing seasonal monitoring on the Perrin Ranch.

### FROM MIKE - INTRODUCTION, STARTING FROM THE GROUND UP

**Talk about your First Meeting?** Alia joined us on Thursday, November 17, for our seasonal monitoring on the Perrin Ranch. We have 10 sites, three of which have rain gauges.

At each site we have "key forage species" identified. We check "cages" at each site for the species for that specific site and look at the utilization outside the cage, and check if there has been any change in biodiversity.

At the sites with rain gauges, we check to see the precipitation that has fallen since the previous site check (generally about three months).

Alia was exposed to the different types of grasses, browse, and forage utilized by livestock as well as wildlife. The different "signs" left by elk, deer, cattle, etc. that showed their presence at the site, how we

front and center in enthusiastically driving this unique partnership. While several other states have the CAMP program, Arizona is unique in its partnership effort with Arizona

# HAVE YOU MADE YOUR FARM AND RANCH VOICE COUNT YET?

USDA INVITES AG PRODUCERS TO RESPOND ONLINE TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

In late November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov). Arizona Farm Bureau encourages our state's farmers and ranchers to participate in the Census as it's the best instrument to assess our key agricultural crops and livestock. All responses are due **Feb. 6, 2023**.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases. Paper questionnaires went out in December. Producers need only respond once, whether securely online or by mail. The online option offers timesaving features ideal for busy producers.

"The 2022 Census of Agriculture is a powerful voice for American agriculture. The information gathered through the ag census influences policy decisions that will have a tremendous impact on ag producers and their communities for years to come," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I strongly encourage all farmers, no matter how large or small their operation, to promptly complete and return their ag census. This is your opportunity to share your voice, uplift the value and showcase the uniqueness of American agriculture."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture is a complete picture of American agriculture today. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics.

"Our farmers and ranchers have an incredible impact on our nation and the world. I want to thank them in advance for responding to the ag census," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We recognize how valuable their time is, so we have made responding more convenient and modern than ever before."

Between the ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep and updates to internet access questions.

Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and only to publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or



more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census.

The ag census is the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and territory. By completing the survey, producers across the nation can tell their stories and help generate impactful opportunities that better serve them and future generations of producers.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more.

**Follow us "Friends of Arizona Farm Bureau" and "Fill Your Plate".**

## EVERY FRIDAY, OUR ARIZONA FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAN BE FOUND ON INSTAGRAM

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director



This coming May, Arizona Farm Bureau will have hosted the #TalkToAFarmer, #TalkToARancher live on Instagram for four years. The question is, "Have you ever been one of our guests on this live and in-person show?!" We'd love to have you on the Show.

Through Instagram's "Live," split-screen feature, we're taking the time to visit with our Arizona farmers and ranchers from all over the state. We've interviewed Arizona farmers and ranchers in Buckeye, Yuma, Prescott, Tucson and Marana, Willcox and Queen Creek.

Arizona Farm Bureau's Talk to a Farmer Friday program launched so our Instagram followers to our @AZfarmbureau social media account can talk to Arizona farmers and ranchers live on their farms and ranches by posting a question on the Instagram Live feed. We now have built a regular following.

Last year, one of our more successful runs of guests was our Arizona-based auctioneers. Our last guest in that series was Janel Rogers. Her words ring true more than ever: "You learn your craft and you keep going. And you just keep getting better. Toughening up takes a little bit of time. Kevin told me, I must keep showing up."

During the first Instagram Live, 200+ 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

See [ARIZONA FARMER AND RANCHER](#) Page 8



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# PERSPECTIVE IS CRITICAL continued from Page 2

outlook and sense of place.

I recently read the book, "The Happiest Man on Earth", the autobiography of the Auschwitz survivor Eddie Jaku. In it, he lays out chapter by chapter his philosophies about education, survival, friendship, health, morality, sorrow, and hope. His final conclusions about a well-lived life are insightful and from the viewpoint of a man narrowly escaping death many times over.

He speaks to the importance of focusing on the most basic tenants of life that really matter. He laments about the fact that he waited too long to tell his story about hate and happiness because of the painful memories and the emotional burden he felt it would have on his family. From 1938 to 1945 he survived from one concentration camp to the next, one labor factory to the next, and two death marches. He saw all but his sister and one long-time friend die in the camps. When he was finally saved by an American tank passing by as he crawled across the ground from his last escape – he was at 62 pounds, sick with cholera, typhoid, malnourishment, and the lasting impacts of multiple head

traumas. The doctors gave him a 65% chance of death and he chose to focus on the 35% chance of life, because "hope costs you nothing." From his life perspective, he says, "I have lived for a century, and I know what it is to stare evil in the face. I have seen the very worst in mankind, the horrors of the death camps, and the Nazi efforts to exterminate my life and the lives of all my people. But I now consider myself the happiest man on Earth. Through all of my years, I have learned this: life can be beautiful if you make it beautiful. I will tell you my story. It is a sad one in parts, with great darkness and great sorrow. But it is a happy story in the end because happiness is something we can choose. It is up to you."

What a shame it is to never seek out others' perspectives. Seeking and sharing perspectives can be a stabilizing force within our families, our work, and our advocacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as the president of this great organization. And the opportunity to work with our great staff to keep this organization at the forefront of agriculture policy, communication, and education! 🚗

# MENTOR PROTEGE CAMP CLASS 2 continued from Page 6

measure the precipitation and, record the findings. The information gathered is used to help determine the numbers of livestock that are placed into a pasture and the length of time they are in the pasture.

On the next outing, Alia will get to see our effort in repairing fence and cutting staves.

### FROM ALIA

**What's been the biggest takeaway so far from your first gathering?** My biggest takeaway thus far is learning how much work goes into operating and maintaining a ranch. This is not something you can take a class on or learn in a semester, it's a lifestyle that is taught over generations. As a generational rancher, Mike has a wealth of knowledge, and I feel we've only scratched the surface of what I'm going to learn over this next year.

**Share specifics about one of your meetings. What did you learn?** In mid-November, Mike took me out to his allotment – Perrin Ranch – near Williams, Arizona. He showed me how he does range monitoring and how he assesses the health of his range. We visited 10 different sites throughout the day where we recorded the grass species and percentage of grazing at each plot. Mike repeats this monitoring every three months to get a good idea of his range health over time. He also measures rainfall with old rain gauges, again recording this data over time. With this past 2022 monsoon season, Mike's range looked amazing. In his words, the sites we visited are the "gold standard" for a healthy rangeland.

**Why have you felt this program has been helpful?** I feel that this program is unique as it connects producers and NRCS employees in a whole new way. In my experience, producer interactions remain at a business-professional level with little room for an individual connection. But this program allows both protégé and mentor to connect at a more personal level. I can't name any other producer – oth-

er than Mike – with whom I've had both breakfast and evening slices of pie during the same day!

**What more do you hope to learn in the coming months?** I hope to continue to learn about the intricacies of ranching and how Mike navigates a changing economy and climate. During our visit in November, Mike noted that they receive all their water from impoundment (rainfall). With the water table around Williams being too deep to access with a well, Perrin Ranch relies on summer monsoons and winter snowfall, something that is becoming more inconsistent as our climate changes. I hope to learn a lot from Mike's ingenuity and resilience and apply it to my work and daily life.

**What are you looking forward to in your other meetings/gatherings/learning and sharing sessions in the future?** I look forward to meeting again with Mike and observing the various tasks around the ranch. I had no idea what range monitoring would entail, but now I have a whole new appreciation for blue grama grass! I can only imagine I will continue to develop a new perspective on ranching, and on our food systems as a whole. 🚗



# ARIZONA FARMER AND RANCHER

continued from Page 7

him daily on Instagram talk about Arizona farming and his family-owned and operated business, Bales Hay Sales.

In 2023, we hope to do several series. For example, we're planning a six-week series on "Artists from Farm and Ranch Country." We're also looking into a series featuring our young farmers and ranchers. And this is just the beginning.

Mark your calendar for every Friday morning between 10:00 and 11:00. We've already visited with more than 150 Arizona farmers and ranchers (and yes, some of them are regular guests). During the 20 to 25-minute live sessions with our farmers or ranchers, you'll have a chance to pose a question if you follow Arizona Farm Bureau on Instagram: @AZfarmbureau.

One of our more recent "Talk to a Farmer" sessions was with Ashlee Mortimer of Mortimer Farms in Dewey-Humbolt, Arizona. Join us and stay connected to your Arizona farmers and ranchers that love to share their stories about farming and ranching in this vast and diverse agriculture state!

If you would be interested in being a guest, contact us at [outreach@azfb.org](mailto:outreach@azfb.org). 🚗

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