

A Conversation about the Declared Tier One Shortage: Bryan Hartman

“Water is one of our most expensive crop inputs and anyone that does not use it wisely will be out of business.”

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

Back in 2015 I was prompted to ask long-time friend and fellow Pinal County farm kid, Bryan Hartman, how his water district was going to handle the expected “call on the river.” Even six years ago Pinal county farmers discussed the issue extensively and were preparing for it. Now the Bureau of Reclamation officially declared a Tier One shortage in August, as expected.

Did our Pinal county farmers plan well enough? Why do they appear to have come up short knowing this was most likely going to happen even six years ago?

Hartman is president of the Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District (MSIDD), created in 1962 for the purpose of providing irrigation water for agricultural use in the area. So, we return to our conversation of six years ago.

A principal of the Santa Cruz Ranch Partnership, Hartman is a fourth-generation farmer who assumed the mantle of the family farming tradition during young adulthood. As a principal in the Santa Cruz Ranch Partnership, Hartman is responsible for the management of a 2,000-acre farm operation whose major crops include alfalfa, corn, cotton and sorghum. In addition, he is the owner of the C Spear Ranch, located in Benson, Arizona, where primary operations are comprised of pasture crops and a cow-calf operation. Previously, Hartman was manager of the Hartman Ranch Partnership, consisting of his family’s original homestead and farming operations.

Serving on several boards at the local, regional and state levels which includes the Governor-appointed Groundwater Users Advisory Council (GUAC), his leadership as MSIDD president allows him to work with a dedicated board and staff to manage MSIDD’s system of more than 200 miles of distribution facilities. In addition, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Electrical District No. 3 Board of Directors, Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority (PCWAA), and the Agricultural BMP Advisory Committee. Former Arizona Governor Jane Hull previously appointed Hartman to serve on the

Best Management Practices for Irrigation Committee, and he served on the University of Arizona’s Farm Board.



Pinal County farmers Mary and Bryan Hartman will be following land next year along with other farmers in the area to deal with the Tier One shortage the Bureau of Reclamation has imposed on farmers in this county.

With a Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture from the University of Arizona, Hartman and his wife, Mary, and their four sons reside in Casa Grande.

In 2015, I asked Hartman what was happening and how were they preparing for anticipated water cuts. “We’ve been planning for this as far back as the 2004 Arizona Water Settlement Act,” explained Hartman. “Our surface water will be reduced anyway. Central Arizona Project’s agriculture pool is 400,000 acre-feet right now. That’s what the irrigation districts in central Arizona got in return for giving up their subcontract water. Of the 400,000 acre-feet of CAP water, MSIDD farmers get 27%. So, we get 110,000 acre-feet of CAP surface water per year to grow crops in the MSIDD. In 2017, because of the way the settlement agreement worked out – planning for fewer farmers due to development – a scheduled decrease of 25% will occur. So instead of 110,000 acre-feet, that becomes around 80,000 acre-feet; and that’s under a no-shortage situation. In total, MSIDD provides almost 300,000 acre-feet per year to

the area’s landowners and farmers. We provide the rest of the water from our irrigation wells located throughout the district that are leased by MSIDD until 2030 from the landowners.

“My point is, we’ve already been preparing for a reduction in Central Arizona Project surface water for farming in this area. We have a lot of dairies in the area now and our crop mix has changed from cotton to alfalfa and corn and sorghum.

“As a result, we’ve been revamping dormant wells – fixing the wells – for some time now. In the last two years we’ve gotten even more aggressive because of a chance for a shortage declared on the river by the Bureau of Reclamation.

See **HARTMAN** Page 4

Tax Deferment for Drought-Stricken Farmers and Ranchers

By Victoria Okula, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

Last week, the IRS announced that farmers and ranchers who were forced to sell livestock due to drought may have an additional year to replace livestock and defer tax on any gains from the forced sales. As a result, eligible farmers and ranchers whose drought-sale replacement period was scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2021, in most cases, now have until the end of their next tax year to replace the sold livestock.



purposes, or poultry, are not eligible. The sales must be solely due to drought in an area designated as eligible for federal assistance.

To qualify for relief, farmers or ranchers must have sold livestock on account of drought conditions in an applicable region during any week between Sept. 1, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2021. This is a county or other jurisdiction designated as eligible for federal assistance plus counties contiguous to it. To determine whether exceptional, extreme, or severe drought is reported for any location in the applicable region, please reference to U.S. Drought Monitor maps that are produced on a weekly basis by the National Drought Mitigation Center.

While we are pleased to see record monsoon rainfalls this summer, we are also pleased to see this announcement from the IRS. Details, including an example of how this provision works, can be found in Notice 2006-82, available on IRS.gov. 🐾



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Redistricting Continues: The Latest Updates on Arizona's Next Political Maps

By **Chelsea McGuire**, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

I know that we have dedicated a significant amount of our print resources to the redistricting process this year, but it is all for good reason: the maps that are determined by the redistricting commission will determine the future of Arizona politics for the next 10 years. We are continuing to watch with great anticipation (and with loudly expressed opinions), crossing our fingers that the final maps may be available for public comment before Christmas.

As a reminder, the redistricting process is how Arizona draws new state legislative and federal congressional districts based on the most recent census data. These districts are drawn by a bipartisan commission tasked with creating districts of roughly equal population that do not arbitrarily break up communities of interest and are adequately competitive. All of those terms have debatable meanings, of course, and we have been actively engaged with the commission to explain how agriculture should be treated in this discussion. Farm Bureau staff participated in a presentation to the commission that explained the overall demographics of Arizona agriculture. We also submitted public comments outlining the agricultural communities of interest that exist across our state and explaining why those communities should not be arbitrarily divided, which would dilute their political influence in any given district.

Earlier this fall, the commission released the "Grid Maps." These maps originated at the literal center of the state, the Township Meridian (roughly, the corner of Grand Avenue and McDowell in downtown Phoenix). From there, the state was divided into four quadrants, and moving clockwise across the state, districts are drawn based on population only. While it was easy to get excited about the maps as the first revelation into Arizona's new political dividing lines, that excitement was tempered by the fact that the grid maps were completely arbitrary; they were divided based only on population in order to give the baseline for meeting the Constitutional requirements of districts of roughly the same population size. This means that they were not based on keeping intact communities of interest or on respecting the competitiveness of the district.

What was far more exciting was a few weeks ago when the commission released two preliminary maps. These ones did take into account more than just the number of people in each district, giving us a much clearer vision of what the districts will be, and there are some bright spots in those maps. For one, there are some good changes to our current CDI, which has long been a source of heartburn because of its massive size and tendency for rural influence over the district to be watered down. It's still huge, granted, but the southeastern counties of the state are excluded from it, which will help them elect someone who can focus more exclusively on their unique rural and natural resources issues. It also means that Central Arizona (including almost all of Pinal County and stretching to the New Mexico border) will have its own congressional district, again helping agricultural interests in that area pack a more effective political punch.

While there are lots of other changes that we can analyze in great detail here, I'll avoid that for a couple of reasons. For one, these maps are not arbitrary like the grid maps, but they are still preliminary; there's a lot more shifting to be done before they're final. But more important, we are bringing in an expert to do a lot of this analysis for us at this year's annual meeting. On Friday, November 12, as part of our annual meeting, our yearly AgPAC Early Bird Breakfast will feature a guest speaker to discuss the latest developments in redistricting. Register today to reserve your seat! 🗳️

Nancy Caywood Selected 2021 Go Team Member of the Year

Staff Reports

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) announced its top Go Team Members for 2021 and Arizona Farm Bureau member Nancy Caywood of Casa Grande, Arizona is one of them. Her commitment to telling her personal farm story and Arizona agriculture's story truly highlights a year with more than 30 media interviews in the record books this past year.



Arizona Farm Bureau member Nancy Caywood is a top 2021 Go Team member!

"I would like to thank American Farm Bureau, Arizona Farm Bureau and Pinal County Farm Bureau for the many hours of training, opportunities and support you have given me," said Caywood, who farms with her family in Pinal County. "Advocating for agriculture is my passion and I hope I am effective at conveying messages that will benefit farmers and ranchers. Thank you, Julie Murphree, for sharing my name and connecting me with media opportunities. I feel honored to have been chosen as a GO Team Member of the Year and was very surprised to receive the news from President Zippy Duvall! Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this honor."

Adrienne DeSutter of Illinois and Tyson Roberts of Utah were also selected AFBF's 2021 GO Team members of the Year.

"All three went above and beyond in their advocacy efforts over the past year," said American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. "Their work included numerous media interviews, engagement with lawmakers, elected officials and candidates, and proactive work on social media to share information on important agricultural issues."

"We are very proud of these three GO Team members and the rest of the group. GO Team members continue to answer the call when asked and excel in key advocacy tactics for Farm Bureau."

"Nancy is an amazing person and advocate for agriculture," said Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse. "Spending any time with her is like a shot in the arm of optimism because no matter what she and her family are going through on the farm, she greets you with a smile and a positive attitude. This is a big reason why her message about farming resonates with people and leaves them wanting to know more and understand more."

"I've never known a more dedicated person when it comes to answering the call to respond to media," said Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director Julie Murphree. "She never turned down one of my media queries. And this was during a time when national media descended upon Arizona like never before because of our drought issues and the Bureau of Reclamation's Tier One shortage declaration. We've never had to field that many media queries in one single year. Nancy always rose to the occasion." 🗳️

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HARTMAN

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“In Maricopa and Stanfield we have 278 irrigation wells that have potential production capabilities. Of those, more than 139 are currently ready to operate. MSIDD has more than 180 miles of canal system to move water anywhere in the district.

“The MSIDD staff is sleeping and breathing this every day to be ready and we feel we’ll be where we need to be to have enough wells online for irrigation requirements. In the next year’s budget, we’ll have the potential to deliver and sell 171,000 plus-acre-feet of groundwater. Our target production in well water is 200,000 acre-feet.”

That was then. Today, there’s more of the story to tell.

Arizona Agriculture: While you’ve been prepared for anticipated cuts even without a Tier One declaration, what happened to make the declaration so tough on farmers, certainly in Pinal County? Were we prepared enough? Or, was mother nature uncooperative. Explain.

Hartman: You are correct that we anticipated not having a reliable source of Ag-pool surface water after 2030 as per the Arizona Water Settlement Act of 2004. We were steadily increasing our groundwater capability while not having to use it. Then came the Drought Contingency Plan, DCP. Our state leaders anticipated that a drop in Lake Mead might come sooner than later, and it did as of last August with the Bureau of Reclamation declaring a Tier One Shortage. We found ourselves dealing with the reality of shifting our entire Irrigation District management effort, which has over 200 miles of distribution facilities, delivering Central Arizona Project (CAP) surface water anywhere in our district within

than 24 hours to facing the reality of relying mainly on groundwater again.

We are now faced with speeding up the process of converting our irrigation district from delivering primarily surface water supplemented with groundwater for which it was designed to delivering primarily groundwater throughout the district. The clock got sped upon us and as a result we have to work that much harder to catch up.

Arizona Agriculture: Pinal County farmers will lose half of the water they typically use to grow food and fiber. The impact on a business’s success seems obvious, but our resilient farmers seem ready to carry on. How are they going to do this?

Hartman: We live in a great age where technology is rapidly increasing. Drip irrigation systems, irrigation sprinklers and pivots, GPS guidance systems for our farm equipment, land leveling and touchup laser systems, ported concrete irrigation canals, moisture sensors in our fields letting us know when to irrigate with precision so we don’t waste a drop of water when irrigating.

Water is one of our most expensive crop inputs and anyone that does not use it wisely will be out of business. All these tools help our Pinal County farmers produce more with less. We face every challenge head-on.

Arizona Agriculture: How are you going to handle all this with your own farm business?

Hartman: We will only be growing the most profitable crops. Since we will be forced to fallow our productive cropland and have a limited supply of irrigation water it is critical to maximizing yields and income on the crop that gives us the best chance to stay in business.

Arizona Agriculture: In our earlier interview you mentioned because of the irrigation districts’ efforts and CAP’s efforts over the last 30 years, the groundwater table has come up. The other benefit in Pinal County is that the Ak Chin Indian Community has CAP water for perpetuity because they are a higher priority than farmers so we’ll always have agriculture in some form or fashion in the Maricopa/Stanfield area. Plus, as a result, since they’ll be using surface water through CAP, instead of well water, they’ll always be recharging the groundwater table below our area. These are hopeful points about water in the area. But what else are you hoping for as it relates to this resource in Pinal County for farming?

Hartman: When our founding farming families came to Pinal County, they cleared the desert and floodplain areas and developed the deesert lands into productive farmland. They dug irrigation wells and developed and built electrical districts to power the pumps. They built and paid for our irrigation district which brought in our precious surface water from the Colorado River so that our aquifer would recharge. Our early farm families actually anticipated that another phase of development would occur once populations shifted west.

Now, over time our farmland is being converted to urban areas where people are moving here to build homes to live and build businesses to work. Urbanization done right uses less water than agriculture. Effluent water from the cities could be used to grow crops. Our irrigation technologies are always improving. Our Ag water use has dropped over time. We pumped and used a lot more water in the past than we ever will in the future.

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Arizona Agriculture: The irrigation districts will get to tap into recovery infrastructure dollars. Besides what MSIDD has already done and this inflow of additional funds, when can we see the completion of the projects, and will it be enough and in time?

Hartman: Good question. When a farmer has numerous tractors to maintain and keep running it means more expense and repairs. The same will be true for our irrigation district. With more irrigation wells running we have more repairs and maintenance to keep the water flowing. So several budget line items will not go away but instead increase.

The Irrigation District Board and its management team is under no pretense that all our lands have good groundwater capacity. We have cropland with good water capacity and we have cropland with little or no groundwater capacity. We will use our best efforts to supply water to all our district lands, but we are not magicians.

This will not be an easy fix. To accommodate the new normal we are completely reverse engineering the system from surface water delivery to groundwater delivery. Ultimately, this experience and effort points to a number of benefits we had with access to CAP's surface water that went beyond just water. The system was an equalizer to all farming across the district regardless of a cropland's groundwater capabilities. Now we have to sort out this underground maze of unequal groundwater capacity.

There is much work still to be done. The Irrigation District is continuing to drill new service area wells, rehabilitating existing wells and designing and installing pipelines to transport irrigation water where it is needed.

Arizona Agriculture: Scientists and especially geologists have an interesting take at times about water in Arizona. Some even appear fairly hopeful. What are these experts telling you?

Hartman: Most experts are hopeful. We are blessed to be in an irrigation district with an overall rising water table. Our irrigation district has hired the best hydrologist and geologists to work along with our hard-working, dedicated employees. We must work hard at finding ways to take advantage of that and transport the water to where it is needed the most.

Arizona Agriculture: In Pinal County alone, agriculture contributes \$2.3 billion to the local economy. Are you hopeful about the future of agriculture in Pinal County? If so, in what way?

Hartman: Yes, I am hopeful. Our county and city government leaders have extraordinary passion and energy to protect and sustain Pinal County agriculture. Our county leaders are passionate about protecting our irrigation grandfathered water rights which in turn protects agriculture and Pinal County. They have our backs.

Arizona Agriculture: What is your word of encouragement to farmers in the area?

Hartman: Keep farming. We are truly blessed with some of the most hardworking, innovative farmers in the world. Our soils are some of the finest anywhere to be found. No farmer in Pinal county will give up without a fight. Many areas of the western U.S. are being cut off completely from their water resources. We are blessed to have our groundwater capability to continue to farm. We will survive and eventually thrive again, maybe even stronger. 🚒

USDA NASS to Conduct First Hemp Survey

By Dave DeWalt, State Statistician, USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service Mountain Region - Arizona Field Office

In October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service mailed its first Hemp Acreage and Production Survey. The survey will collect information on the total 2021 planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production Survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

The term "hemp" means the plant species *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant such as the seeds, all derivatives, and extracts, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

On May 31, 2019, Arizona hemp producers were allowed to obtain licenses from the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) to grow hemp. The producers proceeded to plant their first hemp acreage on June 7, 2019.

After the first season of planting and harvesting was complete, the AZDA compiled some facts about the state's first hemp crop. There were 165 grower licenses and 43 nursery licenses issued in 2019. There was a total of 5,430 acres planted to hemp. Growers faced many challenges that year, including insect pressure, irrigation practices, soil conditions, soil salts, seed germination rates, and extreme heat.

Based only on the AZDA's inspected acres in the final report, Yuma County had the most hemp acreage, followed by Maricopa and Mohave counties.

For the 2021 crop, producers that receive a questionnaire from USDA NASS may complete the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov. Each sampled producer will have a unique code in the cover letter that will be used to complete the survey online. Alternatively, the sampled grower may also complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope provided.

As always, any information provided by respondents will be kept confidential, by law, and will not be shared with anyone outside of USDA NASS.

The release of the 2021 data is scheduled for February 2022. Learn more about the survey at nass.usda.gov/go/hemp. 🚒



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15 of My Favorite Facts about Arizona Beef

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director

I love beef. I love the cattle industry that beef represents, and I love Arizona beef! Arizona's beef industry has been hard hit on several levels including enduring supply disruptions and poor on-the-hoof prices for beef during the pandemic, statewide droughts, subsequent flooding when rain did come this summer and more. Despite all this, our Arizona ranchers possess an endearing and enduring quality: perseverance.

To celebrate their perseverance, I decided to list the top reasons I love beef. And I'm thinking my readers to this article feel the same. The holidays are here, let's serve up Arizona beef.



Besides how wonderfully tasty it is, Beef is a complete, high-quality protein, which means it supplies all the essential amino acids, or building blocks of protein, the body needs to build, maintain and repair body tissue. Photo courtesy of Arizona Beef Council.

1. Arizona beef farmers and ranchers produce enough beef to feed more than 8 million Americans every year.
2. Arizona beef ranks top when it comes to quality and taste!
3. Not only is raising beef cattle one of Arizona's largest agriculture commodities, but it is also the largest area of all American agriculture.
4. A 3-ounce serving of lean beef is an excellent source of protein, supplying more

than half of the protein most people need each day.

5. Beef is a complete, high-quality protein, which means it supplies all the essential amino acids, or building blocks of protein, the body needs to build, maintain and repair body tissue.
6. To get the same amount of protein found in a 3 oz. serving of lean beef at 150 calories, you would need to eat 1 ¼ cups (236 calories) of raw soy tofu cubes, 1 ½ cups (374 calories) of black beans, or 7 tablespoons (670 calories) of peanut butter.
7. Beef is a nutritional powerhouse. It would take 8 ounces of chicken breast to get the same amount of iron as 3 ounces of beef, and it would take close to 7 times the amount of chicken to get the same amount of zinc as a serving of beef.
8. The U.S. is a leader in efficient and sustainable beef production, providing 18 percent of the world's beef, with only 6 percent of the world's cattle.
9. A steer of around 1,150 pounds bears approximately 500 pounds of beef. Most of the remaining weight is salvaged as by-products, enabling us to use around 99% of the animal.
10. Many of America's favorite cuts are lean, including Top Sirloin, Flank Steak, and 93% lean Ground Beef. If looking for a lean cut, look for "round" or "loin" in the name.
11. According to BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com and the USDA, to be lean the beef cut has to have less than 10 grams total fat, less than 95 mg of cholesterol per 100 grams (3.5 oz.) of meat and have less than or equal to 4.5 grams of saturated fat.
12. To ensure safe and delicious eating experience, you should cook all Ground Beef to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F. An instant read thermometer is one of your best tools in the kitchen.
13. There are at least 50 breeds of beef cattle, but fewer than 10 make up most cattle produced. Some major breeds are Angus, Hereford, and Brahman.
14. There is more fat marbling in USDA Prime beef, which makes it the most flavorful and tender. It also means that it is higher in fat content. Most of the beef sold in supermarkets are graded USDA Select or USDA Choice. Regardless of grade, the mineral, protein and vitamin content are similar.
15. Beef is considered a red meat because of the amount of myoglobin (a protein in meat that holds oxygen in the muscle) that it contains. Other "red" meats are lamb, pork, and veal. (There is less myoglobin in "white" meats such as fish and chicken.) 🍴

Editor's Note: These facts come from my ranchers, the Arizona Beef Council, and my nutrition friends. If you're a beef fan like me, go to Fill Your Plate's recipe section and also the Beef Council's recipes at Beef. It's What's for Dinner.com.

American Farm Bureau's Convention Open for Registration

People, Purpose, Possibilities – Growing Tomorrow, Together
Staff Reports

The American Farm Bureau Federation announced the opening of general registration recently for the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention. The convention will be held in-person Jan. 7-12, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia, with a virtual option for portions of the event available to those not attending in-person.

Themed "People, Purpose, Possibilities – Growing Tomorrow, Together," AFBF's 103rd consecutive convention, a "can't miss" event that offers the inside scoop on policies and perspectives that will affect farms, ranches and agribusinesses in 2022 and beyond.

"This is your chance to look beyond the horizon at the future of agriculture, sharpen your skills and help set the agenda in Washington," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "I look forward to seeing you in January in my home state of Georgia as we begin another year of growing together."

Attendees may participate in educational workshops to advance their leadership skills, expand business acumen, and gain insight into the policies and trends impacting food production. The convention also offers the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge innovations in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers and explore a dynamic trade show with exhibitors showcasing the latest in agricultural technology, tools and services.

Workshop topics range from the 2023 farm bill, market outlooks, climate policy and trade to ag education resources, effective advocacy and mental health. 🍴

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Glimmers of the Future of Arizona's Agriculture

By Fred Andersen, Arizona Farm Bureau Historian

Economic recovery from the worst of the Depression was slow, but a combination of new federal programs and production restrictions began to have an impact by the mid-Thirties. Things were helped in some areas by a drought that cut into surpluses and helped to boost prices. Even more important was the gradual recovery of the national economy. By the winter of 1935, wholesale farm prices had risen 75 percent over two years. County farm-debt settlement committees had already settled 125 cases, addressing, and adjusting debt of \$800,000, "on a basis which will enable farmers, with careful management, to work out of their difficulties." (*Arizona Producer* 5-15-35)

In 1936, the Agricultural Adjustment Act was declared unconstitutional in part, though marketing and licensing agreements were upheld. This led to the passage of a new Agricultural Adjustment Act, and the program continued. Other momentous new federal laws were the Taylor Grazing Act, which regulated grazing on public lands, as well as the creation of the Soil Conservation Service, in which the U.S. took on the responsibility of preventing land erosion, the Social Security Act, and the end of the gold standard as a monetary system. Arizona farmers had long supported international free trade in currencies, believing this would improve their competitiveness in foreign markets.

While conditions improved, the recovery was tenuous. In the late 1930s, a new tide of workers from Midwestern states appeared in Arizona, some apparently expecting higher wages than they could get in their home areas. Despite efforts by the Farm Security Administration and other agencies to provide housing, many of these refugees ended up living in squalid shanty towns on the fringes of the farm areas.

To help meet this crisis residents, especially farm women, took action. At the Liberty School in Buckeye 125 immigrant children were fed breakfast and lunch daily by the school and the local community. The cafeteria manager stretched his budget, and the school principal bought shoes for some children, while Mrs. T.W. Bales provided five gallons of milk daily and Mrs. Jane Brewster contributed eggs. (*Arizona Producer* 6-1-38)

These labor issues fed fears that the union agitation that was disrupting agricultural production in California would spread. A group of landowners formed the Associated Farmers of Arizona to protect "their homes and property against terrorism of racketeers already in Salt River Valley with the avowed intention of ruling every class of agricultural labor." Taking the position that they were supporting law enforcement, members

vowed to remove or detain agitators on their property and to patrol public roads. (*Arizona Producer* 3-1-38)

The Arizona Farm Bureau was undergoing a transformation. In August 1935 Arizona Farm Bureau President Sam Wallace attended a regional meeting of eleven western states whose goal was to strengthen Farm Bureau in the region. Specific issues included improving marketing systems, increasing competition in transport to help lower rates, and better farm roads. Another goal was to improve the standard of living on farms, and to offer better service and support to farm women. (*Arizona Producer* 8-5-35) Two months later, a state meeting voted to allow commodity groups such as Cattle Growers to join as a group, to improve cooperation with these groups and give them the benefit of Farm Bureau membership. (*Arizona Producer* 10-15-35)

On October 25, 1937, the Arizona Farm Bureau filed articles of incorporation with the state of Arizona, and a month later at the annual meeting, made the first changes in those articles (*Arizona Farm Bureau Minutes*, Nov. 1938) At the annual convention in November 1938, Hollis Gray succeeded Nat Dysart as state president. The organization by commodity meant that each group came to the convention with their own proposals for the upcoming year. (*Arizona Producer* 12-1-38)

In 1939 Earl Maharg became the first full-time Executive Secretary of the Arizona Farm Bureau, at the organization's office at 1201 W. Madison St. in Phoenix. A few months later Farm Bureau, which had been attempting to start a new statewide farm publication, instead took a renewed interest in the *Arizona Producer*, under its new publisher and editor, Ernest Douglas. Farm Bureau and the *Producer* both began contributing ag-related content to radio station KOY, then the strongest broadcast signal in the state. (*Arizona Producer* 2-17-40)

Editor's Note: Excerpted from our recently released history book, "A Century of Progress, 1921-2021."



Racin' Pigs and Raising Funds

By Katie Aikins, Arizona Farm Bureau Education Director

The Racin' for the Bacon Derby Dinner was back in action and in-person this past month. The 3rd Annual Event presented by the Arizona Pork Council and benefitting the Arizona Farm Bureau Educational Farming Company was a huge success! Over 100 attendees gathered to enjoy local eats, local drinks, silent and live auctions, pig racing, derby hat contests, and much more. This year's generous attendees, sponsors, and donors helped raise more nearly \$20,000 to support the mission of the Foundation!

100 percent of the proceeds are utilized in our continuing efforts to educate Arizona's youth and consumers with the opportunity to come back to the farm and learn where their food comes from.

The Racin' for the Bacon Derby Dinner was the perfect opportunity to showcase Arizona Farm Bureau's collaboration brew and wine. Our friends at Old Ellsworth Brewery served up Cien to the attendees while Southwest Wine Center supplied our Centennial Red.

A new addition to the Racin' for the Bacon Derby Dinner this year was the Disneyland Raffle. Congratulations to Kari Williams for winning the 4-pack of 2-day Disneyland tickets, hotel stay and gift card!



A Derby Hat competition brought some added fun to the evening. Congrats to our Winner, Amy Dillard!



Attendees were able to cheer on their favorite pig

resources highlighting Arizona agriculture's diversity and dynamic.

See RACIN' PIGS Page 8

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Racin' Pigs

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