

**Providing Farm Bureau Members CHOICES for Informed Decisions** 

## **A CONVERSATION ABOUT UARIZONA'S NEXT DECADE: SHANE BURGESS**

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By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Outreach Director



A native of New Zealand, Dr. Shane C. Burgess, has worked around the world as a practicing veterinarian and scientist. Currently, the University of Arizona Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, and Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dr. Burgess' areas of research expertise include cancer biology, virology, proteomics, immunology, bioinformatics and computational biology.

Burgess is honored to lead

the University of Arizona Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension as they advance their mission as a land-grant university by preparing students to be leaders and job creators, researching solutions to society's biggest challenges, and bringing the science of the university to the families and communities of Arizona.

With UArizona as the land grant university, Arizona Farm Bureau thought it would be valuable to chat with Dr. Burgess about the next decade in his division at UArizona.

CHOICES: In 2011, I asked you to describe your work and team philosophy. You'd described engagement as a key theme to your team philosophy. In this last decade of your leadership talk about how you've made application of this and what do you think, if anything, needs to be added to the mix in our modern era?

**Burgess:** The first component is engaging with those for whom the university works. A great example is the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), which our stakeholders, including many from the Arizona Farm Bureau, really wanted. We needed to identify where the key issues lay, and where the key support needed to come from. It was only because we had extremely engaged and incredibly talented people, working together as a team, that the CVM came to fruition.

In the University of Arizona Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, the key to engagement is to enable people to do the best job they can by giving them the autonomy to do so. That means we needed to allow people to be innovative, and move the money to where the action is, meaning out of central control and into the academic units in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and into the counties in the Cooperative Extension system. I believe strongly that those who will deal with the consequences of decisions, and who are accountable for delivering on our mission, need to have

In this Issue

the decision-making authority and this includes over money.

I think we also need to be able to let people define what would be the best work environment for them and their colleagues. We always can do more. This is a never-ending process, and we cannot ever forget that engagement is key; that people are involved with organizations because of the people they work with day-to-day. I need to ensure we can make the environment, for ourselves, our students, our stakeholders, our partners, the best it can be under the providing circumstances and the rules we live under.

## CHOICES: Describe to us what's been most exciting and rewarding for you in this last decade with UArizona.

**Burgess:** Getting to know our employees, our stakeholders, our partners, everybody we are involved within this incredibly diverse state. There hasn't been a year that I haven't learned as much as the year preceding it; our division and university are so broad and so impactful and so evolving that there's always an amazing thing to find out every time I look around or I talk to someone. After about 150,000 Arizona road miles, everything I see is as exciting as it was when I first arrived.

## CHOICES: The next obvious question involves the coming decade? With your team in place, what's your hope for the next 10 years?

**Burgess:** Arizona has some incredible opportunities because it can be central to the solutions for the many challenges the world is facing. The Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension is positioned to make a contribution as important as any we've made in our past 137 years. Because we cover so many areas that impact people, at the state and city level but especially in the rural parts of the state, including human wellness, the bioeconomy, natural resources, future agriculture, food security, and much more, we can have a real and positive effect.

Just as important, we will continue to provide incredible graduates who are going out now and are being more competitive for jobs than they've ever been. They're leading the way in embracing opportunities that didn't even exist when they started going to college.

CHOICES: While we touched on it in the last conversation article of a decade ago, let's talk about the balance between university-based research and practical production advances for Arizona agriculture. While we can claim lots of success in this balance, where do we need to go from here?

**Burgess:** I think we need to continue along the path we're on and have been since we started higher education in Arizona. The U.S. government set up an incredible public education system in 1862 through the Land Grant Act, created Experiment Stations in 1887 with the Hatch Act, and then the Cooperative Extension system was codified in the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 to ensure university knowledge, advances and inventions impacted the private sector powering See UARIZONA'S NEXT DECADE Page 4

Planning a vacation this summer?

www.azfb.org

FireWise Guide for Arizona Living.

## **AN OPEN INVITATION TO ENJOY OUR PUBLIC LANDS, BUT WITH CARE**

By Philip Bashaw, Arizona Farm Bureau CEO



During this time of year my attention is continually drawn to the outdoors. The weather in the desert is beautiful (if you are used to the heat), and long hikes in the mountains and in the pine trees are the perfect way to spend an early morning. Our beautiful outdoor excursions are one of the things that make living in Arizona so great!

Just like you, many of my family's favorite outdoor activities happen on state and public lands. While these opportuni-

ties exist for all of us to enjoy, we should remember that these resources come with a responsibility of stewardship to these lands. Our land management agencies like the State Land Department, Forest Service, Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management are tasked with taking care of these resources and managing their care. But they cannot do it alone.

We all rely on partners like the farmers and ranchers who lease these lands and take on the responsibility to care for them. They manage these lands by repairing infrastructure like fences, gates, water structures and improving access to roads. They strategically rotate cattle grazing to ensure that plant life remains robust and maintain the health of the soil. Their land management work makes it possible for you and I to get out and enjoy our surroundings.

Now imagine that I show up at friend's BBQ, shoot holes in the welcome sign on their front door after spinning my tires out on their front yard, and leave trash all over their lawn. If it sounds extreme, that's because it is. But sadly, we're hearing reports of these types of activities happening on the land our ranchers manage all the time: off-road vehicles leaving roads and tearing across valuable rangeland and fragile ecosystems, gates left open for livestock to escape, water infrastructure damaged by bullet holes.

If you can imagine this happening in your own back yard, or even the parking lot at your office, it wouldn't take long before the expense, effort and frustration would become overwhelming. It's no wonder that more and more of these land use opportunities



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are restricted. It only takes a handful of bad actors to deteriorate and erode the areas we all enjoy.

Just like we are all left with the responsibility of cleaning up our house when the party is over, land management partners are left to clean up the mess when the unruly party goers all head home. But we all have those friends who help maintain order at the party, help to tidy up and are conscientious of our property. Those are the friends that are invited back time and time again.

So next time you are out, think of the folks that are out there and responsible for cleaning up when the party is over and will still be there caring for this place long after you have gone home. Take a minute to think about what you could do to make their jobs just a little bit easier.

It only takes a minute or two to make sure a gate is closed properly. It's common courtesy to ensure your own trash is picked up and disposed of, and it takes no time at all to stay on marked trails and roads. Lastly, it only takes a little extra time to check the fire restrictions and make sure your fires are out before you leave.

It's up to all of us to do our part to make sure the invitation to enjoy our beautiful state stays open! 🇰



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## **PLANNING A VACATION THIS SUMMER?**

Much of the Southwest is considered a high-hazard fire Life is almost back to normal. While the recent pandemic environment. Based on recent history and experience, these upended so much it didn't keep us from being creative with areas possess all the ingredients necessary to support large, doing things as a family. Hopefully, we should be moving from a intense and uncontrollable wildfires. pandemic to an endemic soon. Now would be a good time to start Here are some ways Homeowners can be ready for a wildfire: planning upcoming vacations or excursions. As Arizona Farm • First speak with your local fire department about your Bureau members, you can receive up to 20% off any published area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the rates at over 4,000 Choice Hotels nationwide. Members will save wildland-urban interface (WUI). at participating Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn Clarion, MainStay Suites, Rodeway Inn, and Econo Lodge hotels. fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from To book a reservation, select your destination travel dates,

enter the number of guests, enter the Farm Bureau ID number. You can also call 800.258.2847, don't forget to mention your Arizona Farm Bureau ID number.

Members can save even more by signing up for the Choices Privileges rewards program. Earn points towards free nights or flights along witWh using your 20% discount. It's free and quick to sign up. Reward members will earn points at participating Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Cambria, and MainStay Suites hotels. Call 800.258.2847 to become a Choice Privileges rewards member or Join today and start earning points.

Discounts are subject to availability at participating hotels. Discounts can't be combined with any other discount, offer, or promotional rate. Make reservations in advance to use the discount.

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# Arizona Farm Bureau

## **FIREWISE GUIDE FOR ARIZONA LIVING**

#### **Staff Reports**

- Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those reading in the home know the plan of action.
  - Pack your emergency items. Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from the local media, your local fire department, and public safetv.
  - Follow your Personal Wildland Fire Action Plan (see website below). Doing so will not only support your safety but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees, and other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. Survivable space is the modification of landscape design, fuels, building materials, and maintenance that would make a home ignition caused by wildfire unlikely, even without direct firefighter intervention.

Create a survivable space around your structures by removing, reducing, relocating, and replacing fuels and vegetation to slow the spread of wildfire. Include detached garages, storage buildings, barns, and other structures in your plan. Survivable space involves a series of management zones in which different treatments are used. Not all properties extend into each zone.

For more information, visit the RSG website at www.wildlandfirersg.org.

## LOAD UP ON BARGAIN LOADERS

#### Staff Reports

Our Caterpillar benefit through your Arizona Farm Bureau membership might offer some opportunities during this period of inflation. Caterpillar offers many options. Farm Bureau members receive marked-down prices. Members can expect to save up to \$5,000 on Cat excavators, skid steers, wheel loaders, and much more. Members will also receive an additional \$250 credit on work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines. Combine discounts with any current retail discount, promotion, rebates, or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, except for Cat NCBA membership incentive.

#### Caterpillar discount

Arizona Farm Bureau offers some fantastic benefits. It pays to be a Farm Bureau member! View all your benefits on our mobile app FB Benefits available on iPhone or Android.

#### **View Benefits**

Need assistance accessing any of our fantastic benefits? Contact Joel Carr at 480.635.3609 or joelcarr@azfb.org.

#### **UARIZONA'S NEXT DECADE**

Arizona

Farm Bureau

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the country. In the late 1800s, our predecessors' focus was of course agriculture because that was such a massive part of the economy, employing more than 20 percent of the counted population. Today just more than one-half of one percent of the U.S. population is employed in agriculture. Agriculture is as important to the economy as ever and it also spun off a massive new economy called the "bioeconomy," which is now worth over \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy and directly employs ten times more Americans than agriculture. We need to keep developing the bioeconomy and growing our global preeminence in agriculture that is critical to Arizona.

This is a formula that works. We can't afford to just build on our heritage-we need to double down on it. All our primary economy sectors have always embraced new technology. I think the challenge we have today is that there are so many voices in the room, and we need to ensure that we have an organized system to make sure that the new ideas and new technologies are able to be tested at our Land Grant Universities so that they can be rapidly implemented in the pragmatic private sector, the Yuma Center for Excellence in Desert Agriculture is a prime example.

#### CHOICES: How do we compare to other land-grant universities?

Burgess: My answer is that you should tell me how we are doing. The Land Grant Universities work for the state they're in, and I'm always open to hearing what we should do better. How do we compare to our Land Grant University peers in other states? Our reality is that we are part of Arizona's competition with other states to hire the very best people for the state and we do need to have the funding to do so. Nationwide, the Land Grant Universities objectively do, and always have done, a phenomenal job for their states and the nation. I aspired 10 years ago that if such a ranking could ever rationally be done that we would be amongst the very top. That's why we have our foundational strategic intent of being the most sought-after place to be a part of.

#### CHOICES: What makes us unique?

Burgess: If "us" means the state of Arizona, and its primary production industries, then I would say that if not unique we are amongst an incredibly special group that includes an incredible diversity of plant and animal products, as well as a mining sector that will become even more important as we move into newer economies, as well as being a major tourist economy. We work in all these sectors.

Our engagement in the agricultural sector is well-established. Our division is involved in two of three parts of mining we aren't involved in the most obvious part, extraction, but our graduates and our faculty are heavily involved in the front-end work for a mine to be established, and all of the back-end work to remediate the mine and its tailings so that the people who live in that area can live safely forever after a mine closes.

Tourism is the other key component. We are a natural resources state, and of course one of Arizona's Five C's is climate. Really, that's a synonym for everything we do with tourism. And tourism in Arizona really cannot be separated from the management of the natural resources all around us whether it's our watersheds, our ski areas, or the Grand Canyon or hunting or birding or many other things that people do, from primary production which is ranching. It's ranchers who are also land stewards. Arizona is a significant agricultural state, we are the

## CHECK OUT ARIZONA FARM BUREAU SPEAKERS' BUREAU: FENCE LINE

Have you talked to a farmer today? Here's your chance! Arizona Farm Bureau's Fence Line speakers' bureau is made up of farmers and ranchers who are happy to tell you about what they do on their farm or ranch every day, share a few stories and their passion for agriculture. Fence Line offers face-to-face presentations and the opportunity to talk directly with an Arizona farmer or rancher about how your food is grown.

#### Fence Line speaker topics include:

- Food Safety Today = Best practices
- Genetics

- Arizona and Agriculture Water
- Understanding the Farm Bill
- Leadership: How to Pass the Baton
- Biotechnology
- The High Cost of Farm Equipment
- What it Cost to Farm
- What Makes Arizona Agriculture Unique
- Buying Local
- Learn about Arizona Agriculture
- Agritourism

- plants, wine and more



- Agriculture Issues
- · Yuma, "The Winter Salad Bowl" of the Nation

Here are a few comments about our speakers:

I just wanted to thank you for putting me in contact with John Boelts. It was a wonderful day of learning, and he went out of his way with my students. We were all very impressed. My students and I were astounded by his depth of knowledge and his ability to convey it. All of us felt privileged to have had the opportunity to learn so much. He is passionate about his crops and cares that he is helping to feed the people of the United States a quality food product. -- Brophy College Preparatory

I just want to thank you for arranging for Sonia Gasho so speak to our Nature Club tonight. She was a wonderful speaker and I think there were more questions than we have had for any other speaker. After the meeting a few of us enjoyed her company at dinner.

Thanks again for arranging such an interesting and informative speaker. -- SaddleBrooke Nature Club

We contacted you for a speaker for our staff training. You contacted Wes Kerr who gave us training on his family's dairy farm. His presentation was ranked extremely high by our staff due to his knowledge of the farm, science, etc. and staff thought he was one of the most relatable and dynamic speakers that we have had in a long time. --- Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

Arizona Farm Bureau

## **ROAD TRIP SEASON**

#### **Staff Reports**

Did you know your farm bureau member benefits will take you places? Let this be the year you start crossing off some of your bucket list destinations. Arizona Farm Bureau members receive up to 30% off Budget base rates with their Budget Customer Discount (BCD) number. Members will also receive other great offers like dollars off, a free weekend, or a free upgrade.

Budget Car Rental is one of the best-known car rentals brands, with over 3,000 locations in 120 countries. Budget is a leader in providing vehicle rental services to value-conscious travelers. The Budget also operates the second-largest truck rental business in the United States through a network of over 1600 locations.

You will need a few items to use Budget's online reservation form. Your three-character airport code or your

desired pickup city and state/ Zip code. The dates you plan on renting the vehicle and your preferred pickup times. Lastly, you will need the Arizona BCD Number: Y775700.

When filling out the **Online** Reservation Form, select "use an offer code" and enter your "BCD" offer code, Click "View Rates," Most discounts for the BCD vary between 10 and 30 percent, depending on the time of year, availability, and other factors.

The Farm Bureau BCD discount can't be combined with other BCD corporate or membership discounts.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 480.635.3609.

Remember to check out all your benefits as a Farm Bureau member on the downloadable app for convenience when you are out about about.

## **CREDIT CARD BENEFITS**

#### **Staff Reports**



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and convenient way to make purchases or pay bills in person at your local store, or digitally from the convenience of your home. In fact, millions of people use their credit card to make over 100 million transactions every day in the United States!

As online marketplaces grow, more people use their cards digitally every day. Credit cards allow you to make convenient returns and offer security against fraud. Fraudulent charges on a credit card can be easily disputed, often with zero liability protection for the cardholder. If a debit card were to experience a fraudulent charge, the dispute can be a much more drawnout process and could lead to troublesome fees and declines. Additionally, since a debit card or to apply, visit us online at withdraws funds directly from the cardholder's account, that money is gone immediately; with a credit card, you're not out any money if the issue is resolved before your next billing statement.

Some credit cards, such as the Farm Bureau<sup>®</sup> Bank Member Rewards Mastercard<sup>®</sup>, use the latest EMV chip technology. Not only does this help to protect from fraudulent card skimming on in-store purchases, but it supports contactless shopping. Instead of having to swipe or insert your card into a terminal, you just need to tap your card for a quick checkout!

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<sup>1</sup>Other fees may apply. For full terms and conditions, visit www.farmbureau.bank/ creditcards.

<sup>2</sup>Based on purchases made in the calendar year that ends 60 days prior to membership renewal month. Balance transfers and cash advances are not included. State eligibility and minimum annual spend requirements for dues reimbursement vary by state and can be found here at membership dues. Available to new and existing members.

<sup>3</sup>Eligible purchases mean any signature or pin-based, online, phone or mail-order purchase made with the Farm Bureau Member Rewards Mastercard. This excludes Cash Advances, Balance Transfers, credits and returns. Triple reward points on qualifying transactions based on merchant code (5411, 5499, 5541, 5542, 5812, 5813, 5814), up to \$1500 quarterly. Double reward points may vary from state to state.

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## **FARM BUREAU BANK "MERCHANT SERVICES" MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT**

#### Staff Reports

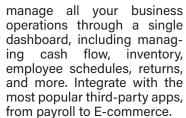
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mission is to make people aware of unrecognized health problems and encourage them to seek follow-up care with their physician. Life Line Screening is the leading ers affordable and adequate provider of community-based preventive health screening in health screening services to help people be proactive about the United States. their health. Arizona Farm Life Line is committed to Bureau Members are eligible

delivering accurate results and recommendations that could give you a healthier advantage in everyday life.

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### **PREVENTIVE SCREENING SAVES LIVES**

#### **Staff Reports**

In life, there are so many uncertainties. Early detection of serious conditions can save your life. Preventive screening can bring you peace of mind to enjoy life. Life Line Screening deliv-

to receive four screenings for

\$135. These screening include

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Aortic Aneurysm Screening,

ing, and Peripheral Arterial

Disease Screening. Members

can also receive Osteoporosis

Screening/Bone Density Test

Fibrillation Screen-

## **5 COMMON HERBS WITH BIG HEALTH BENEFITS**

By Kennadee Riggs, Recent AZFB Communications Intern



Herbs come in many different colors and flavors, usually known for their unique flavors and tastes. But did you know that they also come with scientific properties that benefit our health in different ways? Here are a few common herbs that are great for both mind and body.

#### Ginger

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Ginger has been used for thousands of years to help with gastrointestinal issues and nausea. Not only does it taste delicious on top of sushi, but it is still used today as a supplement for these very things.

#### Peppermint

The peppermint leaf is most known to be used for its flavor. However, it is proven to work as a natural bronchodilator. It opens airways and encourages pulmonary health, while its scent works to increase nasal air force as well. It also works as a muscle relaxant due to its element of cooling menthol.

Oregano

This herb, commonly

Arizona Take Fill Your Plate with You on the Road! Fill Your Plate

associated with Italian food, offers various health benefits to those who consume it. One of these is reducing inflammation. It also alleviates urinary tract pain as well as menstrual cramps. Moreover, it strengthens the immune system against infection.

#### Cinnamon

This well-known herb is often found in apple pie and fall recipes. However, it dates to ancient times, then being used for embalming and healing ailments. Studies have recently shown in mice that it improves cognitive levels in the brain.

#### Turmeric

Turmeric, distinctly known for its vibrant yellow color, is a natural anti-inflammatory. It also works as an antioxidant. It also has been shown to reduce the effects of stress on the body.

Next time you cook or bake with one of these herbs, keep in mind the good it will do to your body and mind. For more articles like this, check out Fill Your Plate's blog!

The mobile friendly fillyourplate.org helps you search for... Farmer & Rancher Family Recipes | Farm Products | Farmers Markets | Farms to Visit







Arizona Agricul



Seen here with Alison Williams (left) and Wen Chen, both students in the School of Plant Sciences working in Rebecca Mosher's lab with veterinary students, Dr. Burgess describes that after about 150,000 Arizona road miles, everything he continues to see and experience is as exciting as when he first arrived. He advocates that we keep developing the bioeconomy and growing our global preeminence in agriculture.