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The Trough Newsletter



Maricopa County Farm Bureau

January 2023

Arizona Farm Bureau sets state, national legislative priority issues

By Chelsea McGuire, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director

Protecting Agriculture's Access to Water and Power: Water Use is not Water Waste

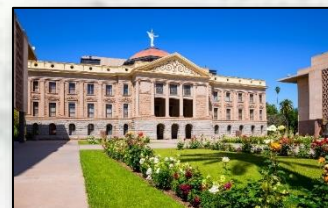
- **Colorado River:** To continue outreach on and surface solutions for challenges faced by shortages on the Colorado River, we will:
 1. Unite our organization and partners across the nation to portray a united message that agricultural water use must be protected to maintain secure levels of food production. Solutions that lead to food insecurity are not solutions at all.
 2. Equip irrigation districts and other eligible entities to participate in funding programs through the Bureau of Reclamation, USDA, and other available resources.
 3. Advocate for funding programs that will keep agricultural economies and communities afloat.
 4. Oppose efforts to transfer on-river agricultural entitlements of the Colorado River to off-river municipalities.

In This Issue:

-2023
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priority issues
-AZ Alfalfa is
Essential
-Please join us
at upcoming
events!

The Farm Bill

- **Overarching Principles:**
 1. Maintain current funding levels for Farm Bill programs
 2. Maintain a unified farm bill that includes nutrition programs and farm programs together;
 3. Prioritize risk management tools that include federal crop insurance and commodity programs;
 4. Ensure adequate USDA staffing and resources to provide technical assistance. *Continued on page 3.*



Arizona's alfalfa is essential, water crisis solution that leads to food supply issue is no fix

By: Guest Opinion | January 23, 2023



Hot Topic: The Fundamental Importance of Arizona Alfalfa

When you hear that agriculture uses nearly three-fourths of Arizona's water, it is easy to draw the conclusion that the best way to save water for growing urban populations is to take it from the largest user. In reality, though, **that water is already being consumed by that urban population each and every time they sit down for a meal.**

→ Read the full article: [CLICK HERE](#)



Upcoming Events



AZFB Legislative Ag Fest

Tuesday, January 31st - 11:00am to 12:30pm
Wesley Bolin Plaza

This event gives legislators the chance to meet farmers and ranchers from all over the state, learn about the diversity of Arizona Agriculture and leave with a grab and go BBQ lunch provided by Farm Bureau Financial Services.

This year, Maricopa County is focusing on Ag Innovation and the importance of Arizona Alfalfa. Our booth will be showcasing John Deere technology and passing out Fairlife milk and Justice Brothers honey and citrus to legislators!

[Click Here](#) to RSVP.

Farm-City Breakfasts

3 Breakfasts Coming this March!

You may [RSVP](#) to any breakfast you are able to attend.

1. East Breakfast – Mesa

Tuesday, March 21 - 8:00-9:30am

FREEMAN CORN PATCH

945 N. Center St.

Mesa, 85201

2. West Breakfast - Buckeye

Wednesday, March 22 - 8:00-9:30am

FLYING R FARMS

4225 S. Dean Rd.

Buckeye, 85326

3. North Breakfast – Phoenix

Friday, March 31 - 8:00-9:30am

AZ WHOLESALE NURSERY

1634 W. Park View Ln.

Phoenix, 85085

You are invited to join us at our
Farm-City Breakfasts

This March, we are hosting 3 breakfasts across Maricopa County! Farm-City Breakfasts are opportunities for ALL of our members to hear from and engage with County Supervisors and local leaders on hot topics and Ag relevant issues.

Breakfast Sponsors: THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA Cooperative Extension Maricopa County

Coffee Bar Sponsor: ARIZONA MILK PRODUCERS

www.maricopacountyfb.org/events

Farm-City Breakfasts are crafted to allow all our members personal access to their local leaders. Each breakfast will be unique in offering different speakers, topics discussed and local leaders in attendance. You won't want to miss them!

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

We hope to see you there.



legislative priority issues continued..

- *Mexican Gray Wolf Depredation Compensation:* As part of the Farm Bill, pass legislation improving the formula for wolf depredation compensation so that it adequately addresses the impacts that introduction of this species has had on cattle and the continued success of Arizona's ranchers.
- *Making Risk Management Work for the West:* When revising disaster assistance programs, advocate for safety net programs that recognize regional differences such as ongoing drought, widespread use of irrigation, and specialty crops.

Arizona Department of Agriculture:

- *Resources:* Advocate for a department with adequate staffing and resources to fulfill its critical mission of keeping agricultural products safe for consumers.
- *Meat Processing:* Find opportunities to expand livestock producer access to locally based State and USDA inspected processing facilities, including through the Cooperative Interstate Shipping Agreement.
- *Bovine Trichomoniasis:* Convene a committee of producers, veterinarians, and auction industry representatives to develop a proposal to modify and strengthen the current trich testing rules and requirements.

State and Federal Lands:

- *Fire Response:* Work with state and federal agencies to optimize wildfire response by moving away from "managed fire" strategy and toward full suppression. Help improve recovery programs that minimize the financial and physical burdens of fires on ranches.
- *Public Lands Grazing:* Continue communication with federal agencies about the need to protect and facilitate grazing for optimal resource management and food security.
- *Recreational Damage:* Work closely with the newly established OHV legislative study committee, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the US Forest Service, the State Land Department, and other land management agencies to promote good neighbor etiquette, prevent damage to public lands, and improve the public's relationship with ranchers.

Ag Labor:

- *Visa Reform and H-2A:* Work with our Congressional delegation to amend current efforts to reform agricultural labor visas. Oppose legislation that does not provide for reasonable, competitive wages, exposes farm employers to extensive additional legal liability, fails to include year-round visas, or imposes E-Verify to agriculture's competitive disadvantage.

Industry Fairness:

- *Cattle Markets:* Fight for better transparency in cattle markets. Work to find policy or regulatory fixes that ensure producers receive a fair price for their cattle.
- *Frivolous Lawsuits:* Provide resources and policy support so our members can protect their operations from unnecessary and frivolous lawsuits.
- *Produce Safety:* Work with Congress to ensure that regulatory agencies like the FDA do not overstep the bounds of their authority during an outbreak investigation. Demand accountability when FDA prematurely releases damaging information about a grower or producer without adequate verification. Ensure produce growers continue to have access to insurance coverage, and we will seek out ways to ensure continued coverage for these producers.

Please Check Your Membership Status

Is your membership status Active?

Please [Click Here](#) to check and/or get up to date on your membership.

We need and appreciate your involvement and support!

