



FARM BUREAU San Diego County

The Voice of Local Farmers

Serving San Diego agriculture since 1914

Agriculture in San Diego County remains strong, driven by a diverse population of farmers who are leaders in innovation, production techniques, crop selection, marketing, and conservation. Here are a few important facts:

- \$1.746 billion in production value (*2016 County of San Diego Crop Report*)
- \$2.88 billion value to local economy (*Economic Contributions of San Diego County Agriculture* by Drs. Jeff Langholz and Fernando DePaolis, 2015)
- 16,648 jobs (Langholz and DePaolis)
- 19th largest farm economy among all U.S. counties (USDA)
- Largest number of small farms – less than \$250,000 annual gross revenue – among all U.S. counties (USDA)
- Nation's leading producer of ornamental crops (USDA)
- 250,720 acres in irrigated and non-irrigated farms (*Crop Report*)

For San Diego County agriculture to continue to thrive, several challenges must be met on the estate level. Those challenges include:

- Persistent programs to exclude exotic pests from entering the state
- Unrestrained eradication programs to eliminate exotic pests before they are established
- Consistent water supply protected from cyclical drought
- Clean water regulations appropriate to the region
- Reasonable regulations that do not drive up the cost of labor
- Creative programs to engage farmers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using agriculture as a means for carbon sequestration

The San Diego County Farm Bureau was established in 1914. Governed by a board of volunteers from the farm community, the non-profit organization serves as “The Voice of Local Farmers.” In addition to being the leading advocate for San Diego County’s farmers, the San Diego County Farm Bureau is proud to sponsor and support the following organizations:



- San Diego Friends of Farming – Creates opportunities for members of the public to tour local farms and meet directly with farmers
- San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group – Assists farmers in helping protect local water bodies through the San Diego Water Board’s General Order for Agriculture
- San Diego Ag in the Classroom – Assists elementary schools in establishing school gardens and provides scholarships for college students pursuing agricultural majors
- San Diego Food System Alliance – A collaborative of organizations working to improve the local food system, including opportunities for farmers.