

Boards, Councils and Committees



Weights and Measures 101



Fire Ant Surveys are Underway



Your quarterly update
from the Arizona
Department of
Agriculture

**VOLUME 1
ISSUE 3
FALL 2022**



A Message from Director Killian

The subject of water is on everyone's mind these days. From the Colorado River to the White Mountains and everywhere in between, everyone is talking about water issues. Lost in these conversations about the future of Arizona water needs, is the wonderful summer rains that have occurred all across Arizona. We have been blessed with some really good rains all over the state. Many of our grazing lands that were in bad shape have been healed and improved due to the great rainfall. Thank goodness that the prayers and hopes of many have been answered.

As we go into the fall, we would encourage you to let your urban friends know about all the agricultural tourism in the state. Many farmers' markets, and rural farms will be filled with pumpkins and all kinds of produce. Pumpkin patches, corn mazes and other activities will be available for folks to enjoy. The fall is a great time to explore these farms and enjoy the produce. We would encourage you to share with your neighbors the diversity of Arizona agriculture.

What's Inside

Page

Boards, Councils and Committees	2
Arizona Grown® Pecans	4
Meet Executive Assistant Landy	7
2022 Census of Agriculture	8
Move Status Update	9
Weights and Measures 101	10
Imported Fire Ant Surveys	12

2022 Census of Agriculture



BOARDS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF BOARDS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES THAT ARE ADMINISTERED AND/OR OVERSEEN BY THE AZDA

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD [LEARN MORE](#)

The Board oversees a process by which the agricultural community may engage in labor organization activities and fair elections and by which declaration may be made whether certain acts are unfair labor practices and therefore subject to legal intervention.

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Animal Services Division Council assists and makes recommendations to the associate director concerning programs within the division. Members are appointed by the director and must be active in an animal-related industry and serve two year terms.

ARIZONA AGRICULTURE (AZDA) ADVISORY COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Arizona Agriculture Advisory Council is a legislatively established, governor-appointed body that reviews agricultural policy and assists the department director in formulating administrative rules and the department's budget.

ARIZONA CITRUS RESEARCH COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Arizona Citrus Research Council was created by statute to support the development of citrus research programs and projects within the Arizona citrus industry.



ABOUT AZDA

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the health and safety of Arizona consumers, advance and support Arizona agriculture, and safeguard commerce.

VISION STATEMENT

To serve as a leader in ensuring consumer protection, advancing Arizona agriculture, and safeguarding agricultural commerce.

ARIZONA GRAIN RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council utilizes grower check-off funds to aid in marketing for wheat and barley, to participate in research projects and other programs to assist in reducing freshwater consumption, to develop new grain varieties and to improve grain production, harvesting and handling methods.

ARIZONA ICEBERG LETTUCE RESEARCH COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Council reviews and awards a wide range of research proposals on topics such as variety development and lettuce pest and disease eradication.

Use the links to "Learn More" about each group. If you have any questions, please reach out to the designated contact person.

GOVERNOR APPOINTED:

Agricultural Employment Relations Board
 Arizona Agriculture Advisory Council
 Arizona Citrus Research Council
 Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council
 Arizona Iceberg Lettuce Research Council
 Citrus Fruit & Vegetable Advisory Council

DIRECTOR APPOINTED:

Animal Services Advisory Council
 Arizona Youth Advisory Committee
 Food & Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee
 Industrial Hemp Advisory Council
 Pest Management Advisory Council
 Weights and Measures Services Division Council

OTHER:

Arizona Leafy Greens Food Safety Committee - Members are elected by the signatory membership.
 Special Local Needs Experts Committee - Members are selected by consensus of the group.

ARIZONA LEAFY GREENS FOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE [LEARN MORE](#)

The Arizona Leafy Greens Food Safety Committee is 100% funded by the leafy greens industry and administered through the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The leadership consists of industry professionals who are shippers or designated representatives of shippers. It is led by the Food Safety Committee with assistance of technical and communications subcommittees, as well as a wide range of associated industry professionals who are all dedicated to ensuring the integrity of Arizona Leafy Greens.

ARIZONA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Youth from agriculture, agribusiness and STEM programs gather to provide insight and advice to the director from their perspective. This committee is still in development.

Continued on Page 6



Click or scan to find out more about Arizona Grown®



Arizona pecan production is projected to be 40 million pounds this year.



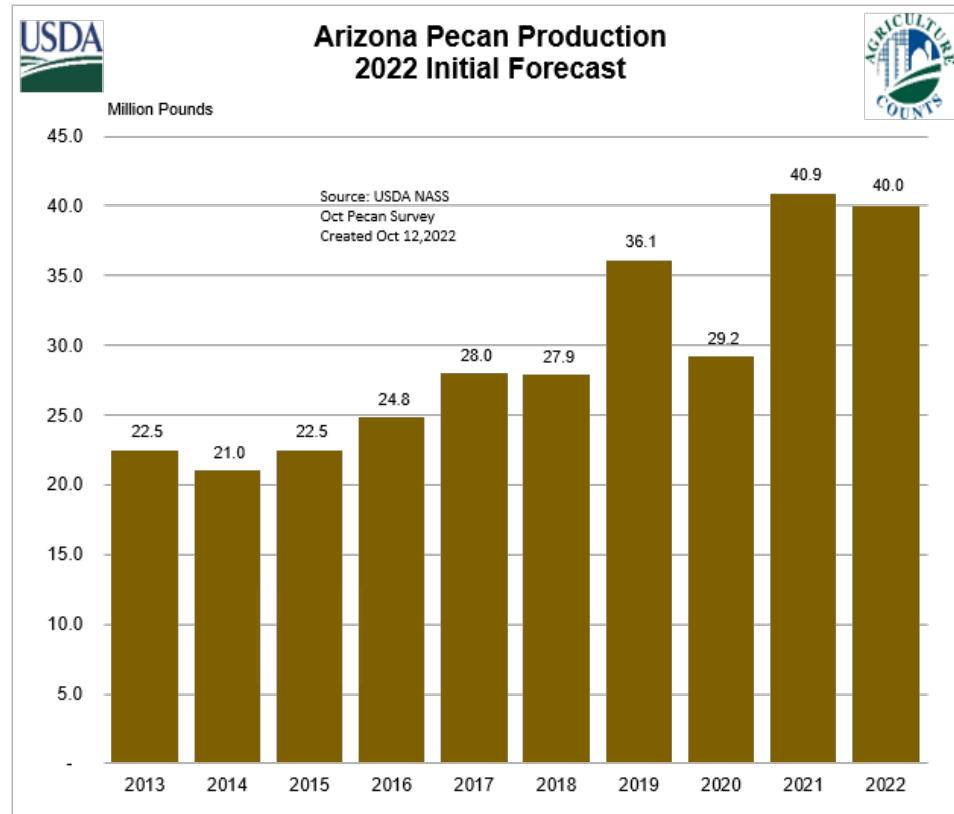
ARIZONA GROWN®
PECANS are the best!

There are PECAN Pralines..... PECAN Turtles.....PECAN Bear Claws.....PECAN Waffles and roasted PECANS.

There's PECAN Pesto.....PECAN Streusel.....PECAN Toffee..... PECAN Coffee.....PECAN Fudge.....PECAN Pound Cake..... PECAN Pie.

PECAN Crusted Trout.....PECAN Crusted Chicken.....PECAN Crusted.....well you get the idea.

Give the PUMPKINS a break!



When you're buying pecans, please look for **Arizona Grown®**.

Support our local Arizona Pecan Growers. Arizona pecans are sought after by countries all over the world.

Don't miss out on these great products grown by Arizona farmers!

CITRUS, FRUIT & VEGETABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Legislature established the Citrus, Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Council to support and oversee the industry-funded Citrus, Fruit and Vegetable Standardization (CFV) program which provides quality inspection and food safety auditing for the Arizona fresh produce industry.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE [LEARN MORE](#)

Representatives from various sections of food production, storage, distribution and sales meet to advise the director on ways to improve access to Arizona grown and raised food, as well as other high nutrition foods.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP ADVISORY COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The five member Industrial Hemp Advisory Council was established by statute to: 1) Advise the director regarding expenditures from the industrial hemp trust fund; and 2) Provide additional assistance as the director deems necessary.

PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

A five member advisory committee overseeing pest management matters. Members include business licensees, a representative of a political subdivision and a member of the public.

SPECIAL LOCAL NEEDS EXPERTS COMMITTEE (FIFRA SECTION 24c) [LEARN MORE](#)

The Special Local Needs Experts Committee is made up of representatives from the University of Arizona, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, pesticide registering companies, a pest control advisor, the organic industry, the Arizona Game and Fish, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Pest Management Division and the Environmental Services Section (ESS). The group reviews pesticide special local need requests and provides input to the EPSD Associate Director. Input covers the gamut of the experts represented on the committee: is there a grower need, is the pesticide available, are other pesticides available, uniformity in labeling, label language clarity and enforceability, are there water issues, are there wildlife issues, and any other areas covered by the experts represented on the committee. There are no binding decisions made, only scientific and real world input concerning the potential label.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SERVICES DIVISION COUNCIL [LEARN MORE](#)

The Weights and Measures Services Division Council assists and makes recommendations to the associate director concerning programs within the division. Members are appointed by the director and must be active in industries regulated by the division.



MEET EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, ANITA LANDY

Following a 20-year teacher career, Anita came to the Department in 2000 where she was the Training and Development Coordinator for the HR Department. In 2001, she was asked to serve as executive assistant to the director and has since served under Directors: Sheldon R. Jones, Donald Butler and presently Mark Killian.

Anita was born and raised in St. Louis, MO where she earned a B.S. in Education. After relocating to the Chicago area, she earned a M.S. in Education and taught high school business subjects and staff development. Her family moved to Phoenix in 1993.

Anita resides in North Phoenix where, in her after hours, she is busy doing charity fundraising, collection drives for the homeless and volunteering for Veteran organizations including making hundreds of Veteran's Day cards each year for various organizations. Her passions are world travel, baking cookies and reading historical novels. As busy as she is, she is always available to help anyone with assistance. Anita can be reached at alandy@azda.gov or 602-542-0990.



**FIND OUT WHEN BOARDS,
COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES
MEET BY VISITING THE
UPCOMING MEETINGS PAGE ON
OUR WEBSITE.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

FAPAC meeting October 26, 2022 10AM
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 - 10:00am

SLN Meeting - Tentative
Thursday, October 27, 2022 - 10:00am

WMSD Legislative Proposal Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 - 9:00am

SEE ALL EVENTS

COMING THIS NOVEMBER

THE AG CENSUS COUNTS

#AgCensus



What's New In the 2022 Census of Agriculture?

By Dave DeWalt, State Statistician, USDA NASS, AZ Field Office

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be conducting the 2022 Census of Agriculture (COA) toward the end of 2022. It will be only the 6th time since the Department of Agriculture assumed the responsibilities from the Department of Commerce in 1997. Over the last quarter century, NASS has tried to stay current with new technologies or include new commodities that have recently been in the public eye.

After each COA, NASS gleans any comments and concerns from producers and others in the agricultural industry who may have had difficulty filling out the COA form or wished there was data about a particular commodity. Before each Census of Agriculture, a series of testing occurs, seeking feedback from a sample of producers and others in the agricultural industry about potential new items or newly worded questions to include in the next COA. Results dictate how the COA may be improved.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will ask new questions about precision agriculture, hemp, hair sheep, and include updates about internet access.

Precision agriculture practices include the use of global positioning (GPS) guidance systems, GPS yield monitoring and soil mapping, variable rate input applications, the use of drones, electronic tagging, precision feeding, robotic milking, etc. Responses to these questions will help determine the proliferation

of technology in U.S. agriculture.

Due to renewed interest, NASS added hemp, known for its fiber, floral (CBD or other cannabinoid usages), grain, etc., to the list of field crops grown across the United States. Also added to the Nursery/Greenhouse section of the COA form is hemp for transplants, and hemp grown for seed. Responses to hemp questions will show the size and value of hemp production.

As requested by data users, the 2022 COA form will again include hair sheep questions left off of the previous COA. Responses will show the growth of the hair sheep industry.

Internet access questions combined cable modem, DSL, and fiber-optic service into one category referred to as broadband (high speed) internet service. No longer are these separate categories. Another option more clearly stated in the 2022 COA form is a cellular data plan versus satellite internet service. Dial-up service is still listed but not as a first option as in the 2017 COA form.

USDA NASS will be mailing out just under 3 million COA forms and letters by the end of November, 2022. NASS recommends you respond on-line using the new Respondent Portal at agcounts.usda.gov. On the portal, you can complete your surveys, track upcoming surveys, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, and more. In accordance with federal law, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form. We look forward to hearing from each and every known producer in Arizona.

THE MOVE IS COMPLETE

Please make note of the important address changes below:

Mailing:

Arizona Department of Agriculture
1802 W Jackson Street, #78
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Physical:

1110 W Washington Street, Suite 450
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Licensing Physical:

1010 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007



WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 101

By Kevin Allen, Associate Director, WMSD

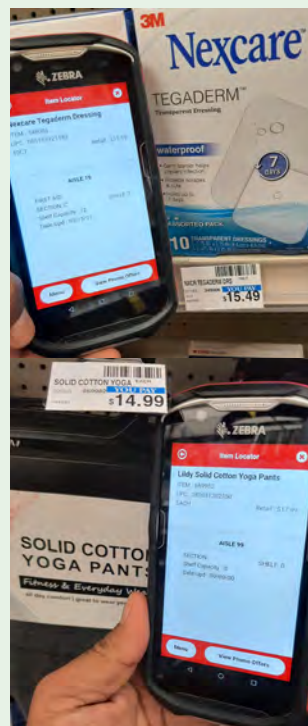
There is no question that the human brain is an amazing organ. Often, we take the functions of the brain for granted. Most of what the brain does often happens without our realization. From maintaining your heart rate to blinking your eyelids, there are thousands of tasks that the brain carries out in a seemingly effortless manner. Recently, I was shopping at the grocery store and I was reminded of one process that the brain seems to do without notice, tuning out ambient or repetitive sounds. It was the “beep” of the scanner at the check-out register that triggered this realization. When the register reads the barcode on a package, it responds with an audible confirmation that I would describe as a “beep”. I realized that these beeps were happening all around me as items were scanned at neighboring registers, and yet, my brain seemed to clear my attention of them.

I did a little research and found out that scientists have been looking into this phenomenon. They believe that “novelty detector neurons” in the brain quickly stop firing if sounds or sound patterns, like the beep of a register, are repeated. These neurons will fire again if sounds change, for example, if someone accidentally drops coins on the floor. The novelty detector neurons help our brain tune out background noises like the sound of an air conditioner or the ticking of a clock and will alert us to new and possibly more important sounds as needed.

I can undoubtedly tally those novelty detector neurons as something I take for granted. The beeping of the check-out register (that I regularly tune out), reminds me of something else that many people take for granted, the accuracy of prices at the retail store. Over the years, I have caught a few instances where I have been overcharged when paying for something at retail. However, if a person is not budgeting their purchase ahead of time or paying attention to their receipt, they may assume that they were charged the posted price for an item when they were charged more. Retail price accuracy is among the many responsibilities bestowed

upon the Weights and Measures Services Division (“WMSD”). In fact, retail price accuracy is the second-highest category in which WMSD receives consumer complaints (motor fuel dispensers are our highest category). For this edition of Weights and Measures 101, I would like to give a bit of education regarding price verification.

In 1993, the National Conference on Weights and Measures (“NCWM”) established the Price Verification Working Group to respond to public concern about price accuracy in retail stores. At the time, more than 500 retailers, consumer representatives, and state and local weights and measures officials participated in the Working Group to develop a price verification procedure.



OVERCHARGE EXAMPLES



This procedure was adopted into the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”) Handbook 130 by the NCWM in 1995. The new price verification procedure was soon implemented in states across the country to ensure that consumers were presented with accurate pricing information to help them make an informed decision about their purchases.

In Arizona, our price verification procedure is based on the procedure outlined in the NIST Handbook 130. When an inspector conducts a price verification inspection, they generally sample a random selection

of items displayed for sale for comparison between the posted price and the scanned price. The sample size is 25 items for a small retail store and 50 items for a large retail store. Items are sampled in a manner that removes subjectivity from the sampling process while ensuring that all aisles or departments within the entire store are equally considered for sampling. The inspector will document the posted price and a description of each item sampled for price verification. The inspector will then collect the item for verification at the check-out register or, with the permission of a location representative, utilize the location’s hand-held inventory scanner to verify prices in the location’s database. The scanned price is then documented on our inspection form, and the form will alert the inspector if a price discrepancy occurs. Price discrepancies that result in an undercharge to the consumer (the consumer pays less than the posted price) will be noted, but will not count against the compliance rate of

the inspection. If a price discrepancy results in an overcharge to the consumer (the consumer pays more than the posted price), the inspector will double-check that the posted price was accurately recorded on the inspection form. If any items that had a discrepancy were verified using a hand-held scanner, the item will be verified a second time at the check-out register. If the overcharge is confirmed after this process, it is recorded on the inspection report as a violation and the inspector will require the location to correct the overcharge before the conclusion of the inspection. If a location has more than one overcharge during a price verification inspection, the inspection fails.

In addition to ensuring that the prices of commodities are not misrepresented (A.R.S. § 3-3431(E)), WMSD inspectors also ensure that the price of each item scanned at the check-out register is displayed visibly to the consumer (A.A.C. R3-7-302(F)), and that the location has a written price error policy available to the consumer upon request (A.R.S. § 3-3431(O)(2)). If the location fails an inspection with more than one overcharge, or the location does not have a check-out display or written price error policy, the inspector will schedule a re-inspection to ensure compliance with these requirements. Re-inspections will continue to occur until compliance is achieved. Civil penalties may be issued for each pricing violation that contributed to a failed inspection or re-inspection.

Over the past several months, the number of price verification violations has increased in Arizona. While some of the contributing factors to the increase in violations may be fewer staff resources or more frequent price changes, the responsibility to comply with Arizona’s pricing regulations still remains. WMSD is committed to working with retailers to provide education toward compliance. Ultimately, retailers must ensure that accurate pricing information is provided to the consumer, and WMSD’s compliance team is always available to answer questions or provide guidance regarding our price verification program. We are happy to arrange for a member of our compliance team to provide an in-store demonstration of an inspection and explain some of the common violations that we find in the marketplace.

At the end of the day, price accuracy benefits both the consumer and the business. It helps promote consumer confidence and can boost or maintain the positive reputation of a retail store. Accurate prices may even result in return customers!

If you have any questions about our price verification compliance program, we are here to help. Please contact our office at (602) 542-4373, option 4, or dwm@azda.gov.

Written by: Bram Briskorn, Ag Inspector IV

Our team of Plant Services inspectors are actively conducting surveys at nursery locations throughout the state to ensure that invasive fire ants have not been introduced. The target ant is primarily *Solenopsis invicta*, commonly known as the red imported fire ant (or RIFA). These ants, originally native to South America, were introduced into the southern United States in the early 20th century. They are known for their painful stings and aggressive behavior, gaining such notoriety as a plant, livestock, and structural pest that they are a federally regulated invasive species. These regulations cost millions of dollars annually in control

area, allowing inspectors to reclaim the bait and sample any suspect ants, which can then be analyzed under a microscope by our entomologist to differentiate between native ants and invasive ants. If invasive ants are found during these surveys, nurseries will issue treatments to eradicate them before they can spread elsewhere.

Plants Services' goal with such surveys is to show that our state continues to be free of red imported fire ants, allowing our nursery industry to export as freely as possible. States with active infestations are subject to additional inspections and required chemical treatments of their nursery stock, adding significant cost, labor, and time requirements. In some cases, active red imported fire ant quarantines even limit the markets in which products can be sold. By maintaining a robust inspection and detection program, Arizona growers and exporters are able to ship without the heavier restrictions that states under federal quarantine must meet.



AZDA inspector Noah Redwood takes an ant sample

measures. Red imported fire ants are not currently established in Arizona, but they have potential to make their way into the state when plants are shipped in from regions where they are established. Our inspectors work to prevent this.

To perform imported fire ant surveys, inspectors place cubes of bait every 20 feet in a grid across nursery properties. The bait attracts ants in the



AZDA inspector Sarah Kenyon performs an imported fire ant survey

FIRE ANT SURVEYS

COMING SOON TO THE SPOTLIGHT

In the Winter Edition we will feature the grant programs offered through the AZDA.



Contact Us

Agricultural Consultation and Training (ACT)	602-542-0137
Animal Services Division (ASD)	602-542-6407
Citrus Fruit and Vegetable (CFV)	602-542-0439
Director's Assistant - Anita Landy	602-680-0386
Environmental and Plant Services Division (EPSD)	
Environmental Services Section (ESS)	602-542-3579
Plant Services Section (PSS)	602-542-0994
Hemp Program	602-542-3228
Food Insecurity Issues - Michele Mellott	602-469-3363
Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Nogales	520-281-0783
Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Yuma	928-317-1345
Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)	602-542-0976
Human Resources Manager - Melissa Meek	602-542-0925
Licensing	602-542-3578
Pest Management Division (PMD)	602-255-3664
Public Information Officer/Legislative Assistant - Rob Smook	602-542-3032
State Agriculture Laboratory (SAL)	602-744-4903
Weights and Measures Services Division (WMSD)	602-542-4373
	Option 4

agriculture.az.gov



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the Department's activities on our social media platforms. Click on the logos below.



@arizonaagriculture



@arizonaagriculture



@azagriculture

#23Bindustry