Greetings from Director Killian

It is my sincere hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying our summer monsoon and the rain we desperately need.

I want to take this time to share with you a recurring theme that I have consistently cited since I became the Director at the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA), which is how many Arizona citizens this relatively small agency touches almost every single day of the year.

From the grocery store you visited, to the gas station where you fuel your vehicle, to the healthy produce your children are consuming in school every day.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture is a consumer protection agency from the family in suburbia to the families in rural Arizona. They all depend on our good employees to carry out their most important duties—most of which are inspection driven to protect and assist Arizona’s citizens and our customers.

When I was selected to lead AZDA over 7 years ago and as I settled into the responsibilities of being the Director, one of the things I discovered was the absolute and total underfunding of this important agency.

Employee pay was at the bottom of all the state agencies (36% turnover rate, highest of all state agencies), our state Agricultural Lab had 30 year old scientific equipment, the computer systems in the Department were 25 years old and the number of employees were inadequate to meet the needs of the customers and the mandated statutory requirements of the law.

It has been an uphill battle but in the last two years we have been able to make our case and we now have a state agriculture lab funded and replaced all the old scientific equipment, hired more lab scientists and raised their pay so that we are more competitive.

Additionally, the Legislature and the Executive agreed to appropriate AZDA millions of dollars to develop a new computer operating system and hardware.

Last, but not least, this year we were able to secure funding from the Governor’s office and the Legislature to raise the pay of our employees.

I only wish this could have happened much sooner, but at least we have secured a more productive future for AZDA and in turn for our customers that are valued and appreciated by so many.
MEET THE FOOD & AGRICULTURE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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.

Patty Emmert
Community Relations and Marketing Manager - Duncan Family Farms

Patty Emmert is the Community Relations and Marketing Manager for Duncan Family Farms, a certified organic farm specializing in leafy greens and specialty vegetables. Their growing operations are located in Arizona, California, Oregon, and New York. Since joining the farm in 2010 her main responsibility has been to develop a distribution platform for the farm’s Specialty Vegetable crops, increase brand identity, develop a marketing program for the farm and community outreach programs and oversee the business development and sales for their Specialty Vegetable crops.

Additionally, Patty is the current Director for Slow Food Phoenix which is the local chapter of a global non-profit organization that is focused on good, clean and fair food. She was a US Delegate to Terra Madre in Turin, Italy. She is a member of Blue Watermelon Project where the focus is taste education and healthy food in schools. She is the Production Chair for the AZ Farm to School network. Her dedication is deeply rooted in building vibrant local food supply systems and making sure that everyone has access to healthy, fresh food.

Elyse Guidas, MPH
Executive Director - Farm Express

Elyse serves as Executive Director of Farm Express, a fleet of nonprofit, mobile produce markets that sell high quality, affordable fruits and vegetables in communities with limited access to healthy food. She is Vice Chair of the City of Phoenix Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission and is also adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, where she teaches courses in the areas of budget and finance for healthcare organizations. Elyse is a passionate proponent of health in all aspects of public life and works tirelessly to make Arizona inclusive and equitable for all.

About AZDA

MISSION STATEMENT

To support and promote Arizona agriculture in a way that encourages farming, ranching and agribusiness, protects the well-being of people, plants, animals and the environment while safeguarding commerce, consumers and natural resources.

VISION STATEMENT

To be recognized as a global leader in enhancing and protecting agricultural commerce, championing consumer awareness and protection while fostering and promoting an understanding of Arizona agricultural products and producers.

Bruce Gwynn
Director of Food Sourcing - Yuma Community Food Bank

Bruce is a native of Yuma, Arizona (his family has been in Yuma County since 1858). He went to U of A College of Agriculture and received a B.S. in Animal Science. His employment experience includes the following: 2018 to Current - Director of Food Sourcing, Yuma Community Food Bank; 2014 to 2018 - Executive Director, Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association; 2009 to 2014 - Manager, Helena Chemical Company; 2007 to 2008 - Area Business Manager, Malathion Agahn of North America; 1997 to 2007 - General Manager, the Dune Company; 1978 to 1997 - Sales Representative for the Dune Company; 1976 to 1978 - Sales Representative, Barkley Company; and 1970 to 1976 - Manager, Mill Iron Cattle Company. He serves on several Boards, including the Yuma County Historical Society (Past President and Treasurer), the Rio Colorado Chapter of the AZ Historical Society (VP), the Yuma Union High School Governing Board (Past President), the AZ Western College Foundation Board, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Board (City of Yuma Appointment) and the Yuma County Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Glenna McCollum, DM, MPH, RDN, FAND

Dr. McCollum served as the President of the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – the largest food and nutrition organization serving over 100,000 credentialed practitioners nationwide. With 20+ years of experience in the field of nutrition and nutrition education, Glenna currently consults with selected agricultural companies who are focused on soil health and sustainability - to enhance, protect and restore the nutritional quality of crops and our food supply.

Glenna served as Director of Nutrition for Central Arizona College for 17 years, currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Rural Leadership (Project CENTRL), and has served on numerous committees, task forces and public policy initiatives at the state and national level. Dr. McCollum has participated in strategic collaborations from public health to agriculture, from food technology to global food distribution and production. Dr. McCollum received her Doctorate in Management and Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix where the win-win of collaboration was the focus of her dissertation. She also received her Master’s in Public Health from Loma Linda University, and two Bachelor of Science degrees from Arizona State University.

Dave Richins
President/CEO - United Food Bank

Dave Richins has worked in nonprofit, government and corporate roles. Most recently, he served as a Mesa City Councilmember for District 1, completing two terms. He also worked for Resolution Copper, working with the Government and Community Affairs team performing outreach and education to Congress, the Arizona Legislature and local government. In that capacity, he also worked with local non-profit organizations to help build their capacity to better serve the community. Richins helped start the West Mesa Community Development Corporation and served as its first Executive Director. He also helped launch the Sun Corridor Legacy Program at the Sonoran Institute, a think tank on western policy issues. Richins holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sustainable Community Development with a minor in Leadership from Prescott College.

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**Arizona Grown® Pistachios**

A convenient, tasty and healthy snack!

- As of the 2017 Census, nearly 9,000 acres of pistachios trees are planted in Arizona.
- In 2022, most of those trees would be of bearing age.
- Pistachios are harvested in August and September.

- Enjoyed whole, either fresh or roasted and salted.
- Additionally, pistachios are used to make a variety of other products, including:
  - Butter
  - Chocolate
  - Baklava
  - Spumoni
  - Ice Cream (The Best!)

- Loaded with nutrients, including Vitamin B6 and Potassium.
- High in antioxidants.
- Low in calories.
- High in protein.
- May lower cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar.

Click or scan to find out more about Arizona Grown®.
Rafael Tapia, Jr.

A member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, he is the Vice President of Programs at Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA). PWNA is a non-profit organization serving 60 reservations in 12 states. PWNA’s six pillars of service are administered through partnerships with approximately 1,000 community based tribal partners – 4 of the 6 service pillars are food related.

Rafael’s public and private sector experience is concentrated in the areas of human, economic, workforce and community development. He has served as the senior advisor to the office of the chairman of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Arizona Department of Commerce Tribal Liaison to the 22 Arizona Indian Tribes, business development consultant and small business owner.

Elizabeth Taylor, Ph.D.
Principal - Green Verde Verte

Green Verde Verte makes small loans to and invests in Flagstaff food businesses in order to grow our local food economy. Elizabeth Taylor currently serves on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Economic Development Initiative (SEDI) and on the board of TerraBIRDS. She is an emeritus board member of Flagstaff Foodlink.

Sharma Torrens

Sharma, a native Arizonan, owns her own company, Ag Conserve Consulting, LLC, and she is a consultant for the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) and Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT). As the Conservation Education Director for the AACD, Sharma spearheads educational efforts, works with the educational centers, and pursues grants and funding. With CALT, acting as the Conservation Specialist, Sharma works with farmers and ranchers to keep the agricultural operations in place with conservation easements while maintaining open space and wildlife habitat, etc. In both roles with these non-profit organizations, Sharma can pursue her two passions of conserving agriculture and natural resources.

Sharma has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from A.S.U. and a J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. She graduated from Project CENTRL (Center for Rural Leadership), is a U.S. Bureau of Land Management AZ Resource Advisory Council member, and is on the International Leadership Alumni Conference (ILAC) Advisory Board, the AZDA’s Food & Ag Policy Advisory Committee, the Coalition for Farmland Preservation, and the Board of Slow Food Phoenix.

Senator Sine Kerr - Ex Officio Member
Arizona State Senate (2018 - Present)
Managing Member - Kerr Family Dairy, LLC

The Kerr Family Dairy is run by a fourth generation dairy farm family and is located in Buckeye. The family is passionate about caring for our cattle, land and providing high quality milk from their family to yours. Sine serves as the Arizona Farm Bureau’s Women’s Leadership Chair and on the Arizona Farm Bureau board of directors, Maricopa County Air Quality Hearing Board and the Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Meet Deputy Director Jeff Grant

Jeff Grant, our Deputy Director, was born in Kansas, but moved to Arizona in 1967 when he was seven years old. He graduated from Sunnyslope High School and Arizona State University.

Jeff started his state government career in 1987 when he was hired at the Arizona House of Representatives to staff the Public Institutions Committee. He went on to serve as the Special Assistant to the Majority Leader and Chief of Staff for Speaker Mark Killian.

In 1997, Jeff moved to the Arizona Department of Revenue where he served as Deputy Director to Director Mark Killian. From 2004-2007, Jeff served as the Director of Programs and Advocacy for the Arizona State University Alumni Association.

In 2007, Jeff became the Director of the Corporations Division at the Arizona Corporation Commission where he served until 2011 when he was named the Deputy Director at the Arizona Department of Administration.

In June of 2015, he moved to AZDA to once again serve as Deputy Director to Director Mark Killian.
HATS OFF TO OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES DURING THE MOVE

Dwayne Uhlig (ASD)—Dwayne took the lead in moving the Department. He gave us timely updates throughout the process. He personally tended to all employees that needed assistance in getting their rooms in order. It was his leadership that made the move the success that it was. Wendi Wilcox (ACT)—Wendi did whatever was asked and always with a smile. She assisted in processing surplus items for all divisions. She was instrumental in sharing her opinion as to what should be moved and to what location. Roberto Rios (ACT)—Roberto put his mechanical skills to use during the move and helped all divisions get their offices in order. He maneuvered walls to get the best results for all staff in need. Katelin Williams (ASD)—Katelín worked hard in assisting staff in ASD and in other divisions. She was always there, always to help when and wherever help was needed. No task was too hard for Katelin and she worked hard.

Dr. Ryan Walker (ASD)—Ryan came into the office to assist his employees in organizing their offices. He demonstrated exceptional supervisory skills in being there for his employees.

Mark Van Kleeck (PSD)—Mark was instrumental in helping all divisions set up offices by reconfiguring walls and moving shelves to maximize results. His skills were invaluable.

Jamie Legg (PSD)—Jamie was a big help in providing cubicle assistance to those in need. He volunteered because he understood the timeline and worked hard to meet the construction needs.

Rachel Paul (PSD)—Rachel did everything and anything that needed to get done and still is. She made sure the needed changes were made to the cubicles. She took it upon herself to empty boxes marked, “kitchen.”

Brian McGrew (PSD)—Brian earned himself recognition for being the cubicle expert. He was the go to person when cubicle miscalculations were made.

Jack Peterson (ESPD)—Jack was a help to all. His being on-site daily provided timely engagement and advice to those managing AZDA’s move. Jack provided lunch to the employee’s facilitating the move.

Beth Mania (Fiscal Services)—Beth always made sure she was around to answer questions. She assisted the movers by standing by ready to open locked doors when needed even if it meant giving up her weekend. She was willing to give her opinion and help out wherever needed. She was instrumental in ordering shredding cans for the entire Department.

Charmayne Torres (Fiscal Services)—Charmayne volunteered to come in on a Saturday and help with the move and in emptying boxes and putting items away. She was a big asset and helped fiscal services with their needs.

James Crawford (TT)—James moved, reinstalled and problem solved for many of our employees’ computers. He was there bright and early Monday morning to assist employees in setting up their machines. David Guagliardo (TT)—David played a big part in assisting IT during the move. He could be seen going in different directions reinstalling desk tops, laptops, printers and attending to other issues related to the move.

Rob Smook (OOD)—Rob was instrumental in getting the Office of the Director moved into the new building. He helped clean out the closet in room 206, packed boxes and did whatever needed to be done and always with a smile.

Dr. Ryan Wolker (ASD)—Ryan came into the office to assist his employees in organizing their offices. He demonstrated exceptional supervisory skills in being there for his employees.

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Director Killian recognizes outstanding employees with Gold Star Awards

AZDA Strategic Plan Summary

By Heather Flowers
Assistant Director
Strategic Initiatives and Policy

Each year, every cabinet agency is required to go through a strategic planning process and develop a documented strategic plan for the upcoming fiscal year. This past spring, the AZDA leadership team met to discuss the agency’s strategic priorities and develop a strategic plan. In developing the annual strategies, several inputs were reviewed and discussed, including the employee engagement survey, feedback from managers meetings, customer and stakeholder survey results, and comments from the Governor’s Office. In July, after the Governor’s Office reviewed and approved our strategic plan, we posted our fiscal year 2023 (FY23) strategic plan to the agency website.

Our strategic plan focuses on four key areas, which we have identified as multi-year strategies. These include:

» Attracting, Supporting, Developing, and Retaining Talented Employees,

» Modernizing How AZDA Conducts Business,

» Safeguarding Agricultural and Consumer Services and Products, and

» Expanding Public Awareness of Arizona Agriculture

Within each of these multi-year strategies, we have identified specific initiatives and goals that we plan to complete this year to advance the agency priorities. In total, we have broken our plan down into 13 different projects, and project teams composed of both front-line staff and managers have been formed to drive these initiatives. You can view the full list of strategic projects that are underway on the second page of our FY23 strategic plan in the column entitled, “Annual Initiatives.” Of these 13 projects, two have been identified as breakthrough projects, which represent our agency’s top priorities for the year.

The first breakthrough project is to revamp the employee recognition program & create a standardized, equitable system for administering variable incentives. The decision to designate this as a breakthrough project came directly from feedback on the annual employee engagement survey, which identified employee recognition as the greatest opportunity for agency improvement in terms of engagement. Anita Landy, Executive Assistant to Director Killian, is serving as the project manager for this initiative and is using feedback provided on an Employee Recognition Survey that went out to staff earlier this year to help inform decisions around what to include in the relaunch of the recognition program.

The second breakthrough project is to refine & expand the agency organizational & resource assessment to include analysis of all key agency processes. The purpose of doing this assessment is to provide clarity & visibility into how units in the AZDA are performing and where resources are most needed. This is intended to strengthen the agency’s ability to provide consistent, high-quality service to customers, and make it easier to provide a solid, data-driven case to the Governor’s Office for requesting more budget and resources where they are most needed. Dr. Suzette dePersio, Assistant State Veterinarian in the Animal Services Division, is serving as the project manager for this initiative.

Throughout the year, we will continue to provide updates on our progress in implementing the agency’s strategic plan. We appreciate all the feedback we have received, and we look forward to working together as a unified agency to improve the AZDA experience for our customers and our staff!
Every so often, the Weights and Measures Services Division ("WMSD") receives the following question from a business owner or operator:

“Does my device need a license with Weights and Measures?”

One might think that every scale or gas pump falls under our jurisdiction, but that is not always the case. When it comes to weighing and measuring devices, WMSD only licenses, tests, and inspects “commercial devices”. Commercial devices are defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes under A.R.S. § 3-3401(13):

A.R.S. § 3-3401(13)
"Commercial device" means any weighing, measuring, metering or counting device that is used to determine the direct cost of things sold or offered or exposed for sale, or used to establish a fee for service if the cost is based on weight, measure or count, except that it does not include those devices used for in house packaging, inventory control or law enforcement purposes.

If a device does not meet the definition of a "commercial device", then it does not need to be licensed with WMSD. To help a business owner or operator determine if their device requires a license, we have developed a simple flow chart to aid in the decision making process. (See chart on next page.)

Occasionally, our inspectors come across devices in the marketplace that are licensed as a commercial device, but do not meet the definition of a commercial device as provided in A.R.S. § 3-3401(13). In these cases, our inspectors will verify the purpose and use of the device with location management, and automatically cancel the license for any device that is not presumed to be used commercially (see A.R.S. § 3-3474 regarding presumptive evidence of use). WMSD does not offer voluntary licenses for non-commercial devices. In addition, our commercial device licensing statute, A.R.S. § 3-3451, provides a licensing exemption for commercial livestock scales that are used less than 30 days out of the year. If a livestock scale is used commercially for 30 days or more in a single year, it is required to be licensed with WMSD.

While scales and gas pumps (a.k.a. “fuel dispensers”) are some of the better-known devices that are licensed by WMSD, our division also licenses, tests, and inspects the following devices:

- Commercial industrial scales
- Commercial vehicle scales
- Liquid metering devices (e.g. water vending machines and bulk liquid meters)
- Linear measuring devices (e.g. wire/cable/ rope measuring devices)
- Time measuring devices (e.g. car wash timers and vacations, tire air meters, and laundry dryers)
- Counting devices (e.g. coin counting machines)

We are also working to develop an electric vehicle charging station (a.k.a. electric vehicle supply equipment or "EVSE") licensing and inspection program that we hope to implement within the next few years.

As always, WMSD is available to answer questions regarding commercial device licensing and our compliance programs. Please reach out to us at dwm@azda.gov or (602) 542-4373, option 4.
Plants grown in Arizona are sold around the globe, but shipping plants and plant products out of the country, and oftentimes even out of the state, requires specialized certifications.

To ship plants/plant products to foreign countries, unique requirements must be met. To ensure that these requirements are met, and to obtain the required paperwork to document such, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) offers inspection and certification services for plants/plant products intended for export. In addition to certifications for plant/plant products leaving the country, AZDA offers certifications for interstate commerce, as states have unique import requirements as well; our state Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) are equipped to issue export certificates catered to wherever in the world plants/plant products are sold, whether domestic or foreign. Every certificate is specifically catered to its intended destination.

Applicants who desire to ship plants/plant products out of state can create an account in the USDA’s Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System. This website acts as a portal for the whole certification process. Applicants can fill out all of the required information through the site to apply for an export certificate (or “phytosanitary” certificate). This information will be passed along to ACOs, who will then come and inspect the plants/plant products in person. If the necessary information is sufficient and accurate and the plants are found clean upon inspection, the ACO will issue an export certificate, which will then allow the plants to be shipped to their intended destination.

A vast range of agricultural products can be shipped with a phytosanitary export certificate. We certify everything from horse feed, to raw produce, to seeds, to nursery plants, and we approve them to be shipped all around the world. Additionally, the confidence in the cleanliness of what we certify is backed by more than mere visual inspections. Our various insect trapping and inspection programs give us confidence that our state is completely free of many plant pests and diseases that are of concern on a global scale. Many importers won’t accept plants from regions that are known to have various pests and diseases of high concern, but our programs can prove that our state is free of many of these risks.

In 2021 alone, we issued over 2,400 federal phytosanitary certificates (to leave our state to another country) and over 2,500 state phytosanitary certificates (to leave our state to another state). We have room to issue many more. Additionally, our rates for these certificates are lower than those of the USDA, who offers export certification services as well.

Our ACOs must meet strict requirements to maintain their credentials. On top of the initial training program, ACOs must attend additional training courses at regular intervals to ensure they are skilled and capable of issuing export certificates. The credibility of phytosanitary certificates is held in high regard all around the world, and so our ACOs must be equipped to maintain these standards so that foreign countries continue to accept them.

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 (Current):
1688 W Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Licensing Physical (After The Move):
1010 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
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