

Farm Bureau Welcomes new TMDL Coordinator

By: Lauren S. Grizzle

Nicole (Reeves) Rothfleisch joined Imperial County Farm Bureau in July (2001) as the new TMDL Program Director. Nicole, or Nikki, brings with her a long family and educational background in agriculture and a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. Nicole is from a third-generation farming family, learning the Imperial Valley farming industry from both her father and grandfather. After spending many hours on Versatiles and Farmalls, Nicole went on to obtain her degree in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Most recently, Nicole has been a fifth grade teacher at Westmorland Elementary School. Additionally, Nicole served as co-chair of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Ranchers (YF&R) organization for the past year. Under Nicole and co-chair Ayron Schoneman's leadership, Imperial County's YF&R has gained state and national recognition and has seen its membership grow substantially.

Nicole's responsibilities will include soliciting participation in Farm Bureau's Voluntary TMDL Compliance Program and assisting growers in developing management plans. Nicole will oversee the management of the drainsheds as the region begins to comply with the recently adopted silt TMDL. She will act as a key liaison between the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the growers and landowners in Imperial County. Those interested in participating in the Voluntary Compliance Program or are in need of information or assistance, please contact Nicole at the Farm Bureau or email her at Nicole@ivtmdl.com.