On Thursday evening, April 21, 2011, the “Red Carpet” came out in Santa Cruz County. The occasion was the premiere of Agri-Culture’s new video “Santa Cruz County Agriculture”. The event was held at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Center.

Guests attending the event were greeted by walking and talking fruits and vegetables including Russell the Brussels Sprout (best known for his appearance at the old Brussels Sprouts Festival), a handsome apple and a good looking bunch of grapes. There is even a rumor that a human full-sized bull was in attendance. But the “All Stars” of the video were the local growers, Stan Iverson of Suncrest Nurseries; Edward Ortega, Ortega Berry Farms; John E. Eiskamp, J.E. Farms; Nita Gizdich, Gizdich Ranch; James Nagamine, O. Nagamine Nursery; and Janet Webb, Big Creek Lumber Company, all of whom were on hand to autograph the new DVD. The guests were also treated to hot dogs, popcorn, nachos and slushies as well as a full compliment of candies.

Major funding for this video came from the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee’s Testicle Festival with additional funding from T.H.A.N.K.S. Broad support from the agricul-

Continued on Page 8
President’s Message

Let us connect the dots.

1. Santa Cruz county is home to some of the best soil, and to one of only a handful of Mediterranean climates on earth.

2. Our climate provides year around production of very high value crops.

3. Immigrants from Ireland, Croatia, China, Japan, and now Mexico come to the Pajaro Valley and use agriculture as a stepping stone in their pursuit of happiness.

4. As towns and counties get paved over to make way for other industries, the Pajaro Valley continues its rich agriculture tradition.

5. Our crops and farms adhere to the toughest regulations in the world and still are able to produce the safest food in the world.

6. The financial risk in planting one acre of product can be well over $100,000 before one item is picked and sold. The farmer takes a big gamble before making a single dime.

Those that understand the risk in farming admire agriculture for its intrinsic value and economic output. For farming to stay local in Santa Cruz County it has to remain economically feasible for the farmer, who takes all the risk.

The popular movement of foodies and people appreciating locally grown food is an encouraging sign. One that might be helpful in our endeavor to educate the general public on what it takes to grow the food, fiber and flora. The Farm Bureau actively pursues defending agriculture from over-regulation, bad land-use decisions, and other factors which can diminish farming’s future in this County.

Conclusion:

We live in a special place- let’s hope we can keep it that way.
**Question:** What are the latest research findings on the management of Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) for nurseries?

Our research project in local ornamental nurseries demonstrates the useful but incomplete effectiveness of using pheromone mating disruption for the management of LBAM in typical Santa Cruz County nurseries. Conventional wisdom has shown that, in general, a mating disruption treatment should be used on a contiguous production area that is 10 acres or greater. For LBAM management, mating disruption (with pheromone “twist ties”) has been successful in these type of production areas such as vineyards and citrus in Australia, or recently, in the large berry fields of Watsonville. In our experiments, we wanted to see whether the control strategy would work in local nurseries, where nurseries are typically smaller than the 10 acre recommended area. We found that mating disruption was useful in reducing LBAM, but we also found LBAM on plant hosts that surrounded these nurseries on ornamentals, weeds, and native plants. Because many of the LBAM detections on production plants were located near nursery perimeters, we believe that fertile moths from these infested areas could migrate into nurseries and confound the success of pheromone mating disruption and other management strategies.

**Question:** What are the next research steps?

We recently submitted a grant proposal to improve the mating disruption strategy and other IPM strategies. In the previous project, we developed and used bait traps to monitor LBAM populations and evaluate the synthetic pheromone mating disruption experiment. We now are prepared to evaluate the use of these and other traps to mass trap and kill migrating moths at nursery perimeters. Also, sterilized moths from the USDA should be available by next year and we propose to apply these moths at or near perimeter of nurseries. We believe that the combined effect of pheromone mating disruption strategy with twist ties and the use of sterile moth releases at nursery perimeters will broaden control beyond nursery boundaries. This will help reduce successful mating and fertile female moths that could migrate into the nursery.

In the previous project, we identified that in-house scouting was the most important part of early LBAM detection and management, and scouting needed to become more time-efficient. In the new project we will identify ornamental, weed, and native hosts that are most attractive and supportive of LBAM (susceptible) so that they can be more intensely scouted and targeted with management practices. Likewise, the poorest plant hosts (resistant) will be identified, and these plants could be used for hedge rows or visual buffers, which are commonly used on nursery perimeters.
“Johnboy go out to the well and fetch some water for your Mom.” Some people have very quaint notions of life on a farm. As farmers we all have a red barn, a cow and a couple of scruffy kids chasing chickens in the yard. We all fall back on stereotypes from time to time, no matter how far from the truth they may be. The Regional Water Board (RWQCB) seems to have the same problem. Not only do they not know any farmers (except those who attend their hearings), they have no idea where well water comes from, so they rely on well worn myths.

RWQCB management has asserted that there is a direct, as in directly downward, impact on the aquifer from farm irrigation fertilizer moving below the root zone, “leachate”. This statement is without scientific basis. While this can be true if your farm is sandy loam over sandstone, as in north Monterey County, it is usually wrong due to the complexity of geology. It does spin reality to rationalize groundwater monitoring and regulation.

Geology, hydrology and reality are seldom as tidy as fairy tales. So too with our various aquifers. Professor Andy Fisher, UCSC professor of hydrology, gave an excellent presentation at the Community Dialogue. The recharge for the Pajaro aquifers occurs mostly in three areas, Corralitos, above Murphy’s Crossing along the Pajaro River and in the sandstone hills. Only the first two have significant streams supplying winter water, they are the main sources of recharge. Turns out some areas of the valley have no recharge potential. So if you farm in an area with poor recharge the water in your well has nothing to do with your own farm practices, although your leachate, after a long time, may still reach the aquifer, or come out as surface water.

That being said, it is equally well proven that use of farm fertilizers since the end of World War II has significantly increased the nitrate concentration in the aquifers. This is a slow process so any change in practice now will not show up for years or decades.

How can we determine fertilizer loss to groundwater?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOIL NITRATE &amp; LEACHATE NITRATE</th>
<th>NITROGEN LOSSES TO GROUNDWATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Tim Hartz, UCD Agriculture</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professor Thomas Harter, UCD Hydrologist</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All Nitrate is in the soil solution but it is not attached to soil particles</td>
<td>If total lettuce crop irrigation is 14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Soil solution is only 20-30% the weight of soil</td>
<td>▶ Crop ET: 8 inches (plant water uptake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If soil Nitrate is 10-20 ppm (weight of soil plus water and N) the Nitrate in soil solution is 50-100 ppm in sandy loam and 30-60 ppm in clay soil. This is the concentration that can leach past the root zone.</td>
<td>▶ leaching loss: 6 inches water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only water, and N, in the root zone can be used by the plant. Once it is below the root zone it is lost.</td>
<td>▶ Soil test: 20 ppm of N – 80 mg/L in solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWQCB is proposing that leachate be less than 10 ppm</td>
<td>▶ 80 mg/L in 6 inches leaching water: 110 lbs N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Drinking water limit: 10 mg/L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOES IT MATTER?**

▶ 2.5 crops/year = 12-18 inches of recharge (leachate) 
   ▶ approximately half of all groundwater recharge in the Salinas Valley 
   ▶ at >5-10x drinking water limit

The proposed Ag Waiver seeks to set a goal of no groundwater discharge (leachate) over 10ppm. This will be a very hard target to achieve. However, we can never reach this, or any, leachate goal unless we understand the science, not just the political mythology.
Springtime Lamb Stew

3 lbs boneless lamb stew meat cut into 1”-2” chunks
2 tablespoons soy sauce
¼ cup port (or Madeira)
4 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp thyme leaves

¼ tsp black peppercorns
2 bay leaves
1-½ cups chicken broth
1 cup dry red wine
1-1/2 lbs small red potatoes halved
10 slender carrots (peeled)

4 small turnips (peeled & halved)
10 small white boiling onions
¾ lb green beans
1 cup whipping cream
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
Parsley

Place meat in a Dutch oven and stir in soy sauce. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove lid and heat to high to boil down juices completely (about 10 minutes). Sizzle meat until richly browned while stirring. Add port, mustard seeds, thyme, peppercorns, bay leaves, broth and wine. Lay potatoes, carrots, turnips, and onions over meat. Heat to boil, cover, and reduce heat and simmer for about 50 minutes.

Meanwhile, steam the green beans separately in another pan for 8 minutes or until tender. Remove all vegetables and meat with a slotted spoon to an ovenproof serving platter along with the green beans. Cover loosely with foil and keep warm in the oven at 150 degrees.

Remove bay leaves from juices; add cream and mustard. Boil on high heat until sauce is golden (8-10 minutes) and slightly thickened. Pour sauce into a gravy bowl. Garnish meat and vegetables with parsley and spoon sauce over individual servings.

This is a wonderful lamb stew recipe shared with us by Roger LeGrande, husband of long-time Farm Bureau staff member, Carol LeGrande. This is one of “Chef Roger’s” favorite recipes and a favorite of the LeGrande family. Thank you Roger!
DEADLY LUNCH STOP

In February 2004 Adelmo Cabral swerved off Interstate 10 in San Bernadino County and hit a Ralph’s Grocery big rig. The Ralph’s truck driver was eating a sandwich in his truck parked in a spot marked “emergency parking only.”

A jury found Ralph’s 10 percent at fault and Cabral 90 percent at fault and awarded Cabral’s family $475,000.00. Ralph’s then appealed. The 4th District Court of Appeal threw out the jury verdict finding that Ralph’s was not liable as a matter of law.

Cabral then appealed. The California Supreme Court reversed the 4th District Court of Appeal and held that Ralph’s could be held liable for the death of a motorist who hit a big rig parked for lunch in an emergency parking zone.

The Supreme Court wrote that the Ralph’s truck driver had a legal duty to exercise reasonable care for the safety of others when he parked off the freeway in a spot marked “emergency parking only.”

Stopping by the side of the road for emergency might be just as dangerous to other motorists as stopping for a snack but an emergency does not create liability because it is justified.

Attorneys for Ralph’s say that the Supreme Court’s decision means that from now on whenever one parks a vehicle and is hit in California, you can be sued and the jury decides whether you had a good enough reason to park there. In other words, the jury decides whether there was a breach of duty. Judges can dismiss such cases only if they believe no jury could possibly find that a defendant driver breached the duty of care.

The take away on this case is to be vigilant when temporarily parking equipment or vehicles on the side of a road, especially if it’s marked for a particular type of parking.

Make sure if you park in an emergency parking area that your company’s vehicles are there for a true emergency.

Food For Thought

“If you don’t go after what you want, you’ll never have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you don’t step forward, you’re always in the same place.”

---Nora Roberts
New Vehicle Incentive Program

On March 11, 2011, the American Farm Bureau Federation announced a change in the Vehicle Incentive Program (VIP).

As of May 1, 2011 the new VIP partner for AFBF will be General Motors Company (GM). However, the Dodge/RAM agreement with AFBF and the California Farm Bureau concludes on March 31, 2011. The CFBF Executive Committee will be reviewing the new AFBF agreement in April to determine our potential contractual commitment to the program. Effectively this means that Farm Bureau members will not qualify for any incentive program between April 1, 2011 and the May date that CFBF signs on to the program. When that happens we will communicate with you directly.

The new program will be similar to the VIP that AFBF had with Dodge-RAM, and many of the program elements will transition over the next 30-90 days. This new program keeps intact the $500 cash incentive to Farm Bureau members when they purchase an eligible GM vehicle. This program also increases the number of vehicles eligible for the $500 cash incentive benefit as well as the number of participating dealerships. One major change is a 60 day membership requirement for those receiving the $500 cash incentive as compared to 30 days under the Dodge-RAM agreement.

As we learn more we will provide each of you with details regarding this new VIP benefit partner program.
ture community was received in sponsorships from the California Strawberry Commission, Cowles Berry Farms, Jim Howes, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, McSherry & Hudson, Tom & Laura Rider, Royal Oaks Farm, Snow Seed Company and Suncrest Nurseries.

The effort of putting together this DVD/Video was a big project and the result of many hours of hard work. Ron Tyler and Dave Moeller wrote the original script and served as Assistant Directors; Jess Brown served as the Executive Producer; Cristina King, owner of Media Ready Services, served as the Narrator and Director. Recognition was also given to the cinematographer and post-production coordinator, Damon Meyer from Web VideoProducts.com.

Please consider ordering a copy of this video which was produced to inform the public about the farming community. The DVD is available by contacting Agri-Culture at (831) 722-6622 or by visiting www.agri-culture.us. The video sells for $10 each, 2 videos for $15 or 3 videos for $20.

A SALUTE TO ROSE KEVERN

After 13 years of service to both the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and the organization Agri-Culture, Rose Kevern has decided to retire. A special tribute was given to Rose during the premiere of the Agri-Culture DVD on Thursday, April 21st. Farm Bureau President, Chris Enright, and Agri-Culture Vice-President, Steve Bontadelli, thanked Rose for her dedication and loyalty to both organizations.

Good luck Rose and enjoy your retirement!

Save These Dates

Agri-Culture

Down To Earth Women Luncheon
Thursday, May 12, 2011
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

94th Annual Dinner Meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2011
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

18th Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, July 15, 2011
Pajaro Valley Golf Course

Agri-Culture

California State Fair
Visit the Santa Cruz County Fair Booth
July 14 - July 31, 2011
Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Young Farmers & Ranchers
Testicle Festival
Saturday, August 25, 2011

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
Santa Cruz County Fair
September 13-18, 2011

Apple Pie Baking Contest &
Opening Day Barbecue
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Agri-Culture

15th Annual Progressive Dinner
Saturday, October 29, 2011

For more information on any of these events, you may reach the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau at (831) 724-1356 or visit their website at www.sccfb.com for reservations.

You may reach Agri-Culture at (831) 722-6622 or visit their website at agri-culture.us for reservations.
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Mike, left, and Tony Scurich

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May 2011
Between the Furrows
The California Rural Legal Assistance is the sponsor of a bill that would put such extreme restrictions on the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) that the future use of pesticides would be put into jeopardy. AB 1176 (Das Williams, D-Santa Barbara) proposes four new 180-day deadlines to complete different steps in the risk assessment and management process. These complex scientific reviews take years to complete as additional data collection and water and air monitoring are usually needed. Placing arbitrary 180-day deadlines on these activities would make the process impossible and open it to litigation by the environmental community when they do not complete their work in time.

AB 1176 elevates the role of the Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) by requiring DPR to accept their scientific decisions as conclusive instead of allowing DPR to make alternative findings based on their field application expertise. It also takes away DPR’s sole authority to develop control measures by giving OEHHA a consultative role that they have never had before. This is easily one of the most onerous pesticide bills that has been introduced in recent years. AB 1176 was heard on April 26 in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. CFBF is opposed.
MAY 2011
VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5

141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076

Between the Furrows
A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

THURSDAY —— MAY 12
Down to Earth Women Luncheon

THURSDAY —— MAY 19
Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission

FRIDAY —— MAY 20
Focus Agriculture, Session 3

WEDNESDAY —— MAY 25
Central Coast Agriculture Task Force meeting

THURSDAY —— MAY 26
Board of Directors’ Meeting

MONDAY ———— MAY 31
Memorial Day Holiday Observed - Office Closed

WEDNESDAY — JUNE 1
• Executive Committee meeting
• Membership Committee meeting
• Legislative Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY ———— JUNE 6
Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

MONDAY ———— JUNE 13
Public Relations & Information Committee

SATURDAY ———— JUNE 18
2nd Annual Monterey Bay Greenhouse Open House

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