

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

AUGUST 2017  
VOLUME 41, ISSUE 8

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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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Mark Your Calendar!

## 9th Annual Testicle Festival



Testicle Festival hosts invite you to join the fun at Estrada Ranch (L-R) Greg, Janet, Frank, Zach and Loretta Estrada

**T**he 9th Annual Testicle Festival, put on by the **Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee** of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, will be held on **Saturday, August 26, 2017, 3pm-7pm**, at **Estrada Deer Camp** in Watsonville.

The event includes rocky mountain oysters served as hor d'oeuvres and a full chicken barbeque dinner: **\$50 for adults, \$20 for children 5-12 and free for children under 5**. The popular local chef, **Loretta Estrada**, will be preparing the Rocky Mountain Oysters and firefighter, **Derek Witmer**, will be barbecuing the chicken. The event will have a raffle, live and silent auction, as well as a games for adults and children.

The very popular **"It's All in the Sauce" Contest** will again be held. The sauces are prepared to be enjoyed with the Rocky Mountain Oysters. Each attendee will have a chance to vote on their favorite choice.

The **"No Respect!"** band will again play at the Testicle Festival. This very popular local band is sought out for many regional events. They are known for their wide range of songs – from Rock n' Roll to even Latin.

**If you haven't tried a rocky mountain oyster, now is the time!** Please call the **Agri-Culture** office for tickets at **831-722-6622** or find the Testicle Festival on **[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)** (search for "9th Annual Testicle Festival" in Watsonville).

**Be sure you see it! It won a silver medal again at the State Fair!**

**Santa Cruz County Fair Booth will be visiting soon!!!**

**September 13 - 17, 2017**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SCCFB.COM](http://WWW.SCCFB.COM)

# President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT



## Watersheds, Farming, Stewardship – It's All Connected

In July, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau (SCCFB) was honored with the Blue Circle award for the organization's efforts to help protect and improve the water quality and natural resources in watersheds throughout the county. The Blue Circle, a joint initiative by the Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), started over 20 years ago with the intention to break down institutional barriers and improve communication to create strong working relationships between all watershed stakeholders. Chris Coburn, Director of the Santa Cruz RCD, acknowledged that the award is long overdue to recognize SCCFB's role in improving and preserving watersheds.



agencies such as the RCD and NRCS prioritize the needs of farmers to implement practices and technologies to stay competitive while protecting the natural resources we depend upon. Just earlier this year, we had a very positive experience on our farm. We received assistance from RCD staff to successfully maneuver through the onerous application process for CDFA's SWEEP funding (State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program). We were awarded with enough funding to help us retrofit a couple of well pumps and install monitoring and

President's Message - Continued on Page 5

**“Growing food requires farmers to manage their land and water resources very carefully. Few professions are more intimately engaged and dependent in managing the use of natural resources that can bring economic viability, and at the same time, preserve the environment. At the end of the day, no one is closer to the land than farmers. It behooves them to treat the land the best they can because the land will ultimately reward them in return.”**

Growing food requires farmers to manage their land and water resources very carefully. Few professions are more intimately engaged and dependent in managing the use of natural resources that can bring economic viability, and at the same time, preserve the environment. At the end of the day, no one is closer to the land than farmers. It behooves them to treat the land the best they can because the land will ultimately reward them in return.

Nothing is more important than protecting our land and water resources. It is vital that funding and technical assistance by other

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# ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Farm Advisor, Environmental Horticulture, UCCE

## Phytophthora Crown and Root Rot

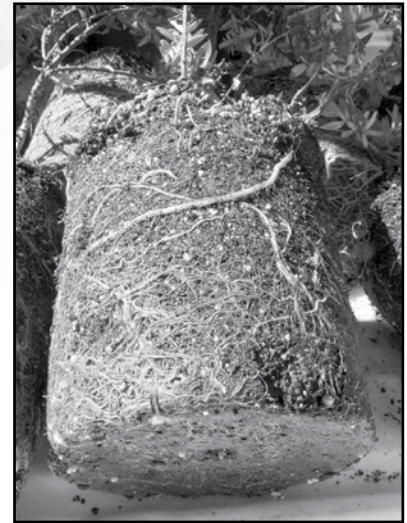
**Question:** Are there nursery diseases that are more common during or following a wet winter and spring?

**Answer:** *Phytophthora* are worldwide-recognized plant pathogenic microorganisms, many of which cause root and collar rot diseases and complete their lifecycle in the presence of water. *Phytophthora* release swimming spores that move through water and are attracted to plant root exudates. Once susceptible plant roots are infected, the pathogen can cause root rot, and disease can spread further into the stems. Leaves can be smaller than normal and have chlorosis or interveinal chlorosis. Wilting can occur even with adequate soil moisture. When *Phytophthora* infects at, or develops into, the root crown near the soil line, the disease is described as a "crown rot." Often at this stage, leaves may droop, and the plant dies. Cutting just under the bark at or just above the soil line may reveal dead inner bark tissue. The dead tissue may be reddish brown, brown, or black and will differ from healthy tissue, which can be white, green, or pink depending on the type of plant or tissue.

Root balls must be examined by carefully removing the pot to expose the roots. Sometimes gently shaking, or washing the soil mix from the outer portion of the rootball, can allow for a better examination. Diseased roots can be reddish brown to dark brown while healthy roots are often white to tan, depending on the plant species. Feeder roots can be rotted away, and heavier roots can be discolored. Fleshy roots of some plant species can be brown, water-soaked and flaccid. They may also be brittle, thin and rotted inside, while healthy roots are often turgid and crisp.



**Figure 1F. *Diplacus aurantiacus* 'Trish' showing above ground symptoms because of various degrees of *Phytophthora* root rot (infected with *Phytophthora cryptogea*).**  
Photo: S. Tjosvold.



**Figure 2 *Diplacus aurantiacus* (Sticky monkeyflower) with *Phytophthora* root rot (infected with *Phytophthora cryptogea*). All fine feeder roots are infected and necrotic. *Phytophthora* has not killed larger roots yet.** Photo: S. Tjosvold.

# THE WATER NANNY

## Jabberwocky

*Tw'as brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.*

Children's fairy tales should delight the imagination, as *Through the Looking-Glass* surely does. Water regulations on the other hand should not require a fertile imagination to understand and apply. Yet, here we are with another set of words which will become focal points as State water quality regulations become ever more complex, and potentially arbitrary. Like any good fairy tale, this one has an interesting history.

The Federal Clean Water Act had a simple goal, clean up polluted surface waterways. It also included the concept of antidegradation; that high quality water not be allowed to degrade. The State Water Board, following a US Interior Department directive, adopted a similar antidegradation policy, for both surface and groundwater, in 1968. High quality water is that which is better than adopted state policies. (i.e. 10mg/l N for drinking water)



This is applied by looking at the historic baseline water quality, the best quality that has existed since 1968. If at any time since '68 it was ever better than current water quality objectives antidegradation rules apply; but, if the water impairments exceed objectives, then no antidegradation analysis is necessary. If the water quality is high, there can be additional requirements not required of areas with historically poor water.

There are exceptions, of course. If the Regional Board determines it is in the "maximum benefit to the people of the State" they can look at the assimilative capacity of the receiving water. That is the ability for the water to accept additional impairments before it exceeds the adopted objectives. This is clearly the antithesis of antidegradation.

Recently the Agua appellate court decision clarified the need of regional boards to make specific findings regarding

antidegradation. This case dealt with dairy impacts on groundwater. The applicability on the Central Coast is that the Ag Order, in our case the future Ag Order v4.0, will have to fully address geographic areas with historically unimpaired waters with additional regulations.



So much for the colorful backstory. The real question is how this will all be applied where we farm. It is one thing to torture the English language with conflicting regulatory dogma; it is so much harder for staff to apply same to our fields. Antidegradation requirements were intended to be incorporated into the new 2017 Ag Order v3.0. However, the conflict between antidegradation and assimilative capacity, along with post 1968 historic water quality and current water quality, not to mention geographic and hydrologic variability resulted in a regulatory migraine. The solution was punt the problem into the next Ag Order due in 2020.

Let's look at how this could apply here. Wells near Casserly and Wheelock have low nitrates, which would now require stricter fertilization practices than a farm at Carlton and Coward where nitrates have been high for decades. However higher standards would be required at Carlton if historic (post 1968) well water tests were below 10 mg/l, the drinking water standard. Then there is the issue of where to draw the line between the two areas. Raising the nitrate requirements everywhere would not work as there would then be no higher standard for pristine areas. Needless to say, Region 3 staff has yet to release their first draft antidegradation standards.

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things." "The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all." We will have to wait to see how Region 3 staff masters these words. In the end the Jabberwock was slain by the *beamish boy, o frabjous day*. Farmers may need a fairy tale ending to make sense of the application of such inherently conflicting concepts, *Callooh! Callay!*



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Pippin Cake

This recipe also comes from the Farm Bureau Women Cookbook published back in 1981 and was submitted by Virginia Rider. She was born in Virginia, married local apple grower, Bruce Rider, the mother of three children and a resident of Santa Cruz County for more than 60 years. The Riders are a multigenerational farm family in Santa Cruz County with Bruce and Virginia's two sons, Jim and Dick, continuing to operate the apple growing and packing business.

### INGREDIENTS:

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 eggs                  | 1/4 teaspoon salt                |
| 2 cups sugar            | 2 cups Newtown Pippin applesauce |
| 2 cups flour            | 1 teaspoon vanilla               |
| 2 teaspoons baking soda | 1/2 cup chopped or ground nuts   |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 10 1/2 x 15 1/2 inch jelly roll or similar size pan and sprinkle with flour or sugar. Sift together or mix the flour, baking soda and salt. Beat the eggs well and gradually beat in the sugar. Fold in about half the flour mixture, then the applesauce and vanilla, the rest of the flour and the nuts. Spread in pan and bake 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Note: Other applesauce may be used but Newtowns are best. Set cake on rack to cool.

### FROSTING:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 8 ounce package cream cheese, at room temperature | 1 teaspoon vanilla             |
| 1/3 cup margarine                                   | 1/2 cup chopped or ground nuts |
| 1 3/4 cups powdered sugar                           |                                |

Cream together the margarine and cream cheese. Add powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Spread on the cake while hot and sprinkle with nuts. Serves 24 and freezes well.

## The President's Message - Continued from Page 2

low pressure drip systems in our orchards to improve our irrigation efficiency.

If you ask me right now, in the height of summer, I can barely keep up with the workload and daily tasks of our operation; so I am glad for the assistance. It also makes me appreciate the work of SCCFB which actively engages with organizations, such as RCD and NRCS, to communicate the interests and needs of agriculture in managing land and water resources.

The image of a watershed always strikes me as a geographical surface where everyone is connected by the water that is collected, stored and drained. How fitting to receive the Blue Circle Award to recognize the work of SCCFB on behalf of the agriculture community which holds such deep roots to the land, growing food, supporting a "foodshed" which nourishes the rest of the community in that watershed.

I came across a quote by Wendell Berry, which to me

seems fitting to recognizing the importance of farmers in our watersheds.

"Good farmers,...contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These Farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery." – Wendell Berry

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# The History of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

Part 2 - As written by Hulda Hoover McLean

In 1944, the California Farm Bureau state convention was held in Santa Cruz at the Casa del Rey with its banquet on the rose terrace. Some of the state people recognized me from work in Sacramento and asked me to give a talk on legislative problems.

I was then asked to be Legislative Chairman of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. This created a minor flap. Farm Bureau was a family membership but the men ran all of it. In each center the women had their own organization called the "Home Department" which was under the county Home Advisor in the Extension Office. The function of the Home Department was to learn home skills and to furnish refreshments at the center meetings. And I was County Legislative Chairman and on the County Board of Directors. But it worked out fine. Senator Donald Grunsky and Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge were good friends of Chuck and myself and so Farm Bureau got good representation in Sacramento and our members got a good education on legislation.

In 1948, the secretary of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau disappeared. Just disappeared - no one ever found out where he went or why. Nowadays, one would immediately think of murder. Then, the speculation was either that he'd just taken off or that he had drowned himself in the ocean. Anyway, the Board of Directors asked Chuck if he'd be the County Secretary. Farm Bureau had about 200 members and the dues were \$5 which means there was about \$1,000 to run the office, send young people to conferences, send delegates to meetings, put out the bulletin. There wasn't much left



California Farm Bureau Federation meeting, 1956

over for salary and if there was nothing in the treasury, Chuck worked for nothing until Farm Bureau could afford to pay him something again. It was not exactly a good living, but it was an interesting job.

Chuck felt that his first responsibility was to build up Farm Bureau and he did all he could to do to strengthen the center's programs and membership. He was very busy all day, everyday, calling on farmers to sell Farm Bureau and find out their problems and help them solve them.

In 1952, the state Farm Bureau established an insurance company. Chuck became agent and that made Farm Bureau easier to promote and also furnished a more reliable income.

Our county Farm Bureau had organized the Farm Supply Company in 1950. The members bought stock in it to furnish capital (I think it totaled \$10,000). The reason for Farm Supply was the very high prices of fertilizers. Farm Supply cut the prices to a reasonable level. This competition lowered everyone's price (but didn't make friends with the merchants) and farmers saved a lot of money. It did a good business, but I remember that a few years after it was organized it had to have more capital. It just wasn't possible to keep enough supplies on hand with what they had. It was frantic work collecting bills and turning over stock fast enough to keep it going. The directors had decided to call it quits because it was just too difficult and anyway, Farm Supply had accomplished its purpose in getting supply costs down. I felt that if we went out of business, prices would go right back up, so I asked the directors to give me a month to see if I could sell enough more stock to raise



Rose Roston, a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and other local officials, christens the new Eagle Rock Lookout built with the help of the County Farm Bureau



**Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau's Corralitos Farm Center Display at the 1956 Santa Cruz County Fair**

the \$5,000 they said they must have (\$5,000 was more money than it is now). I made a list of people to ask for money, in and out of Farm Bureau, and was able to go out and get what was needed.

The insurance company was a great success and Chuck needed help so I got a license (although Farm Bureau was very dubious about a female agent) and helped him.

I have been thinking of some of the things Farm Bureau did in these early years. It was the moving force in forming a county-side citizens health council to deal with county health problems. One of them was an undulant fever epidemic which we knew came from infected milk. So we pressed the Board of Supervisors for a pasteurization ordinance. Then there were marketing orders when the members needed them. I remember that Valencia Hall needed a new roof, so members held a roofing bee and put one up. And Seaside School needed inside plumbing and they did that.

We were all very involved with the county fair. Every center had a big display and the women had a home-made candy booth. Chuck ran "The Little Corral", a hamburger and chile stand to help finance the office. Every center sponsored a 4-H club and the county Farm Bureau helped finance the All Star winners.

The women's department was very active. They made a study of juvenile delinquency and made recommendations which were adopted by the Farm Bureau Board of Directors and passed on to the Board of Supervisors. For years, the women had a Farm Bureau representative at each graduation of new citizens and gave them flags and told them about agriculture and invited them to a Farm Bureau dinner. For Christmas holidays, Farm Bureau members had foreign students as guests, entertained them and educated them about American farmers. We were involved in community

service, visiting rest homes and making pillows and bed jackets. We made layettes for the social welfare department.

In 1956, the Home Department had separated from the Home Advisor and became Farm Bureau Women and more integrated into the mainstream of Farm Bureau business. This was an important step. Now a special women's committee that still exists is made up of us old people who watch with pleasure what the younger ones are doing. Our committee is really no longer a necessary part of Farm Bureau.

In 1956, other important things happened. The county Farm Bureau had become very active and a strong voice in the county. We decided we wanted better representation in government. So, in 1956, we got three Farm Bureau members on the Board of Supervisors: myself, Fizz Nelson and Francis Silliman. The state had passed a law that every county must have a Planning Department and must adopt a General Plan. We were able to appoint three Farm Bureau members to the planning commission: Shep Quate, Elaine Reinelt and Avery Shuey. That is why the Santa Cruz General Plan, though changed many times since then, is more favorable to agriculture than many county's General Plans.

In 1956, Chuck left the Santa Cruz Farm Bureau job and joined the staff of the California Farm Bureau Federation as Regional Field Secretary for this area. Shep Quate took his place in this county. I kept on with the insurance work until the Board of Supervisors duties became too heavy and then Shep absorbed the insurance duties.



**Family farm owners, George and Mattie Lou Cowles**

**Part III of Hulda Hoover McLean's "Some Notes on Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau History continues in the September, 2017 issue of *Between the Furrows*.**

## Cannabis Regulations Update



**O**n June 14, 2017, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) ended the comment period on the proposed Medical Cannabis Cultivation Regulations. CDFA will summarize and respond to all comments related to the proposed regulations. CDFA will provide an explanation to

each comment and indicate how the proposed regulation has been amended to include the comment or indicate why the comment was rejected. A summary of these responses will be included as part of the rule-making process in a document called Final Statement of Reasons. Recently the California legislature introduced a trailer bill for Cannabis regulations. The bill contains budget language aimed at aligning the Medical Cannabis Regulations and Safety Act with the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64). Passing of the trailer bill would require CDFA to withdraw the currently proposed Medical Cannabis Cultivation Regulations and propose a new set of regulations consistent with the new changes. If this occurs, comments submitted on the currently proposed regulation will be important in helping to craft the new regulations. On June 15, 2017, the CDFA released its Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for public comment. The PEIR will study the impacts of cannabis cultivation statewide and identify additional restrictions cannabis cultivators will need to follow to ensure protection of the environment. The comment period for the PEIR closes on July 31, 2017. CDFA will be hosting workshops to give the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. One of the workshops was held in Monterey County on Tuesday, July 18th. To access the proposed Medical Cannabis Cultivation Regulations or the PEIR, please visit the CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing webpage at: [www.calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov)

At the local level, Santa Cruz County is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing ordinances. It is anticipated that the draft EIR will be available for public comment in

mid-August. The final EIR with responses to comments will be completed in December. The EIR will come before the County's Planning Commission for a public hearing in December. It is anticipated that the EIR and draft Cannabis Cultivation and Manufacturing ordinances will come before the County Board of Supervisors for a public hearing in January or February 2018. For more information please visit the Cannabis Cultivation Licensing webpage at: <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/CannabisLicensingOffice.aspx>

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### 2017 Calendar of Events

#### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

##### **Santa Cruz County Fair**

September 13 through September 17, 2017

##### **Annual Directors' Dinner**

Location to be determined

November 2, 2017

6:15 p.m.

##### **CFBF 98th Annual Meeting**

Reno, NV

December 3 through December 6, 2017

#### Agri-Culture

##### **9th Annual Testicle Festival**

Estrada Deer Camp

August 26, 2017

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

##### **21st Annual Progressive Dinner**

To be determined

October 28, 2017

3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.





"Thomas More once said, 'You must not abandon the ship in a storm because you cannot control the winds.' The winds will blow. The change will come. The most important thing for you to learn is you must adapt to the change."

Roger Ailes

### **I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...**



"I support the grass root efforts provided by the organization and appreciate their steadfastness in looking out for the best interests of agriculture in our area. Having been President and a board member for many years, I know the hard work that goes on."

*Steve Bontadelli*

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# NRCS NEWS

By Chris Coburn, Executive Director,  
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

## RCD Seeks Input on Fallowing Plan

I don't know that I'd quite characterize staff here at the Resource Conservation District (RCD) or the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as the nerds referred to in last month's *Between the Furrows* Water Nanny Article, but we definitely lean that way in our ability to provide technical assistance to landowners and growers. Through the Agricultural Conservation and Stewardship Program, we are working with landowners and growers to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources on their properties strictly on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. We have the capacity to assist growers with irrigation and nutrient management, conservation planning and other related areas of need, including conducting distribution uniformity analyses and irrigation scheduling. By providing education and technical assistance, opportunities for on-farm conservation practice implementation may be identified, which could be funded through the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), among others.

Working closely with a number of partners, including UCSC and PV Water, we're identifying opportunities for implementing groundwater recharge projects that could be enrolled in the Recharge Net Metering (ReNeM) program. Also, working with stakeholders of the Community Water Dialogue, the RCD is facilitating the development of a plan for voluntary, rotational cover cropping for the Pajaro Valley. The plan comes in response to landowner and grower interest in exploring rotational fallowing as one of many actions for conserving water along with other benefits. You can read about the plan, the cost-benefit analysis, and future planning meetings at: [www.communitywaterdialogue.org/meeting-materials](http://www.communitywaterdialogue.org/meeting-materials). To learn more or to provide input please contact the RCD at [llurie@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:llurie@rcdsantacruz.org) or 831-464-2950 x 27. If you are interested in technical assistance, or would like to more generally discuss your conservation goals, please contact the RCD at 464-2950 or the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service at 475-1967.

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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**THURSDAY - AUGUST 24**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Commission meeting

**SATURDAY - AUGUST 26**  
9th Annual Testicle Festival  
Make your reservations soon!  
(831) 722-6622 or  
visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)  
(Search for Testicle Festival  
in Watsonville)

**WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 30**  
Focus Agriculture XXVIII,  
Session 7

**THURSDAY - AUGUST 31**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 4**  
Labor Day Observed  
Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 6**

- Legislative Committee meeting
- Executive Committee meeting
- Membership Committee meeting

**MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 11**  
Public Relations &  
Information Committee  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 13**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 13**  
Opening Day Barbecue  
Apple Pie Contest

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR**  
SEPTEMBER 13 - 17, 2017



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