

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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National Agriculture Day

and the 2014 Friend of Agriculture is...



Patrice Edwards (L) accepts the 2014 Friend of Agriculture Award from the 2013 recipient, Tom Rider (R) at the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

A record crowd attended the **National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon** held March 19th at the Agricultural History Project located at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville. At the event, the **2014 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture** award was presented to **Patrice Edwards**, Publisher of Times Publishing

Group, Inc. **Tom Rider**, 2013 award recipient, presented the award.

This award is named after Al Smith who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on our north coast to Cal Poly. The ranch has row crops, timber and even a one-third-scale railroad, which was Al's hobby.

The award is on a piece of redwood with a train depicted on it. It is presented annually to an individual, business or organization not involved in production agriculture, who has done much for the industry.

Also presented at the luncheon were the winners of the 2014 National Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contests. For the first time ever, a brother and sister won both contests. Two



Joel Burchell (L) wins the Poster Contest along with his sister Autumn (R) who won the Poetry Contest. Both attend Creekside School in Santa Cruz

National Ag Day..Continued on Page 8

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President's Message

CYNTHIA MATHIESEN, PRESIDENT

“Solving California’s water problems won’t be easy. In fact, I’m not convinced it will ever be solved but we can make some serious efforts to reduce the impact of drought. There is not one solution that works for the entire state of California when it comes to water.”

Monkeys in the Trees

When I was in grade school, I read a story about monkeys who lived in the trees of the jungle. That story made a big impact on my life and I refer to it quite often.

During the day the sun shone and the monkeys were happy to play all day, swinging from tree to tree and eating bananas without a care in the world. At night it rained in the jungle and the monkeys were cold and miserable. Every night the monkeys complained but ended up agreeing to build shelter the next day so they could be comfortable each night. But when the next day came the sun shone and it was too easy to play and eat all day. As a result, the monkeys played and ate all day, complained all night, and nothing ever changed.

Somehow this story reminds me of our current drought. How often do we politically act like these monkeys in the trees? This isn’t the first drought we’ve experienced, nor will it be the last. We complain and fight over water rights but we never seem to create a plan for the future and follow through. It eventually rains again and life goes on.

Solving California’s water problems won’t be easy. In fact, I’m not convinced it will ever be solved but we can make some serious efforts to reduce the impact of drought. There is not one solution that works for the entire state of California when it comes to water. I had the opportunity

to meet with Katie Gross from Senator Feinstein’s office along with Mary Lou Nicoletti, Kevin Healy, and Kirk Schmidt. She had just come from a meeting with some very hot and angry growers in San Benito County who wanted water. She quickly noticed the stark contrast to our needs. San Benito County just doesn’t have water. Yes, Santa Cruz County needs water; but more than that, we need money for storage, equipment, and education.

Santa Cruz County, because of its proximity to the coast, has had to deal with water woes for decades. As our water tables sink, sea water floods the tables. So...We have water; but not water we can

Monkeys in the Trees..Continued on Page 8

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, County Director, Farm Advisor, UCCE

New Invasive Pest Detected in Santa Cruz County: The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) was detected in a survey trap by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) recently in Santa Cruz County along Highway 17 close to the Santa Clara County border. The tiny beetle is part of a new insect-disease complex that is threatening avocado, coast live oak, box elder and other trees in Southern California. The newly identified beetle penetrates the bark of many hosts and carries a symbiotic fungus (*Fusarium* species) that the larvae feed on. The fungus can then cause branch dieback in susceptible hosts. The same beetle and fungus have also been found in Israel, where the complex has caused severe damage to avocado trees since 2009.

The situation in Santa Cruz County is being sorted out by CDFA. The one beetle detection in the survey trap is only an indication that it is in the area, and it is not currently considered established in the area. Delimitation traps may be installed and potential hosts may need to be inspected in the oak / California bay woodland that the trap was placed.

PSHB is a Q-rated pest, which is a temporary designation of a pest that is suspected to be of economic importance. Information needs to still be gathered before any determination might be made if or how regulatory action would be enforced. So far, no quarantine has been established. PSHB could be transported in firewood, solid wood packing or shipping material, and

possibly nursery stock with at least 2-inch diameter trunk diameter.

For more information and images of symptoms see:

http://cifr.ucr.edu/polyphagous_shot_hole_borer.html

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=8170>

http://ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests/Polyphagous_Shot_Hole_Borer/

Thank you to Mary Lou Nicoletti, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner, for providing information about CDFA efforts in detection and delimitation for PSHB.



THE WATER NANNY

"Agriculture, the Original Green"

Memories of the Past

A long time ago when I was but a child, times were tough. I had to walk to school, in the snow, uphill both ways. We played with marbles during recess and rode bikes without helmets.

Then too there was a drought, the worst drought in California's short history. It lasted from 1928 to 1937. Our legislature sprang into action and adopted the State Water Plan in 1931. Congress passed the Central Valley Project Act to bring water to the San Joaquin to create farm land in the arid valley. Who can forget the floods in the winter of 1937-38, the Salinas River flooded its banks from King City to the coast. Politicians returned to drinks from square bottles and left water alone again. This pattern of drought and flood continues. The drought of 1943-1951 was followed by floods in 1955-56, flooding Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

1976 and 1977 were the two driest years in California's history, until now. There was a new young governor in Sacramento. The state's population had been growing and massive water projects were constructed in the 60's to provide a cure to droughts. Regrettably parts of the state received insufficient water and more wells were drilled during this drought than at any other time in our history. This caused young Jerry to meditate on management of groundwater.



Brown appointed a Blue Ribbon commission to review water rights laws. They recommended: 1) locally controlled groundwater management areas (including the Pajaro Valley), 2) easier adjudication of groundwater rights, 3) allocating rights in areas with long term overdraft and 4) rewriting groundwater use rights. Not to mention the grand Peripheral Canal to move water around the Sacramento Delta. Eventually it started to rain and all the ideas were shelved. The Peripheral Canal was defeated by the voter. San Joaquin farmers took the position that: *"The existence of overdraft in the southern San Joaquin Valley does not indicate an "unmanaged" situation, but only the absence of an adequate supply of supplemental water to integrate into*

the conjunctive use operations."

Now young Jerry has returned to serve California as the oldest governor in the nation. Yet again we have a drought of historic proportions. Again our friends in Sacramento are looking to rope in the wild west approach to groundwater regulation. Brown has floated the California Water Action Plan. The Peripheral Canal is replaced by Twin Tunnels. Over 100 water related bills have been introduced. The Assembly has started hearings on Management

of California's Groundwater Resources. The Governor's budget includes: 1) transfer of drinking water regulations from Public Health to the State Water Board, 2) broader overdraft management, including expansion of the Water Board's regulatory authority, 3) groundwater elevation monitoring and 4) drought legislation. The State Water Board is already holding workshops on sweeping changes to groundwater ownership and use through new regulations. The Westland Water District, in the west San Joaquin, testified that pumping over 3 times more water than is sustainable is actually sustainable. Then there is all that nitrate in groundwater that needs attention.

From Blue Ribbons to Action Plans, it's déjà vu all over again. One long time capital observer quipped that *"The California solution, if you have a water problem, pour water on it and it will go away."* If we have good rains next year all will be solved.



Get Your Tickets Now!

Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 15, 2014

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FAVORITE RECIPES

Santa Cruz Salmon

Annie Morhausser, owner and founder of *Annieglass* in Watsonville loves to cook in her spare time. Annie insists on buying fresh local food. For this recipe Annie says, "It's best to use wild salmon, some farmed salmon is not raised sustainably. You can also use any other fish you like." Annie loves the abundance of local produce and fresh fish available to us here in Santa Cruz County. This recipe is a great way to utilize our bountiful central coast.

I buy a good-sized filet, figuring half a pound per person... it's so good your guests will eat that much. The fish will be completely covered when you put it in the oven- don't worry it all cooks down.

INGREDIENTS:

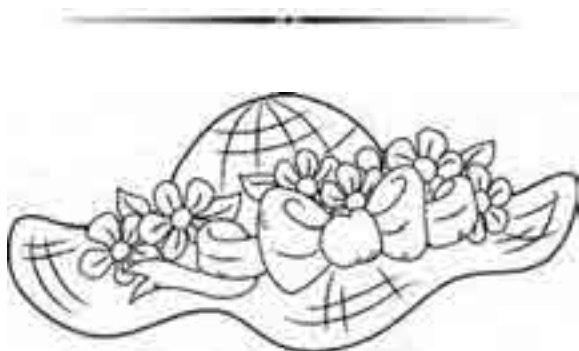
Salmon Filets (or any other fish you like)
Olive Oil
Several cloves garlic, chopped
Red Bell Pepper, sliced crosswise
Red Onion, sliced crosswise
Jalapeno Peppers (seed if desired) and sliced crosswise
Half a basket cherry tomatoes, cut in half
One bunch fresh cilantro, uncut

Drizzle a small amount of good quality olive oil into a large baking dish or pan to keep the skin from sticking to the pan. Put the filet skin side down in the pan, drizzle a small amount of olive oil over the fish. Cover with several cloves of chopped garlic, crosswise slices of red bell pepper, red onion and jalapeno peppers and one-half a basket of cherry tomatoes cut in half. Then I cover it in uncut fresh cilantro, the whole bunch!

Cook at 350 degrees for half an hour if the fish is salmon with some parts 3/4" thick or similar texture like halibut or if the fish fills an 11" X 13" baking pan. If using thinner fish like tilapia cook 20 minutes or less. Always undercook fish, always test it and put it back in longer if need be.

Remove the cilantro and serve!

If you are really stressed for time, try store-bought pesto. I like the Kirkland brand from Costco and slather that on salmon or fish and bake same amount of time.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust
my sails to always reach my destination.**


Jimmy Dean

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FROM THE AG COMMISSIONER

Mary Lou Nicoletti, Agricultural Commissioner

Agricultural Commissioner's Office



We are getting very busy here at the office of the Agricultural Commissioner. I've noticed, though, as I'm sure our growers also experience, that there is really no "down" time in the agricultural industry. People often think if they don't

see activities in the fields, or inspectors at shipping coolers, that not much is happening. And we all know this is not true.

So a few things we are busy with these days include:

- Compiling data for the 2013 Annual Crop Report
- Issuing operator ID numbers and restricted materials permits
- Registering Pest Control Advisors, Pest Control Businesses, Pilots, to enable them to do pesticide related work in the county for the year
- Pesticide use inspections
- Updating compliance agreements for export of harvested fruits and vegetables that are hosts of the LBAM into Canada.
- Doing field inspections to renew Certified Producer Certificates
- Providing regulatory updates at annual grower/industry meetings
- Performing inspections at nurseries that ship plant hosts susceptible to Sudden Oak Death to locations outside of the quarantined area.
- Arranging for our seasonal inspection staff to return in March and April
- Ongoing inspections of incoming plant shipments
- Participating in discussions with stakeholders and government agencies regarding the drought
- Registering/updating organic registrations

- Finalizing the department's budget proposal to the county for fiscal year 2014/15
- Meetings, conference calls, meetings, conference calls. Oh, did I mention meetings and conference calls?
- With luck, catching up on a project or two on one's "list"
- Paperwork – Updating, sorting, trying to get out from under it!

Despite all the demands and challenges, I hope you know that we are never too busy to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

We know Mother Nature doesn't wait.

The weather starts to change and it brings a whole new list of chores. We understand you've got a schedule to stick to—that's why we're dedicated to getting those in California ag back to work as soon as possible through our careful processing of claims. Plus, we offer eligible Farm Bureau members a 20 percent discount on premiums. It's all part of our commitment to California agriculture. Because Mother Nature doesn't stop, and neither do we.

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Another Delta Water Case: Federal Court Protects Delta Smelt



The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has decided that a lower court should not have overturned recommendations that California reduce water exports from northern to southern California. *San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority et al.*

vs. Sally Jewell et al., 11-15871 (March 13, 2014). That leaves more water in the Sacramento Delta for the small fish. The 9th United States Circuit Court of Appeal (which covers appeals in all of the Western United States) on March 13 reversed a decision by the US District Court (a Federal Trial Court). The Appeals Court ruled that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service acted reasonably and did not violate the Endangered Species Act when it ordered reduced water pumping in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to protect the delta smelt.

The lower court relied on numerous outside experts who questioned the 400 page decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Appeals Court said considering many outside experts created a battle of the experts.

Pumping limits on state and federal pumps have remained in place to protect the smelt while the litigation progressed. This case is another in a series involving fish in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta which cases animate the larger conflict between protecting the environment and satisfying California's insatiable demand for water. This conflict has been exacerbated in recent months by the continuing drought and the Legislature considering whether it should do something to facilitate additional bonds to finance solutions to the water shortage.

The one hundred and seventy-three (173) page Appeals Court decision demonstrates the predicament in which judges are placed in balancing the technical expertise agencies provide to the courts to support their decisions against the need to test the science on which the agencies rely to hold the agencies accountable. The 9th Circuit decision contains much scientific discussion and puts the court in the predicament of having to decide the correct

biological opinion

Water users hope the decision will facilitate all sides making progress on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The Plan seeks to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystems and secure California water supplies into the future. A draft of the plan is remains open for public comment.



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Events

96th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 26, 2014

20th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, July 11, 2014

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 9-14, 2014

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2014

CFBF Annual Meeting

December 6-10, 2014

Agri-Culture Events

Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Thursday, May 15, 2014

California State Fair

July 11-27, 2014

YF&R Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 16, 2014

18th Annual Progressive Dinner

October 25, 2014

NEWS FROM THE NRCS

By Rich Casale, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Minimize the Effects of Drought on Cropland

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in California. Santa Cruz County has seen many droughts come and go over the years, but 2014 is creating especially dire conditions for the area's farmers and ranchers. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing both technical and financial assistance to local producers that have been impacted by the current drought.

NRCS conservationists are currently helping growers with the planning and installation of practices that are designed to protect irrigated cropland from drought. Practices such as: irrigation system enhancement that improve uniformity and delivery of water application; irrigation scheduling that help stretch limited water supplies; vegetative and mulching practices that increase infiltration and retention of rainfall and reduce water loss from evaporation; and crop residue and tillage management that improve soil structure

and the soil's ability to hold water for crop use. Other water saving and/or development practices include: seasonal fallowing; crop rotations; and water harvesting projects that tap water sources from active springs, runoff from roofs and other impervious surfaces, and subsurface drainage collection.

NRCS conservationists can help farmers and ranchers understand what options exist for their particular water situation, soil type, production goals and assist with plans to get through the drought.

NRCS is a non-regulatory agency under USDA. All services are free of charge. To find out more or to schedule a site visit with an NRCS specialist contact the Capitola NRCS office at (831) 475-1967.

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Monkeys in the Trees...continued from Page 2

really use. We've made great strides in water recycling and conservation and developed tools to help farmers use water efficiently. The problem is we need money. Money to buy the equipment, like tensiometers for all farms; money to educate our farmers on how to use this equipment; and money to build storage units to store water for peak use.

Droughts and floods will continue to happen over and over and over. The good news is we aren't quite like those monkeys in the trees. We are willing to build for the harsh times; we just need a little assistance.

National Ag Day...continued from Page 1

separate committees judged these contests and individually announced their winners. The announcements came a day apart and no one realized that the winners lived in the same house. **Joel Burchell**, won the **Poster Contest**. His sister **Autumn Burchell**, who won the **Poetry Contest**, read her poem at the event. Their handiwork will highlight the National Agriculture Placemat in 2015 and each will receive a \$200 award. Both siblings attend Creekside School in Santa Cruz.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the event was Farm Bureau President **Cynthia Mathiesen**. **Ted Burke**, owner, Shadowbrook Restaurant, was the featured speaker, speaking on the topic of "Local Restaurant, Local Food."

The annual event is coordinated by the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau** and the educational organization **Agri-Culture**.

SAFETY FIRST!

Mike Klimenko, Farm Bureau Group Manager

Most Eye Injuries Can Be Prevented

An injury to the eye can be devastating, particularly if the victim loses his sight. What makes the situation even worse is the fact that most eye injuries could have been prevented if the proper precautions had been followed.

Eye injuries happen much too frequently in the United States. The rate is something like 2,000 per day. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, three out of five workers who suffer eye injuries wore no eye protection at the time of the injury. Eye injuries are costly, too. According to the labor bureau, eye injuries in the workplace cost more than \$465 million annually.

According to accident investigators, most workers who suffered an eye injury were wearing no eye protection at the time of the accident. Of those who were wearing eye protection, the majority of them were wearing the wrong type.

Protective eyewear offers very little protection if it isn't cared for and worn properly. Damaged or ill-fitting eyewear should be replaced. Select protective eyewear designed for a specific operation or hazard. Protective eyewear must meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

Here are some steps to follow to help prevent eye injuries either to you or other workers:

- Conduct a thorough analysis of the work to be done and the equipment that will be used. Inspect work areas and equipment and identify operations and areas that present eye hazards.
- Select protective eyewear designed for a specific operation or hazard.
- For best protection against eye injury, wear eye protection whenever it is warranted and require workers to do the same.
- Protective eyewear that doesn't fit properly and comfortably is not likely to be used. To ensure the eyewear is satisfactory, have it fitted by an eye care professional.

- Plan for an emergency. Establish first-aid procedures for eye injuries. Make eyewash stations accessible, particularly where chemicals are used. Train employees in basic first aid and identify those with more advanced first-aid training.
- Educate and review. Conduct ongoing educational programs to establish, maintain and reinforce the need for protective eyewear. Continuously review and when necessary revise your accident prevention strategies.

Eye injuries can be prevented, but it is up to you to take the proper precautions.

For more information, call toll-free at (800) 773-7667, or check the State Fund Web site at www.statefundca.com.

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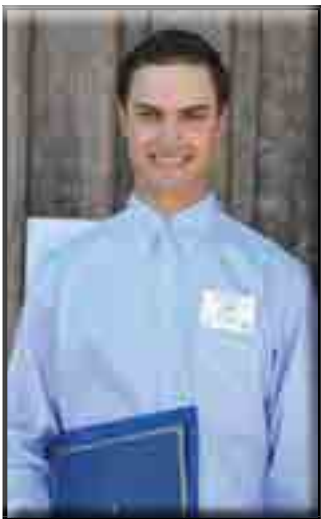
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Membership News

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Winner Announced



J P Thompson

This year's recipient of the **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship, JP Thompson**, was born in 1993. He is currently attending CSU Chico and will be entering his senior year in the fall. He transferred to

Dean's List. He has a 3.664 cumulative grade-point average and was on the CSU Chico Dean's Honor List. In high school he earned the Class Top-Ten Student Athlete Award his freshman and sophomore years. He has donated his time for several years at the Santa Cruz, Monterey, Salinas Valley and San Benito County Fairs. He has also spent time helping in the kitchen at the local Homeless Coalition. He is preparing for a career in livestock production.

We are pleased to announce that the **American AgCredit** has partnered with us again this year to double the size of our scholarship.

Chico State after spending two years at Gavilan Junior College where he was on the

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CALENDAR

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Focus Agriculture, Session 2,
Class XXV

THURSDAY - APRIL 17
Agricultural Policy Advisory
Commission

SUNDAY - APRIL 20
Happy Easter!

THURSDAY - APRIL 24
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 7

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

FRIDAY - MAY 9
Focus Agriculture, Session 3,
Class XXV

MONDAY - MAY 12
Public Relations &
Information Committee mtg.

WEDNESDAY - MAY 14
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 15
Down to Earth Women
Luncheon - For Reservations,
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