# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

APRIL 2016 VOLUME 40, ISSUE 4

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## 2016 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Announced



(L-R) Lance Linares, CEO and Terry Medina, President of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County accept the 2016 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture Award

attended the record crowd National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon held March 16, 2016 at the Santa Cruz County Fair Heritage Hall in Watsonville. The annual event is coordinated by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and the educational organization Agri-Culture. At the luncheon, the 2016 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award was presented to the **Community Foundation** of Santa Cruz County for its strong support of local agriculture. The award was announced by Ceil Cirillo, the 2015 award recipient.

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 but has done much for the industry.

Also presented at the luncheon were the winners of the 2016 National Ag Day Poster and Poetry Contests. **Quinn Porterfield**, from Mission Hill Middle School in Santa Cruz, won the poster contest. **Joel Burchell**, from Creekside School in Santa Cruz, won the Poetry Contest and read his poem at the event.

National Ag Day continued on page 6

## **President's Message**

DAVID VAN LENNEP, PRESIDENT

#### "Surprisingly, the City is now discussing undoing the 2004 resolution to accommodate this development. In short, they have concluded that changing the buffer that impacts uses around the city is worthwhile for this one project..... **Equally concerning** is discarding a functioning policy that serves farmers and their neighbors for this one project..... This type of bandaid policymaking, further erodes trust **building between** the City and farmers, trust that

is long overdue."

#### **Band-Aid Fixes**

n 2004, the Watsonville City Council passed a resolution strengthening buffers around agricultural lands designed to alleviate conflicts between farmers and their neighbors. At issue, the inconveniences and uses associated with working farms and how those impact unsuspecting residents. This was not done on a whim, but deemed important to address real issues facing the City and farmers. It does come at a cost to adjacent developments, which must incorporate the 200' buffer within their property. Conversely, there is a cost in not having a policy that adequately separates the sights, sounds, and smells of farming from certain adjacent uses.

This 2004 resolution increased protections set forth in 1987, which were not functioning, to alleviate conflicts between uses. The City Council initiated the policy to end conflicts in the planning process so builders would not be impacting adjacent farms with their development plans.

Late last year, Watsonville city planners put a project in front of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, an intensive development on Lee Road envisioning hotels, retail and restaurants. Normally we would not be involved, but this project is a bit different. It seems no one informed the purchasers of this property that the development would need to incorporate a buffer into their parcel or that a buffer policy

even existed. They were informed at some point after plans were drawn up efficiently utilizing the entire footprint of the parcel. This buffer dramatically changes how the development can be configured and quite possibly the financial outlook. They were quite understandably very upset.

Revisions were done and changes made to provide some buffer for the adjacent farms, while trying to maintain the original number of hotels and businesses. Ultimately, the development was still not in conformance with the City's policy and Farm Bureau was asked to bless the planned encroachment into the buffer. After much discussion and

President's Message - Continued on Page 5



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## ASK LAURA

Steve Tjosvold, Environmental Horticulture Farm Advisor, UCCE

## Inspection and Sanitation is Key to Prevent Introduction of New Pests and Diseases

ne of the biggest problems for many growers is the inadvertent introduction of new pathogens and insect pests into their production field or nursery. Stopping the introduction of common weeds, insects, and pathogens into the farm or nursery is the first step to keep them from establishing in the first place. It is especially important to be vigilant now with new invasive insect pests lurking in nearby counties or on perimeters of production fields (e.g. light brown apple moth, Asian citrus psyllid, bagrada bug, and brown marmorated stink bug. Invasive nursery diseases might sneak in on roots of nursery stock (e.g. Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora tentaculata).

Make sure you are keeping your farm or nursery in the best possible condition-controlling existing pest and pathogens and providing the best possible bed preparation or growing conditions for your crops. Then you can concentrate on preventing the introduction of pathogens and pests through careful inspection of new plants and good sanitation.

Here's a short list of things that you could do:

Know the source of propagative material you plant, and insure that the propagator is doing everything possible to provide healthy seed or plants to you. Inspect seed, transplants, or liners as it is delivered to your field or nursery. Make sure no diseases or pests are evident. Pull transplants or liners out of their containers and look for healthy root tips. Insects such as aphids, thrips or mealybugs hide in young folded leaves or tightly angled stems. There are field test kits for sev-

eral root pathogens such as *Pythium*, *Phytophthora*, and *Rhizoctonia*. Test kits exist for common viruses such as tomato spotted wilt, impatiens necrotic spot and cucumber mosaic. If a pathogen or insect infestation is detected, controlling the problem before you plant in the field is much easier than after the problem is established in the field. "Controlling the problem" sometimes means destroying the plants before they are planted or introduced into a nursery or field.

- Soil adhering to equipment, tools, tires and shoes may contain pathogens and weed seeds. Wash off all soil from these before moving to a new field location. The soil needs to be removed before ever thinking about using disinfectants such as chlorine bleach or quaternary ammonium compounds.
- Weeds and ornamentals planted just outside production areas can contain pathogens and insects that can move onto crop plants. Weed seeds can blow in from these areas. Light brown apple moth migrates from many perimeter hosts onto crops. Weeds can contain virus, and as weeds dry in the spring, insects move off them and can infest crop plants.



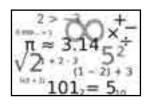
## WATER NANNY

## STEM Failure

Recently I was sitting in my extremely tiny seat on an airline flight when the attendant comes on the speaker to announce that the flight would be two hours and 65 minutes. Apparently someone questioned this and again he said two hour and "six five" minutes. Most would go with three hours and five minutes. A few years ago, using my winnings from a Farm Bureau golf tournament (longest missed putt) worth \$100 applied against a green fee of \$50, the clerk needed a calculator to figure out the difference. When teased that he must have been a Watsonville High grad, he proudly said, no Aptos, not understanding why this was so humorous.

There are a few possible explanations for these failures to deal with numbers.

- We are all victims of a vast historical conspiracy. We use *Arabic Numerals* a system of writing numbers dating back to before 825 A.D. in Bagdad. It was popularized in Europe (aka the Western World) by none other than the Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci.
- This is really a great Islamist plot to subjugate the west.
   Or,
- "Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that." (George Carlin)
- Schools are doing a darn poor job of teaching arithmetic.



Recently there is a big effort to push STEM, Science Technology Engineering and Math in high school and college. This is all very well intended, and may work for students who already learned their

numbers. Regrettably, too many students skipped class that day. Math needs to be learned, not just taught. Jobs, even farm jobs, are all becoming more dependent on technology and strong math skills are a threshold for these jobs. No skills, no good jobs, plain and simple

Local High Schools, particularly Pajaro Valley and Watsonville, are on the bottom rung of math success in the state. There are many reasons, excuses, for this failure:

economical deprived households, high percent of students receiving free lunch, high number of English learners, etc. These have been the same excuses for years. "My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure." (Abraham Lincoln) It appears some of our schools have become content. A federal study concluded that "on average, disadvantaged students had less access to effective teaching", but this is like saying if you don't have the fastest horse you won't win the race. (It also implies we need better teachers.) We have the same



excuses for education for decades and still there is no change to overcome known obstacles.

The White House released a study that there is an 83% chance that automation will take a job with an hourly wage below \$20. There was a call for training and education to help displaced workers find new jobs. But what about the same thing for those yet to enter the job market?

We do have many bright students with good advanced placement programs who are college bound. Recently Digital Nest, who just moved to the old post office inside Cabrillo Watsonville, provides great tech skills to a limited number of students between ages 12 to 24. This is good but only able to serve a few. These kids will be in the top 20% anyway, we need to address the other 80%. "It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings." (Ann Landers)



"Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

St. Francis of Assisi



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Salmon with Strawberry Raspberry Salsa

Searching once again for recipes posted to the web pages of our local growers I came across this yummy sounding recipe on the Well • Pict Berries web page. Well • Pict Berries was founded in 1969 by Tim Miyasaka and a team of experienced growers in the Pajaro Valley and today are producing both organic and conventional strawberries and raspberries that are shipped around the world. The following recipe came from their webpage which contains many, many great recipes. Be sure to give this one a try and check out more at www.wellpict.com/recipes.

Prep Time: 15 minutes Total Time: 25 minutes Serves 4

#### Salsa:

1 cup thinly sliced strawberries

1 cup raspberries

1/2 cup corn kernels

2 green onions, finely chopped

1/2 jalapeno, seeded and finely chopped

2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

2 tablespoons lime juice

2 teaspoons honey

1/4 teaspoon salt

#### **Directions:**

<u>Salsa</u>: Stir together strawberries with raspberries, corn, green onions, jalapeno, cilantro, lime juice, honey and salt. Chill for 30 minutes before serving. Adjust salt to taste. Makes 2 cups.

#### Salmon:

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon chili powder

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

1 tablespoon olive oil

4 salmon fillets, 5 oz. each

Lime wedges

**Salmon**: Preheat the broiler to high. Line a baking sheet with foil. Combine chili powder with cumin, salt and pepper. Arrange fish on baking sheet. Brush with oil and sprinkle with spice mixture. Broil 6 inches from the heat for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily. Top with salsa and serve.

<u>Tips</u>: Serve on a bed of spinach or arugula. This salsa also pairs nicely with pork tenderloin, shrimp and white fish such as halibut.

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

thought, it was decided to support adherence to the current policy. Though Farm Bureau asked the city to implement their own policy, we, as business people, intuitively understood the plight of the owners in this situation. Uninformed of the City policy, money has been spent and leveraged based on a particular expectation of return.

The City planners find themselves in a difficult situation. Farm Bureau is also in a difficult situation. We are being characterized as inflexible and obstructing revenue income to the city. Living here we understand the need for better services and improvements that cost money. The bottom line is, if the property owner had been told up front about the policy we would not be embroiled in this issue, period.

Surprisingly, the City is now discussing undoing the 2004 resolution to accommodate this development. In short, they have concluded that changing the buffer that impacts uses around the city is worthwhile for this one project. Changing the entire policy to smooth over a mistake by the City seems very shortsighted. Equally concerning is discarding a functioning policy that serves farmers and their neighbors for this one project.

This type of band-aid policymaking further erodes trust building between the City and farmers, trust that is long overdue.

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

## National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon Poster & Poetry Contest Winners Announced



(L-R) Farm Bureau President David Van Lennep with Poster Contest Winner Quinn Porterfield

## National Ag Day 2016 Poster Contest Winners

1st Place: **Quinn Porterfield**, 6th Grade Mission Hill Middle School, Santa Cruz

2nd Place: **Coral Pardoe**, 5th Grade Santa Cruz Waldorf School, Santa Cruz

3rd Place: **Gabriel Rodriquez**, 4th Grade Radcliff Elementary School, Watsonville

**Honorable Mention** 

**Anthony Toriz**, 3rd Grade Linscott Charter School, Watsonville

**Gustavo Gutierrez**, 5th Grade Calabasas Elementary School, Watsonville

**Jennifer Montanez**, 3rd Grade Linscott Charter School, Watsonville

**Miette Kealey**, 5th Grade Santa Cruz Waldorf School, Santa Cruz

**Niko Contraras**, 3rd Grade Linscott Charter School, Watsonville

**Raquel Arrizon**, 5th Grade Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville It was announced at the luncheon **Maya Capurro-Frosch** was selected as the 2016 recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship. See Page 11 for more...

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Farm Bureau President **David Van Lennep**. **Lance Linares**, CEO, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, was the featured speaker, speaking on the topic of "Growing Now, Giving Forever – Agriculture: Invested in the Community"

Other notables in attendance included County Supervisor **Zach Friend;** Driscoll's President **Miles Reiter**; California Certified Organic Farmers Executive Director **Cathy Calfo**; **Bill Codiga**; City of Watsonville Mayor **Felipe Hernandez**; and Scotts Valley Councilmember **Stephany Aguilar**.

## National Ag Day 2016 Poetry Contest Winners

1st Place and Overall Winner: **Joel Burchell** 8th Grade, Creekside School, Santa Cruz "A Santa Cruz County Bee"

2nd Place: **Kaitlyn Rivera** 7th Grade, Monte Vista Christian School, Watsonville

> 3rd Place: **Erik Lauta** 7th Grade, Monte Vista Christian School



(L-R) Poetry Contest Winner Joel Burchell and his father Rodney Burchell

### NRCS NEWS

By Rich Casale & Jacob Woodall, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Water Conservation Efforts Still Needed Following "El Nino"

rowers in Santa Cruz County have done an outstanding job of increasing their water conservation efforts over the past few years. They have impressed local water and resource agencies; have achieved or gone beyond the expectations of new standards under the State's new groundwater legislation; and continue to set the trend for even more water savings on agricultural operations in the future. As we grow closer to the end of the 2015-2016 El Nino winter, it is important for growers and other water users to remember that the detrimental impacts of the extreme four-year drought are still with us and will be for several years to come. The Pajaro Valley groundwater aguifer continues to be in decline even after a high rainfall year. The infiltration of rain water through the soil and back into the ground water basin is a very slow process, especially in the Pajaro Valley where much of the valley floor has little to no recharge capacity due to heavy impervious clay layers. As the Pajaro Valley ground water basin continues to lower from use, agricultural wells will likely exhibit higher hard mineral content, higher salt levels and be prone to seawater intrusion if not already affected. Any one of these detrimental water quality factors will have an impact on both crop health and production. Contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service at 475-1967 (Santa Cruz County); 424-1036 (Monterey County) for help and funding programs that address water issues as well as soil and water quality practices for the farm.

#### **Member Benefit News**



Thanks to a new agreement with Grainger, Farm Bureau members can save even more on their purchases.

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- At least 10% off all other products found in Grainger catalogs

The incentive discounts can be accessed through the Farm Bureau Grainger discount code: 855921755. Discounts cannot be applied to past purchases.

#### **Calendar of 2016 Events**





Agri-Culture's Down to Earth Women Luncheon Thursday, May 12, 2016 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$100 per person

> Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau 99th Annual Meeting Thursday, June 23, 2016 5:30 p.m. \$65 per person

23rd Annual Golf Tournament Friday, July 15, 2016

California State Fair July 8, 2016 through July 24, 2016

Santa Cruz County Fair September 14, 2016 through September 18, 2016

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau/Agri-Culture's Farm to Table Dinner

Saturday, September 17, 2016 \$125 per person

8th Annual Testicle Festival
September Date Not Confirmed
\$45 per person

Agri-Culture's 20th Annual Progressive Dinner Saturday, October 29, 2016 \$125 per person

More information is available on our websites: **www.sccfb.com** or **www.agri-culture.us** 

By Margie Piercy, SPHR, Director, Sponsor Business Development

#### **Top 10 Things To Consider When Expanding Your Farm Operation**

armers and ranchers are innovative businesspeople, not afraid to take risks. Many operators are always thinking about ways to increase revenues. Sometimes that means expanding into areas that can include commercial activities, like seed conditioning, hauling other peoples' grain, custom spraying, even agritourism or a farm stand.

Nationwide, the #1 farm insurer in the U.S., has compiled a list of the Top 10 things farm and ranch operators should consider whenever you have a discussion about expanding your business. The bottom line: it's important to do your homework, and be sure to contact your insurance agent.

#### 1. Check federal, state and county laws and ordinances

Check to see what building codes, permits or licenses may be needed prior to starting any new business or adding new construction.

#### 2. Environmental impact

Be a good land steward and consider any impact your expansion could have on the environment. Check with your local Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Transportation (DOT) and county engineers on how you can protect the environment as you grow your operation.

#### 3. Consider your neighbors

Will an expansion of your operation impact your neighbors in any way? If you think the answer to that question may be yes, consider informing them early of your plans.

#### 4. Increased traffic

Inviting the public onto your property brings with it special liability concerns. You will need to post signs to warn visitors of any potential dangers. Are your premises ADA compliant? Will you provide restroom or hand-washing facilities?

#### 5. Product safety

You may need to initiate proper controls and safe handling programs for any product you are processing or selling to prevent property damage or bodily injury to others.

#### 6. More employees

If the expanded operations will require hiring additional employees, you may need to provide training and safety materials. If the additional employees increase your operation to over 50, you will need to comply with OSHA standards. Be sure you've obtained adequate insurance to protect both your employees and your operation.

#### 7. Safety and security

Consider if you need to take additional steps to protect your property or operation from burglary, theft or other crimes.

#### 8. Manage outside risks

Be sure to obtain signed contracts and certificates of insurance for any expansion operations that involve other businesses coming onto your farm or ranch or for businesses you hire to do work for you and your operation.

#### 9. Have a contingency plan

If your operation suffers a set back, have a plan in place with steps to follow that allow you to continue your operations. Having a documented contingency plan can help you get your operation back up and running more quickly.

#### 10. Review your insurance

Depending on the type of operations you're considering, your farm insurance policy may no longer be adequate and a General Liability policy may be needed. Invite your insurance agent out to review your operations and talk through your expansion plans. He or she can help address any new coverage needs or gaps and will be able to guide you. This is a critical step to help ensure you're protecting your assets as you expand your business.

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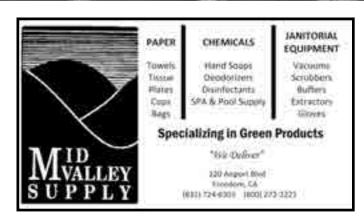
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## Agriculture In The News

#### **Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Winner Named**

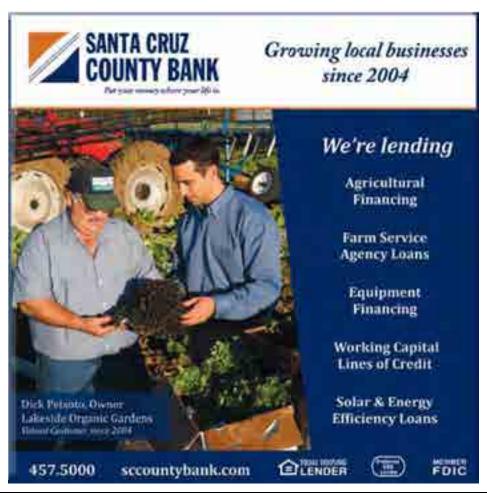
at National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

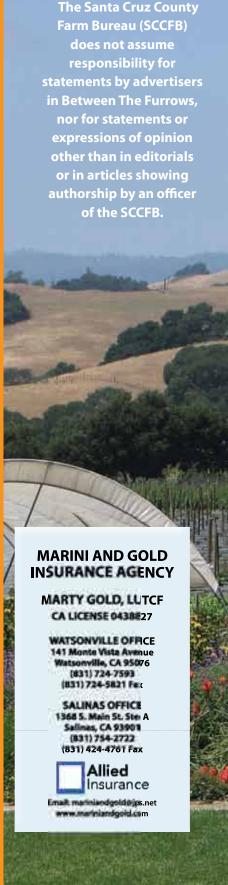
aya Capurro-Frosch has been named the recipient of the 2016 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship. She is currently a Senior at Aptos High School. She is the team captain for both the varsity golf and basketball teams. She has received the "Distinguished Student Award" for the Social Studies Department and received the AP Scholar Award.

Maya has been accepted into four different universities. She has selected Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she will be pursuing a career in Agricultural Business.

Agri-Culture President **Steve Bontadelli** stated, "There were many outstanding applicants this year, we wish we could have given them all a scholarship." Bontadelli further stated, "Maya is an outstanding individual. She is a well-rounded student. She will be a great addition to the agriculture community when she finishes college."







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# Between the Furrows

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## **CALENDAR**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 Young Farmers & Ranchers** meeting

**THURSDAY, APRIL28 Agricultural Policy Advisory** Commission

THURSDAY - APRIL 28 **Board Meeting** 

#### **WEDNESDAY - MAY 4**

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

MONDAY-MAY9 Public Relations & Information **Committee meeting** 

WEDNESDAY - MAY 11 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 12 **Down to Earth Women** Luncheon, Rancho Corralitos, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. **Reservations** -Call (831) 724-1356 or visit the website at www.sccfb.com

