

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

APRIL 2019
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 4

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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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Cabrillo Launches New Sustainable Agriculture Technology Degree



Congressman Jimmy Panetta pictured in inset

Cabrillo College has officially launched a new Associates of Science degree in Sustainable Agriculture Technology. In addition to launching the new degree, Cabrillo's Horticulture Department has refurbished 3,000 sq. ft. of greenhouse space with LED lighting, built a new 2,000 sq. ft. greenhouse with state of the art solar panel technology and has built an indoor vertical farm, with the help of the Construction and Energy Management department. This is all to support the curriculum for the new Sustainable Agriculture Technology degree.

Cabrillo held a grand opening and launch event for the new Horticulture and Agriculture Technology Center and its new Sustainable Agriculture Technology degree on Wednesday, March 20 at Cabrillo's Aptos Campus. The speaking program featured remarks from Congressman Jimmy Panetta. The event also included tours of the Center and new greenhouse spaces.

"We are geographically located between the technology juggernaut of the Silicon Valley and two of the most important food

production regions of the world: the Pajaro and Salinas Valleys," said Peter Shaw, Cabrillo College Horticulture Department Chair. "Thus, we have a unique opportunity to play an important role in the development of the agricultural technology industry and provide holistic education and relevant training for the labor market demands that this emerging industry needs."

Students will finish this degree program prepared for careers as Precision Agriculture Technicians, Greenhouse Managers, Hydroponic Growers, Farmers, Ranch or Operations Managers, First Line Supervisors for Agriculture and Horticulture Industries and Biological Technicians, among others.

This program is designed for those wishing to go directly into employment in the agriculture, horticulture, and ag tech industries. Students wishing to transfer into four-year programs can study in Cabrillo's Horticulture Department with the Agriculture Plant Science Associate of Science degree for Transfer (AS-T).

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President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT



Cabrillo College Ag Technology Program

This January, the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Board of Directors had the pleasure of learning about the expansion of a growing local agricultural education program. Sarah Hulick, Agriculture Technology Specialist, made a presentation at our annual board retreat about the new Cabrillo College Agriculture Technology Degree. Recently, First Vice President Arnett Young, former President Chris Enright and I, along with other agricultural stakeholders, attended the Cabrillo College AgTech Advisory Summit. Dr. Peter Shaw, the Horticulture Department chair, toured our group through the programs farm, greenhouses and labs to see the newest developments within the department.

meets the needs of the industry. Cabrillo College is looking to provide courses that will both help prepare students going into agricultural careers as well as providing the necessary training for agricultural workers who need to further develop skills and competencies. This commitment from our local community college is both a validation of the importance and relevance of agriculture currently in our county and an investment in the next generation of farmers and the agricultural workforce.

The current agricultural program includes an organic farm, multiple greenhouses, hydroponics, aquaponics, irrigation system

President's Message - Continued on Page 9

Cabrillo College has been continuing to grow and develop its agriculture program which is adapting and changing to meet the needs of the community and an evolving industry. The summit provided a forum by which the agricultural industry, represented by crop producers, greenhouse growers, breeders, berry producers, seed producers, the apple industry and educators, could collaborate to ensure that the new educational program

“This commitment from our local community college is both a validation of the importance and relevance of agriculture currently in our county and an investment in the next generation of farmers and the agricultural workforce.”

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ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

Agricultural Labor Research Updates

Q: Do you have any research updates on issues related to agricultural labor?

A: There is a relatively new research report that was written by the USDA's Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS) ¹ in late 2018 that might provide more information of interest to you. Recall from a previous Ask Laura column that the fresh market vegetable and berry crops that dominate agriculture in this area are labor intensive. And that for decades Mexico has been the primary source for agricultural workers. Recall, too, that for a variety of reasons, including tighter border enforcement and a robust agricultural industry in Mexico, that labor shortages and rising wages are now prevalent in U.S. agriculture. The graph below, which is from the USDA-ERS report, shows the rise in farm wages over time in the U.S.

The report anticipates that labor shortages in agriculture will continue to be a long-term challenge, and discusses several reasons why this is the case. Growers of labor-intensive fresh market commodities are responding in one or more ways. Some are increasing use of "agricultural support services employees", which may include using the federal H-2A foreign guest worker program and/or working with farm labor contractors to bring employees to the farm. Another strategy is to look for possible

technological solutions. Thus far most harvest and other labor intensive practices for fresh market commodities have not yet been highly mechanized or automated. But that is changing as more private and public research is undertaken to help find technological solutions to long-term labor challenges. Shifting agricultural production practices to more mechanization or automation is complicated, often taking many years to develop and perfect. Other considerations associated with new technologies include up-front investment costs, as well as the development of new skills for operation and maintenance. There is much more in the report – more than can be summarized here. But I will continue to update you on new research and progress as it becomes available. Please stay tuned.



¹ *Farm Labor Markets in the United States and Mexico Pose Challenges for U.S. Agriculture*, Economic Research Service, USDA, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=90831>.

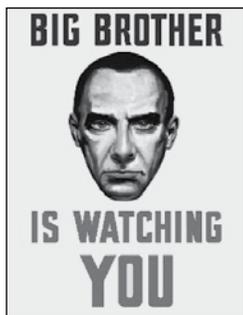
THE WATER NANNY

They're Watching You

Periodically I bring news of the exotic, inspirational and marginally fantastic life and affairs of the Regional Water Board's (RWQCB) agricultural regulations. This started in 2005, so it has now grown to adolescence, always a difficult age. Like any teenager, the hormones are surging, with uncertain results.

Over two very long days the RWQCB met in Salinas and Watsonville to ponder a new regulatory scheme to adopt March 2020. Unlike a 2011 hearing with the Highway Patrol standing guard, this was a civil discourse. However, the impacts of fertilizer targets and mandated limits and surface water impairment would result in a slow anguished death of irrigated agriculture on the Central Coast.

To avoid causing readers to rend their *Between the Furrow* to shreds, let's limit this review to nitrate fertilizer, I will dry my tears before looking at surface water toxicity and riparian vegetation in a future episode.



The old rule of thumb for nitrate (N) fertilizer is whatever the crop requires, add 100 lbs. /acre as insurance for a good crop. Regrettably, many drinking water aquifers are now impaired by N. Regulatory overreaction resulted in a proposal to start mandatory limits starting in 2026 of 300# residual/ac/yr., declining to 50# by 2050. This is calculated by adding fertilizer applied plus N in well water minus N removed in the harvested crop. The formula is the same for organic compost as well as conventional fertilizer.

Not only does this make your farm accountable to a faceless bureaucrat in a windowless cube, the limits only consider the eventual restoration of groundwater aquifers to drinking water standards, not future crop harvests. Based on everything you learned at UC Davis, your crops need fertilizer to thrive. The system, growing crops in dirt with irrigation, is inefficient. Not all the N can be consumed by the plant. Based on real research, we know how much N is consumed by the crop, the N uptake (U), which will be less than the N applied (A). More limited studies have determined how

much N leaves the field in a truck when the crop is harvested, N removed (R).

How does this apply to my crop? Well if you grow strawberries the plant uptake is about 220#/ac. Removed in fruit harvested is 96#, but N applied, if you are a frugal farmer, is about 286#. The A-R is then 190# remaining after harvest at year end (286-96=190). The proposed limit for 2030 is 200#R, so you are in business for another decade, although having fewer strawberry growers may improve the price. Brussel Sprouts are another story altogether. Uptake is 490, removed at harvest is 154, with estimated fertilizer applied of 637# for A-R=483. The proposed cap in 2026 is only 300#, Big Brother apparently doesn't like garlic roasted sprouts. A two crop vegetable rotation is just not possible either, it is hard to make rent payments with only one crop of baby lettuce.



	Average N Uptake	Average N Removed	Uptake - Removed (U-R)	Est. N Applied U+30%	A-R
Baby lettuce	70	46	24	91	45
Broccoli	261.5	85	176.5	340	255
Brussel Sprouts	490	154	336	637	483
Strawberry	220	96	124	286	190
Lettuce + Broccoli	433	150	283	563	413

The real problem here is the uptake of many crops is too much compared to their harvest. This fact apparently is not a consideration in our brave new world. "You are a slow learner, Winston." "How can I help it? How can I help but see what is in front of my eyes? Two and two are four." "Sometimes, Winston. Sometimes they are five. Sometimes they are three. Sometimes they are all of them at once. You must try harder. It is not easy to become sane." (George Orwell, 1984)



FAVORITE RECIPES

Garlic & Artichoke Bread

This recipe comes from a cookbook published by the Soroptomist International of Watsonville in 2003, *A Taste of the Pajaro Valley*. The recipe was submitted by Pat Wiley of Watsonville and as she noted in the book "A little bit Castroville, a little bit Gilroy, a whole lot of taste!" This would be a great addition to Easter dinner.

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
- 1 6 1/2 ounce can marinated artichoke hearts (reserve marinade and chop hearts)
- 1 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoon basil
- 1 1/2 teaspoon oregano



Flour the bread board well. Roll thawed dough into a 12 x 18-inch rectangle. Let rest 5 minutes. Brush 1/4 cup of marinade over dough. Sprinkle with artichokes, 1 cup cheese, garlic and herbs. From the long edge, roll dough into a snug log and pinch the seam to seal. Shape loaf and brush with 1/4 cup reserved marinade. Lightly cover with plastic

wrap and let stand in a warm place for 30 minutes until puffy. Bake, uncovered, in a 375°F oven for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until golden brown, 10 - 15 minutes longer. Transfer to rack to slice. Can be served hot or cold. Store airtight 2 days or freeze for longer storage. Yields 8 servings.



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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Tony Scurich Named Al Smith Friend of Agriculture



Nearly 200 people attended the National Agriculture Spring Luncheon held March 13th 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 2019 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award was presented to Tony Scurich for his strong support of local agriculture. The award was announced by Fred Caiocca, of Santa Cruz County Bank, who was the 2018 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 who has done much for the industry.

Joseph Ramirez Recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship



This year's recipient of the Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship is Joseph Ramirez. He is currently a senior at St. Francis High School, where he has earned a GPA of 4.01. He has received scholastic honors for geometry, physical education, health and the New Testament. He was awarded the 4.0 Luncheon in both his freshman and sophomore year. He has been active in Animas, Retreat Committee and Varsity Council. He has participated in basketball, baseball, football, cross country and golf and helps at his local church, Holy Eucharist.

Joseph will be attending either Fresno State University, Cal Poly SLO, Cal Poly Pomona or Cornell in the Fall, where he will be pursuing a career in plant science. He hopes to graduate from college and ultimately own his own farm.

American AgCredit has partnered with Agri-Culture again this year to double the size of the scholarship, which makes this award a \$4,000 scholarship.

Editor's Note: On the front page of the March issue of *Between the Furrows*, in announcing the classmembers of Focus Agriculture, Class 30, **Adam Weiss, Vice President/Relationship Manager, Santa Cruz County Bank**, was inadvertently overlooked.

CASPIR



What? The friendly ghost? No, not the friendly ghost. I am referring to **C**alifornia's **S**ystem for **P**esticide **I**ncident **R**eporting (CASPIR). This is a new app that was launched by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at the end of January. The app



will provide a new way primarily fieldworkers related incidents from The app has a very user- and individuals can in English or Spanish. As the app continues to be updated it is anticipated that additional languages will become available. One of the unique aspects of this app is that it incorporates several tools that individuals can use to provide detailed information about an incident and its location. The app has GPS functionality providing users the ability to record the exact location of the incident on the app map. Users can also take video and pictures which can be included as part of the incident details along with descriptive information about the

for the public and to submit pesticide their smartphones. friendly interface submit an incident

occurrence. Unlike other existing methods for the public to file pesticide concerns, the app will be able to recognize the specific county where the incident took place and will route that incident for investigation to the appropriate Agricultural Commissioner as soon as the user submits the report. This will allow County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) to initiate an appropriate field response based on the severity of the incident. Individuals submitting an incident report will have the opportunity to remain anonymous and will also be able to track their case and the case resolution. In cases where more details and information are needed from the individual submitting the report, CACs will have the ability to reach out to those individuals based on the contact information submitted. In situations where an anonymous report was submitted, the CAC will have the ability to reach out to these individuals without violating their anonymity. Although the app is available for download and the public can use it, it is going through a testing phase period by CAC staff. It is expected that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will do an official launch announcement later this Spring. The app is now available for Apple and Android platforms.

Participate in Santa Cruz County's AgTech Conversation

The Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup was formed in March, 2015, to facilitate the conversation between produce growers-shippers, and technologists in Santa Cruz County. We meet every other month with an agenda that rotates to reflect the "process" growers-shippers go through.

April - Planting

June - Production

August - Harvesting, Productivity Solutions.

October - Processing & Shipping

December - Planning and Resource Allocation

February - Land Preparation

The meetups are held in Watsonville on the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food & Refreshments are provided and the speakers start at 6pm.

Please attend and promote attendance to these unique AgTech conversations. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.meetup.com/Santa-Cruz-County-Ag-Tech-Meetup/>

You're Invited

12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon



Thursday, May 9, 2019
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker
Ella King
Owner of Cafe Ella & Ella's at the Airport

\$100 per person



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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Poster & Poetry Contest Winners



2019 Poster Contest Winners

1st Place

Luna Caddes, 6th grade, Santa Cruz Montessori

2nd Place

Rosario Lopez-Garcia, 6th grade, Lakeview Middle School

3rd Place

Feliz Gonzalez, 6th grade, Lakeview Middle School

Honorable Mention

Magdalena Moreno, 6th grade, Lakeview Middle School

Angel Alvarez, 6th grade, Lakeview Middle School

Araceli Gonzalez, 6th grade, Lakeview Middle School

Vinson Smith, 5th grade, Santa Cruz Montessori School

Levi Emmert, 3rd grade, St. Abrahams Classical Christian Academy



2019 Poetry Contest Winners

1st Place & Overall Winner

Bridget Smith, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

2nd Place

Kalissa Acayan, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

3rd Place

Annalisa Matangelo, 11th grade, St. Abraham's Classical Christian Academy

Honorable Mention

Richard Liddicoat, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

Juliana Alvarez, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

Kendall Ollenburger, 11th grade, St. Abraham's Classical Christian Academy

Matthew Cervantes, 7th grade, Monte Vista Christian School

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

design and maintenance and fertility management. The new ag tech program will teach students how to integrate computers into farming systems with data capture and analysis, use GIS to map farm processes, incorporate automation with robotics engineering, and examine new production methods such as indoor vertical farming. This program will be both a stepping stone for students seeking a four year college degree and a unique vocational opportunity for job seekers in the local agricultural industry.

Cabrillo's Ag Tech Program kicked off with a grand opening celebration on March 20th. For more information about the program visit their website : <https://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/agtech.html#>

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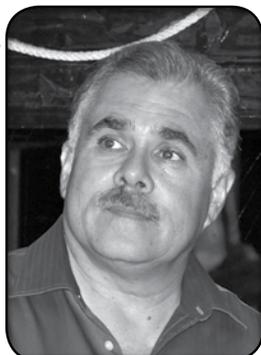
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Peter Navaro, Director, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Berries



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

102nd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined
June 2019 - Date TBA
5:45 p.m.

California State Fair

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA
July 12 through July 28, 2019

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascope Golf Club
12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start, July 12, 2019

Santa Cruz County Fair

September 11 through September 15, 2019

Annual Directors' Dinner

Location to be determined
November 7, 2019
5:45 p.m.

CFBF 101st Annual Meeting

Monterey, CA
December 2019 TBA

Agri-Culture

12th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon

Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos
May 9, 2019
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

11th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp
August 24, 2019
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

23rd Annual Progressive Dinner

To be determined
October 26, 2019
3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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~ C&N Tractor, Julie Oliver

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CALENDAR

FRIDAY - APRIL 5
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

MONDAY - APRIL 8
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 10
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

THURSDAY - APRIL 25
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 3
Focus Agriculture, Session 3

- **WEDNESDAY - MAY 3**
Legislative Committee
meeting
- **Executive Committee**
meeting
- **Membership Committee**
meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 8
Young Farmers & Ranchers
meeting

THURSDAY - MAY 9
12TH ANNUAL DOWN TO EARTH
WOMEN LUNCHEON

MONDAY - MAY 13
Public Relations & Information
Committee mtg.

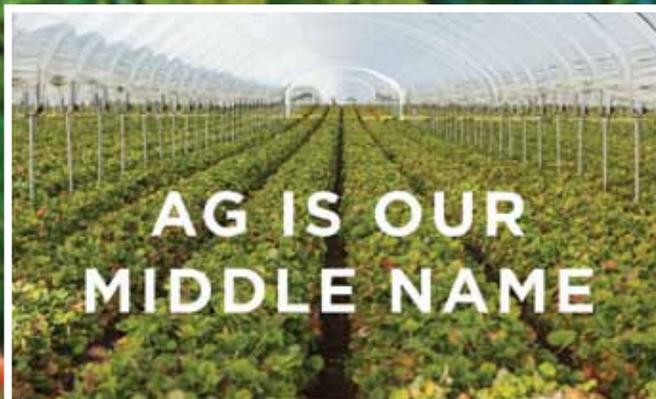
MONDAY - MAY 27
Memorial Day Observed
Office closed

THURSDAY - MAY 30
Board of Directors' meeting

FRIDAY - MAY 31
Focus Agriculture, Session 4

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