

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

APRIL 2021
VOLUME 45, ISSUE 4

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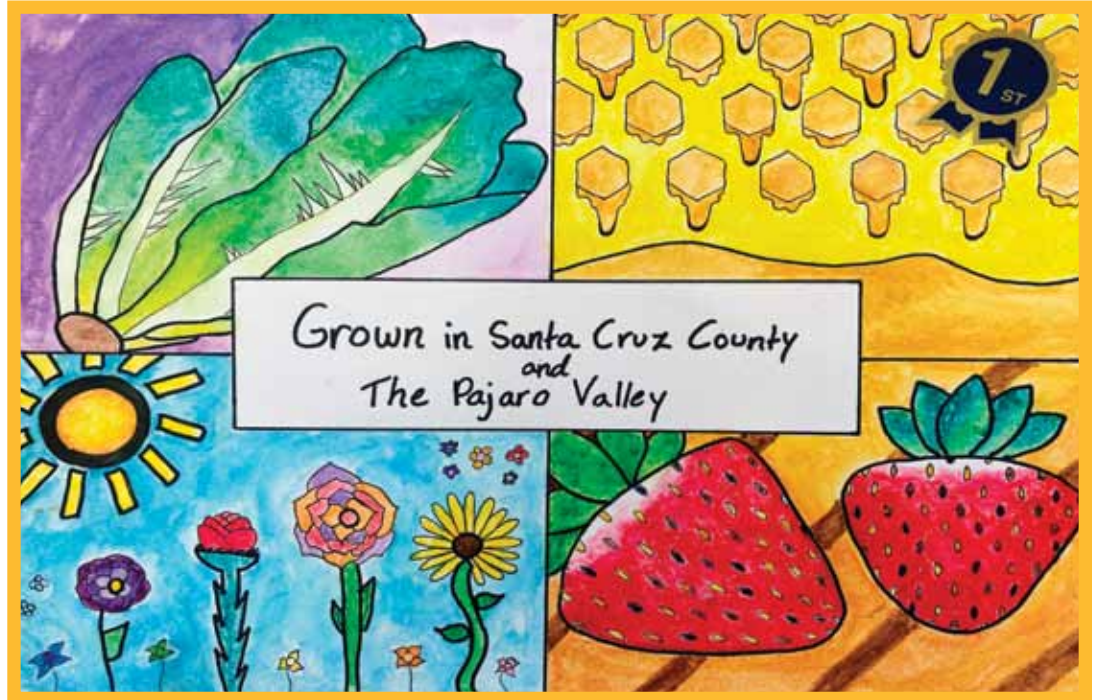
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National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Coming Soon



Winning 2020 Ag Day Poster drawn by Zoe Alma Torres, 6th grade at Tierra Pacifica Charter School in Santa Cruz. It will appear on the 2021 placemat later this year. See Page 9 for your National Ag Day Spring Luncheon invitation and more details! Hope to see you there!

Update: Covid 19 Vaccinations Continue

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, in partnership with Dignity Health-Dominican Hospital and the County of Santa Cruz, continue to hold vaccination clinics throughout the county.

To date, 5,000 farmworkers have been vaccinated for Covid 19. Thank you to all of those who have worked so hard to make this possible. More clinics will be announced in the coming weeks.

Thank you to the many contributors for financially supporting the Farm Bureau's effort to vaccinate farmworkers the past few months!

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Please consider making a donation to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau so we can continue this important work. You may send a check to Farm Bureau, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076, or with a credit card go to the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau website, www.sccfb.com, and click on the general donation button. Be sure to add a note it is for Farm Bureau vaccines.

President's Message



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources

Spring is here! The hills are green, and the air is full of pollen. Like many, we wait expectantly every year with excited anticipation and dread. Through watery eyes we observe the colorful explosion of flowering blossoms in the hills, listen to the birds as they mark their territories and attract mates and listen to our state government discuss and negotiate the next year's budget. Yes, it is that time of year when our state budget for the next fiscal year is developed. So, as a Farm Bureau member, it is once again time to advocate for increasing the University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources (UCANR) budget.

If you are unfamiliar with what UCANR is, you might know it by many other names. UCANR supports

programs such as the Master Gardener, 4-H, Food and Nutrition Education, Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. I am sure you may recognize a few or these programs.

Many of these women and men who support these programs are located at our local UC Extension Offices. There we have local experts who engage with the community by communicating the latest information on nutrition, animal husbandry, forestry management and agricultural practices through classes and demonstrations. They act as unbiased experts as they validate new practices to ensure that they are appropriate for our local conditions. They walk our farms,

Continued on Page 8

"these women and men who support these programs...act as unbiased experts as they validate new practices to ensure that they are appropriate for our local conditions. They walk our farms, in our children's classrooms and support our after school programs."



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ASK MARK

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor,
Strawberries & Caneberries UCCE

Carmine Mites

Q. I've heard about some growers seeing a distinctly red colored mite on their strawberries. Can you fill us in a little more on that?

A. Yes, I can definitely help you with this question.

This year there have been a few calls from growers concerning the appearance of a red mite on the undersides of strawberry leaves. These red mites are always mixed in together with populations of the much more common twospotted spider mite that we all know.

On closer inspection, I have been able to positively identify these red colored mites as carmine mites. They are not only a bright red but also do not sport the spots on either side of the body, as does twospotted spider mite. Carmine mites are not known to cause much injury in strawberry, are not very numerous and also tend to decline as the strawberry season advances. These mites should not be confused with the much more active and orange colored adults of the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis*.

When we talk about control of carmine mite, here is where it gets interesting and growers are benefitting from the settlement of a controversy within the world of acarology (the study of mites) that has been brewing since 1867. Thanks to entomologist Dr. Sarah Zukoff at CalPoly, I was made aware of a paper recently published in the journal *Acarologia* comparing point by point the morphology, biology and genetics of carmine mite and twospotted mites and arriving at the conclusion that the genus and species of carmine mite is actually the same as twospotted spider mite. That is to say, they are both *Tetranychus urticae* and

carmine mite is simply a non-spotted, "red form" of twospotted spider mite.

To carry these research findings forward to the farm, since carmine mites are exactly the same genus and species as twospotted spider mite, the control methods would be identical - the same chemistries and predators would be effective against both of them. This is very good to know should carmine mite, or perhaps better described now, the red form of twospotted spider mite, become a pest of consequence in one's strawberries.

The above has been an article about the carmine mite in strawberries and the meaning for growers of the controversy surrounding its genus and species. For questions and comments on this subject, and any other in Santa Cruz County agriculture, please contact UCCE Farm Advisor Mark Bolda at 831 763 8040 or mpbolda@ucanr.edu

Which two states share borders with eight other states each?

See Answer on page 4



"Agriculture, the Original Green"

THE WATER NANNY

Our Pastoral Lifestyle

Country living used to mean living on a farm, with neighbors who were the first social distancers. Indeed, we have all had neighbors who lived in the country because they just did not get along with anybody. One time a neighbor told me that he would shoot my dog (I did not have one at the time) if it chased his goat, to which I replied that if his goat ate my crops I would eat the goat. On those terms we got along fine, seldom seeing each other.

Over time people moved out of town for the rural lifestyle. No one told them that when a tree fell on the road, you and your neighbors had to cut it up; calling 911 was not an option. Our current pandemic has brought more city folk into the countryside, with conflicting results. While this is not new, we get to listen to these folks explain to us how to farm without dust, smells or employees, all of which they find none to their liking.

Way back in 1978, Santa Cruz County passed Measure J to, in part, prevent the conversion of ag land into suburban sprawl. While it was not supported by the Farm Bureau at the time, it did preserve agriculture as a major force in the county. In order for it to work, the county also passed right to farm ordinances so our new neighbors could not have farming declared a nuisance, turning our farms into preferable bird sanctuaries. So we continued farming. Apple orchards came down, new residents protested, mostly without success. Hoop houses went up, same result.



Farms face the revival of these threats from work from home transplants and the desire to allow more housing everywhere. Recently a commercial farm, that happens to grow bush berries and cannabis, has stirred up the wrath

of the newbies because it seeks to replace a red barn (the real color) with a new more usable structure. Prior to a posted notice from the planning department, nary a word from the neighbors about the pot crop permitted for over four years, and probably longer. Now it's to the point of pitch forks and torches, except these neighbors don't own a pitch fork between them. First there could be criminals lurking in the cypress trees along the road, so the farmer cut them down

only to be chastised because now you could see the security fence. So it goes. We still have a right to farm agricultural crops on commercial ag land and people who see us as only a view shed are not a determining factor, or any factor. At this time even county planning agrees with the farmer and supports the new building.



Periodically the City of Watsonville gets the urge to expand, in the name of more housing, etc. A little over 20 years ago the citizens of Watsonville voted on an urban limit line, Measure U, which placed most prime ag land outside the future development zone for the city. This, along with the legal talents of airport pilots, preserved farms as intended. But as with many things, Measure U is about to expire. In 2013, the city tried to expand the urban services line to annex prime land west of town; Measure T, which was defeated. To prevent this from being a recurring experience, Measure U should be extended, which requires additional political will from the Farm Bureau and others.

"Town dwellers strongly identify with flowers as the scents of summer. Agriculturists, though, understand that not everything comes up or goes down smelling like roses – literally and figuratively." (unknown)



Answer: The answers are Missouri and Tennessee. Missouri borders Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, while Tennessee borders Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas...and Missouri.



FAVORITE RECIPES

Boneless Roasted Leg of Lamb

This recipe comes from Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Markets Edible Paradise (edibleparadise.com) courtesy of Annaliese Keller. A perfect spring dinner, whether it be Easter, Mother's Day or a special birthday.

2 lemons, zested and juiced

5 garlic cloves, minced

1/3 cup finely chopped fresh Italian parsley

1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, minced

2 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for coating the meat

Salt and pepper

1 (4-pound) boneless leg of lamb, netting removed

Butchers twine

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place rack in the middle.

Finely grate the zest from the lemons, using a zester or microplane. Place the lemon zest, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, garlic, parsley and 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a medium bowl and season generously with salt and pepper. Whisk until well combined.

Remove netting and unroll the lamb. Lay meat flat on a cutting board and remove any large pieces of gristle, sinew, or fat.

Salt and pepper the surface of the lamb. Using a basting brush or your hands, spread the lemon-garlic mixture over the lamb. Re-roll the lamb back up and tie it in several places, about 1

to 2 inches apart, with twine. Rub more olive oil over the outside of the lamb roast and season with salt and pepper. Place roast in a shallow baking pan.

Roast in the 400°F oven about 1 hour, or until the internal temperature reads 135°F to 140°F on an instant-read thermometer. Transfer the lamb to a cutting board, tent with foil and let it rest for 10 to 15 minutes.

Remove the twine, carve and serve.

Yield: 6 servings

May be served alongside roasted potatoes, asparagus or sauteed glazed baby carrots.



Interesting Trivia

Seventy-five years ago on February 4, 1946, eighteen of the nineteen qualified voters in the Montecito suburb voted to be annexed into Watsonville. The area included in the proposal is that neighborhood north of Stanford Street up to county land and east of Monte Vista, including Montecito Avenue, and parts of Brewington, Monte Vista, Rogers, E. Prospect and the Watsonville Hospital on Montecito and Brewington. At present, the district is under county jurisdiction only, and without city fire and police protection, or other city services. With the annexation approved, those advantages will be available at a city tax rate of \$1.75 per hundred dollars of property value. The Montecito district is primarily a residential area, with the exception of the hospital, and the election marks the first post-war expansion of the city limits to include those areas separated from the city only by the imaginary line marking the corporate city limits.

This information comes from the Pajaronian's "This Week in Pajaro Valley's Past" compiled by Steve Bankhead.

RANCH FOR SALE

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County teamed up with The Conservation Fund—a national organization dedicated to providing environmental and economic solutions—to purchase the Garrett Ranch and then resell it with a conservation easement that forever protects the agricultural vitality of this ranch.

This is the first property protected under this partnership. This property has produced a wide variety of produce over the decades. **The highly productive fields of the ranch consistently produce 20 tons of berries per acre and approximately 140 acres are certified as organic.** The Garrett Ranch is the 18th property protected by the Land Trust since 2008. The Land Trust now protects more than 1,800 acres of Pajaro Valley farmland. The Land Trust holds an easement on an adjacent 92-acre ranch.

The Conservation Fund currently owns the property subject to a lease with Reiter Berry Farms. **The lease runs through 2028 with current semi-annual payments of approximately \$230,000 increasing annually.**

The Conservation Fund is offering this property for **\$11,000,000 or the current appraised value (whichever is greater) with an option to purchase a conservation easement (valued at approximately \$900,000)** over the property restricting non-agricultural activities from the buyer.



Project Geographic Area Map

- Garrett Ranch (180 Acres)
- Land Trust Protected Lands
- Watsonville Sphere of Influence

GARRETT RANCH ATTRIBUTES

Long history of highly productive berry fields

Lucrative lease with well-established producer

Adjacent to other protected agriculture lands

INTERESTED?

Contact Dan Medeiros,
(831) 429-6116 ext. 307
dan.medeiros@
landtrustsantacruz.org



Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
617 Water Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Crossing Your T's and Dotting Your I's



Spring is here and with it an increase in farming activities including the need to perform safe and effective pest control to protect agricultural commodities in our region. Many agricultural operations are working thru the process of conducting required annual training for agricultural workers ahead of the season. Here in this article, I want to focus on pesticide use safety requirements, particularly when it comes to the use of personal protective equipment and proper maintenance of decontamination facilities for pesticide handlers. These are topics growers and qualified trainers should highlight as part of the annual training for pesticide handlers. An important role of the Agricultural Commissioner is to assess compliance with the State's pesticide use laws and regulations. One of the ways we assess compliance is by conducting unannounced inspections on commercial farms when pesticide use activities are taking place. The inspection covers more than 30 different requirements aimed at assessing the safe and effective use of pesticides on the farm. All requirements in the inspection are required to be covered with pesticide handlers as part of their annual training and continually throughout the growing season. You are likely familiar with the list of training topics that must be covered with pesticide handlers and more information can be found on our website here: <https://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/FormsandHandouts.aspx>

Over the past several weeks my office has noticed a small trend of similar recurring non-compliances during our routine inspections where pesticide handlers were not using or were lacking appropriate protective eyewear and chemical-resistant gloves, and emergency eye-wash was not immediately available. Additionally, we have found in a few instances that the employee handler decontamination facilities were not properly maintained and were missing key items to protect employees in case of an emergency.

California pesticide use laws and regulations require pesticide handlers wear personal protective equipment

(PPE) when mixing and loading pesticides as required by the pesticide label. In addition, regardless of the pesticide label PPE requirements, handlers must always wear, ANSI Z87.1-2010, approved protective eyewear such as safety glasses that provide front, brow, and temple protection, goggles or a face shield. Remember that adjuvants used as part of many pesticide applications are considered pesticides and labels for these products also contain PPE requirements that must be followed. Protective eyewear requirements for adjuvants may be more restrictive, and there are several products that may specifically require the use of goggles or a face shield when mixing/loading and applying the material. When a pesticide label specifically requires the use of protective eyewear, each pesticide handler must have one pint of water immediately available for emergency eye flushing (carried by the handler or on the vehicle the handler is using).

Decontamination facilities must be located at the mixing/loading site and not be more than ¼ mile from other handlers. Decontamination facilities must include soap, at least three gallons of water per each handler, single use towels and one clean change of coveralls. The soap, single use towels and extra change of coveralls must be kept in an enclosed container to prevent contamination.

Remember to properly review the above requirements with your pesticide handlers during their annual training and continually throughout the growing season. California regulations require growers to assure that all PPE is provided to pesticide handlers for use, that growers ensure the proper use of PPE by employees, and that decontamination facilities are in compliance. Conducting spot checks on your employee pesticide handlers is one way to ensure they are properly using PPE and provides an opportunity to take corrective action when needed. These regulatory requirements are found in Title 3, California Code of Regulations starting with Section 6720 and can be accessed on the California Department of Pesticide Regulation website here: <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/subchpte.htm#a0303>

Please do not hesitate in contacting our office should you have any questions.

President's Message

Continued from page 2

in our children's classrooms and support our after school programs. I know I am missing so many more things they do, but it should be clear that without these local experts, progress in agricultural practices would be significantly delayed.

As advocates, we have done poorly for UCANR. This has been evident for the past 20 years, UCANR's budget has been reduced by 57%. Currently, our Tri-County UC Extension offices (San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz) have 5 vacancies unfilled. I think it would be fair to say that the remaining dedicated staff, who still service our communities, are stretched very thin. We need to show support for their efforts.

As a Farm Bureau member, you are supporting these efforts, and for this I thank you. Unfortunately, this has not been enough in the past. I am asking that you spend a little time and go one step further. Please contact your local State Assembly and Senate member and express the importance of UCANR. The more people they hear from, the more they will pay attention to this issue. Hopefully we can make a difference this year.

I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"Sambrailo Packaging has been a long time Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau member and supporter because they keep us well connected with the agricultural community.

Jess Brown, the Board of Directors and the staff do a fantastic job of organizing crucial meetings and events that make a difference here in the County and the State."

Mark Sambrailo, Sambrailo Packaging



Small Office for Rent in Watsonville

Small office for rent in Watsonville. Ideal for sole proprietor. The office is part of a larger shared office building, complete with two bathrooms and a shared conference room and copy room. The private office is approximately 80 sq. ft, with a window and private locking door. The building has its own parking lot with ample parking. An independent insurance agent and his assistant have used the office for over 25 years, but have retired.

\$695 per month, includes NNN. For more information, please call (831) 724-1356.

Become A Farm Bureau Member

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



FARM



BUREAU

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. We are continually involved in local land use and transportation issues as well as opportunities to provide educational support through scholarships and school programs. The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau helps ensure that the agriculture industry here remains viable, and continues to generate financial security for the entire community.

WHY JOIN THE FARM BUREAU?

Whether you represent a community involved in the production of food products, are home to one of the ports that ships California-grown products all over the world, or are one of the 38 million California consumers of the food, fiber or foliage we produce, you have a stake in the future of California farms and ranches.

With more than 400 different commodities produced in California, Farm Bureau is committed to helping consumers understand where their food comes from, the challenges associated with producing a safe, affordable food supply and ensuring consumer confidence in California-grown products.

When you join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, you automatically become eligible for California Farm Bureau member benefits.

Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available.

By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

HOW TO JOIN

To join the Farm Bureau, complete the Agricultural Member Application or the Associate Member Application

Go to www.cfbf.com and click on the "JOIN" button. No need to log in on this page. Go to the bottom of the page and click on NEVER BEEN A MEMBER to set up a new account.

Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau at 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville CA 95076

Email: scfcb@sbglobal.net

Phone: (831) 724-1356

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A Collaborative Managed Aquifer Recharge Project Supports Local Groundwater Supply

Through a local collaborative effort, private landowners, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, the University of California Santa Cruz, and the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County have been piloting an innovative Recharge Net Metering Program to test and demonstrate managed aquifer recharge (MAR) as an effective strategy to support long-term sustainable groundwater supply. These stormwater collection and infiltration systems are carefully designed and managed to provide benefits to both groundwater supply and water quality. The goal for the 5 year-program is to enhance groundwater recharge by 1,000 acre-feet of water per year.

The Program incentivizes private landowners to install MAR projects by providing rebates based on the volume of water infiltrated through the project on their land. The rebates help offset costs incurred by landowners for operation and maintenance of the system. Overall, participating landowners are making a valuable contribution to the Pajaro Valley groundwater supply.

The program celebrated a major milestone during fall of 2019 when a third fully functional MAR project was constructed in partnership with private landowners. Construction of the project was funded through grants from the California State Coastal Conservancy and the State Water Resources Control Board with significant contributions from the landowners. This new MAR project collects peak stormwater flows from about 1,300 acres on the east side of Pajaro Valley, mostly irrigated agriculture and rangeland, for recharge to the groundwater basin.

The project is managed to optimize both the volume and quality of water recharged. Surface flows enter a channel that transports the water to a 1.3-acre sediment detention basin, where sediment and other particles settle out, before entering a 3.2-acre recharge basin, where water infiltrates through the sandy substrate toward the underlying groundwater aquifer. Mixed into this sandy substrate are a number of different soil amendments including woodchips, biochar and alfalfa. These high carbon materials enhance beneficial microbial activity in the sediment lining the base of the recharge basin and help to remove pollutants that may be present in the water,

such as nitrate from fertilizers or pesticides. Researchers at UC Santa Cruz and UC Davis are monitoring the volume of water recharged and changes in the quality of the water as it infiltrates.

The initial results of monitoring during the 2019 rainfall season (with slightly less than average rainfall) indicate that the MAR project resulted in 99 acre-feet of water infiltrated. Under optimal conditions (high rainfall and a well-maintained system) over 300 acre-feet of water could be recharged through the project in one year.

To learn more about this program, contact Erin McCarthy at the RCD of Santa Cruz County at emccarthy@rcdsantacruz.org or 831 464-2950 ext. 10.

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

An Outdoor Event

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

\$50 per person

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Ag Day Poetry Contest**

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Spring Luncheon in Watsonville)**

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Tom Seeley

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— JJ Scurich, Creekside Farms



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A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

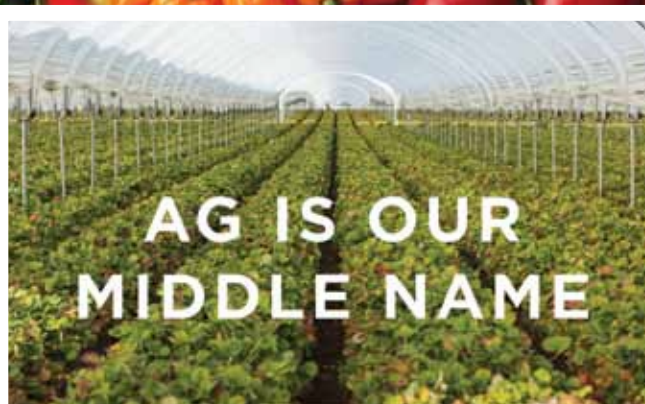
SUNDAY - April 4
Happy Easter

THURSDAY - APRIL 22
Earth Day

THURSDAY - APRIL 29
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - MAY 19
National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY - AUGUST 28
13th Annual Testicle Festival



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