

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

APRIL 2026  
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Between The Furrows is a monthly publication of the SCoCFB. Members receive a subscription as part of their membership investment.

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2026 National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

## Susan True Named 2026 "Friend of Agriculture"



Kiersten Clontz, daughter of 2025 recipient Mark Sambrallo, with the 2026 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture recipient, Susan True, CEO of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. See more coverage on pages 5, 7 & 11.

### President's Message

# NOMINATE! 2026 FARMER OF THE YEAR

Our National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon was a success! Our 2026 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture recipient, Susan True, was very humbled by the honor. Read more about the event throughout this newsletter.

We are now preparing for our **109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting/Dinner**. One of the highlights is the announcement of the **2026 Farmer of the Year**. We are accepting nominations for this Award. The Farmer of the Year award is given annually to a person who is involved in production agriculture and has gone beyond their normal farming duties to support the community-at-large.

**Please send in your nominations** for this award, along with reasons as to why you feel this person is worthy of the award. Nominations can be emailed to [sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net); or mailed to our office (141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076). **Deadline for nominations: April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Continued on Page 2**

# President's Message



John Pisturino, President

## Previous Farmers of the Year

1979	J.J. Crosetti, Jr.	2003	Kirk Schmidt
1980	Robert "Bob" Harris	2004	Thomas Am Rhein
1981	Edward Silva	2005	Growers in SCC and the PV who donate to Ag Against Hunger
1982	Frank Siri	2006	Jim Rider
1983	Bruce Rider	2007	Henry L. Washburn, Posthumous
1984	Ernest J. Bontadelli	2008	Dick Peixoto
1985	Clint Miller	2009	Diane Cooley
1986	Harry H. Fukutome	2010	John Bargetto/Bargetto Family
1987	Nita Gizdich	2011	Stanley E. Iversen
1988	Frank "Lud" McCrary	2012	John Pisturino
1989	Miles Reiter	2013	Ken Kimes
1990	George M. Cowles	2014	John E. Eiskamp
1991	Kee Kitayama	2015	Marguerite Remde/Chris Banthien
1992	Agricultural Employees	2016	Silvia Prevedelli
1993	Patricia "Pat" Wiley	2017	Georgeann Cowles Eiskamp
1994	Frank Estrada	2018	Steve Bontadelli
1995	B. Galper	2019	Edward Ortega
1996	Henry Harney	2020	All Santa Cruz County Growers & Farm Employees
1997	Arne Thirup	2021	SCCFB COVID-19 Task Force
1998	Marvin Glaum	2022	Guy George
1999	Michael Jani	2023	Tom Broz
2000	Farm Bureau Past Presidents	2024	Janet Webb
2001	Elio Rodoni	2025	Larry Jacobs & Sandra Belin
2002	Hulda Hoover McLean		



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*The ever-popular Down To Earth Women Luncheon.  
Don't miss it - May 14, 2026*

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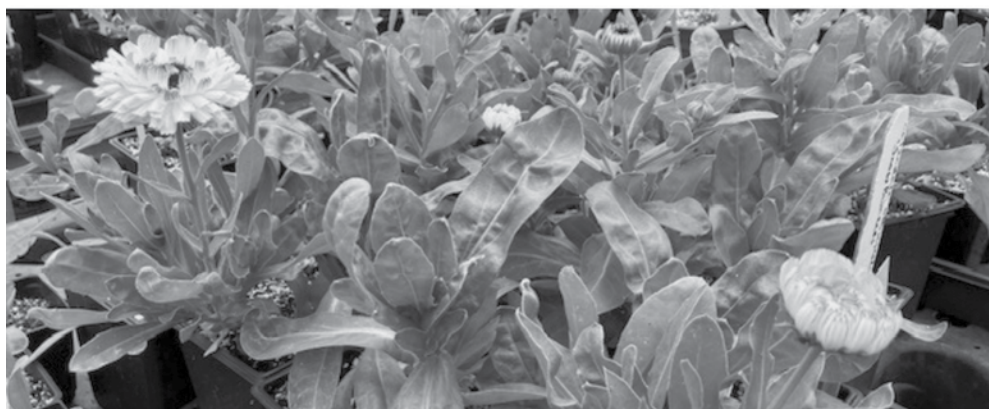
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Program Coordinator

**MARY WALTER**  
Newsletter Editor

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey,  
Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties

# Spring Plant Sale

Water-wise plants ready for the garden  
Online nursery open April 27 - May 3



salvias  
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bulbs  
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[bit.ly/UCMGPlantSale](https://bit.ly/UCMGPlantSale)



**UC Master Gardener**  
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**Your contributions to Agri-Culture are tax deductible!**

*Please visit [agri-culture.us/donations](https://agri-culture.us/donations) and consider making a contribution to support agriculture education in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.*

*Thank You*

# THE WATER NANNY

## We Are Winning

"Our country is winning again. In fact, we're winning so much that we really don't know what to do about it," Trump said. "People are asking me, 'Please, please, please, Mister President, we're winning too much. We can't take it anymore.'" Your Nanny has no clue what our President is talking about, but **Girls Are Winning**, here in Watsonville, and throughout California. Just look at our recent history. indeed, March was Women's Month. "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." (Michelle Obama)

The real reason Girls are Winning is a conscious effort to improve education for girls in elementary and high school. There is nothing wrong with this, and the efforts are laudable. There are girls' STEM programs, better focus on English, or at least girls are better focused on learning English. Title IX prohibited any sex-based discrimination in school, most importantly in sports. This is a long list, so I will get to the point. California school performance tests (CAASPP) show that female students outperform males in English proficiency, and are almost catching up with males in math. State wide 11th grade girls met or exceeded English proficiency scores 61% to only 50 % for boys, a 22% margin. For math, Boys met the educational standard 48%, while girls scored 43%, and this spread is closing.



Women are winning too. At the Academy Awards every woman in the audience was recognized and asked to rise by Autumn Arkapaw, the first female to win best cinematography. 53% of the students, and faculty, at UCSC are women. At Cal Poly SLO the ratio was a mere 50.8% female and 49% male, however for engineering and STEM female enrollment was only 27%. Chico State is 56% women. The California State Bar admitted 56% women in 2023. In California 40% of the total doctors are women, yet female medical school graduates are up to 52%, and nationwide young physicians, under 35 years old, are 60% women. As women outpace men in college graduations, they go on to more higher paying jobs after school as well.

Still winning.

Boys seem to echo President Trump, "We can't take it anymore." There is a higher dropout rate for boys. There is a decline in school achievement and mental health. While life is full of winners, participation awards don't count for anything. For society this is played out poorly. Decades ago, boys were predestined to graduate and get better jobs, while there were fewer job opportunities for girls, except teaching and nursing. But there were also trade school classes in high school so many boys became successful as skilled mechanics, farmers and builders, alas most of those are gone. There were no cell phones to distract. The education process was slower, but less sedentary.



There are many excuses for this failure for boys/men, and maybe the first on the list is a lack of focus on the factors that caused this gap. Some people attribute this to developmental delays by boys, or behavioral and social issues, like ADHD, but these attributes existed in the 1970's too. The key seems to be lack of motivation and engagement, and literacy gaps. There is a hidden possibility, school structure requires more sedentary time in class with fewer recesses and PE, which would allow boys to be more active, and then focused on classroom teaching. This requires a shift in school curriculums during a time of school downsizing, closure and financial dislocation. Maybe we need "New Frontier" programs envisioned by President Kennedy in 1962, for better teacher training, improved literacy, specialized education for gifted children and increased physical fitness, and federal aid. "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." (John F. Kennedy) ■



# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Sunburst Dressing

This raspberry vinaigrette originates from New Orleans, Louisiana at the Palace Cafe on Canal Street. Tabasco and a pinch of cinnamon that brightens any salad with it's flavor. I found this recipe a while back on 12 Tomatoes. I am always looking for a good salad dressing recipe, other than store-bought, and this one is quite tasty. Make it as spicy, or not, as you like, but give it a try. Makes a cup and a half of dressing in a few short minutes.

1/4 cup fresh raspberries

1/4 cup vegetable oil

2 teaspoons sugar

6 dashes Tabasco hot sauce

1/2 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup water

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

1. Use a whisk to smask up the fresh raspberries in a mixing bowl.
2. Whisk in vinegar, vegetable oil, water, sugar, cinnamon and hot sauce. You can blend the vinaigrette in a immersion blender if you would prefer a smooth dressing.
3. Season the vinaigrette to taste with salt and black pepper. Refrigerate overnight for best results. Enjoy!
4. Drizzle over your fresh green salad with a salty feta, or any soft cheese of your choosing.



## National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Continued from Page 1

Over 200 tickets were sold for the National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon held Wednesday, March 18th at Heritage Hall at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. The even is coordinated by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and the educational organization, Agri-Culture.

At the luncheon, the 2026 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture was presented to Susan True, CEO, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County for her strong support of local agriculture throughout the years. The award was announced and presented by Kiersten Clontz, daughter of the 2025 Friend

of Agriculture award, Mark Sambrailo, who was unable to attend. The award is named after Al Smith, who was the founder of Orchard Supply Hardware and donated some 3,000 acres (Swanton Pacific Ranch) on the 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.

See **Scholarship Winners** on page 7 and **Poster & Poetry Contest Winners** on page 11... ■

## Being a Member Pays Off!



**BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER**

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to be a member 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**

Go to [www.cfbf.com](http://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  
[sccfb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccfb@sbcglobal.net)  
 (831) 724-1356  
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## I am a Farm Bureau member because...

"I am a Farm Bureau member because as a leader of an agricultural youth-serving nonprofit (FoodWhat?!) who recently acquired our own land, and are now in the early stages of building out this youth farm, I trust and rely on the collaborative expertise of the Farm Bureau, our members and the 100+ years of support for the ongoing vitality of agriculture in Santa Cruz County and in the Pajaro Valley."



Doron Comerchero,  
Co-Executive Director  
"FoodWhat?!"



### Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

**SCCFB 109th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 25, 2026  
Location TBD

**California State Fair**

Friday, July 17, 2026 to Sunday, August 2, 2026  
Cal Expo, Sacramento

**Santa Cruz County Fair**

Wednesday, September 16 to Sunday, September 20, 2026  
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

**33rd Annual Golf Tournament**

Friday, September 25, 2026  
Pajaro Valley Golf Club

**Annual Directors' Dinner**

Thursday, November 5, 2026  
Location to be determined

**CFBF Annual Meeting**

December 1, 2026 to December 4, 2026  
Reno, NV



### Agri-Culture

**18th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon**

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Driscoll's Rancho Corralitos

**18th Annual Testicle Festival**

Saturday, August 29, 2026  
Estrada Deer Camp

**30th Annual Farm Dinner**

Friday, October 9, 2026  
Land Trust Little Bee Barn

# NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SPRING LUNCHEON

## Agri-Culture's Scholarship Winners Are...



**2026 Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship recipient, Sebastian Perez (R), with one of the founders of the scholarship, Julie Oliver of C & N Tractors (L)**



**2026 Matt Ryan (L) Community Service scholarship recipient Lizbeth Gomez-Abrica (R) with the inspiration for the scholarship, Matt Ryan**



**Nina Duke receiving her 2026 Frank Prevedelli Memorial Scholarship and founders of the scholarship Sam Lathrop (L) and Silvia Prevedelli (R)**



**2026 J.J. Crosetti Memorial Scholarship presented to Francis Kent (C) by two of the founders, Gina Chekouras (L) and Jeanette Crosetti (R)**



**2026 Laura Brown Memorial Scholarship presented to Samuel Garcia and accepted by his mother Diane (R) with founders Meg & Steve Bontadelli (L)**



**2026 Lou & Carol Calcagno Memorial Scholarship presented to Natasha Newcombe by founder Debbie Soares (L) and accepted by her grandmother, Melody (R)**

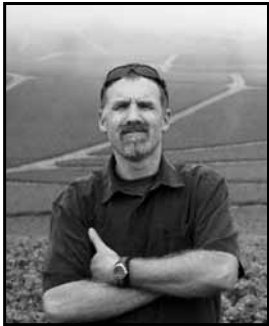
**2026 Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship was presented to Gabriella Garcia (C) by American AgCredit representative Ryan Scarr (L) and founder Derek Witmer (R)**



**2026 Georgeann Cowles Eiskamp Memorial Scholarship was presented to Juliana Lopez-Solis and accepted by her mother Celia (C). Along with her are founders (L-R) John Eiskamp, Caroline Eiskamp, Lisa Eiskamp, and Christine Carrejo**



## Pesticide Safety Training for Fieldworkers



David Sanford

Fieldworkers in Santa Cruz County are a critical part of our agricultural community, and it is both important and legally required to ensure they receive training that mitigates the potential risks from pesticide exposure in the field. Below is a reminder of why this training matters and what compliance looks like under state law.

### Protecting Health and WellBeing

Pesticides have the potential to cause illnesses if an individual is exposed to them in a field setting. Training teaches workers how to recognize symptoms of overexposure and respond promptly to prevent serious outcomes.

### Reducing Incidents and Liability

Proper training reduces pesticide-related illness incidents, and possible associated medical costs. It also demonstrates and creates a record that employers have taken the required proactive steps to train and inform their workers about the risks.

### Empowering Workers with Rights and Knowledge

Training informs workers of their rights, including access to safety data sheets (SDS), decontamination facilities, and protections against discrimination if they report unsafe conditions.

California's Code of Regulations mandates annual pesticide safety training for workers entering pesticide-treated fields. Training must be delivered in a language and manner the worker understands and the content must include:

- Pesticide exposure routes (e.g., residues, drift, chemigation, contaminated clothing).
- Health hazards: acute, delayed, and sensitization effects.
- How pesticides enter the body, signs of overexposure.
- Decontamination procedures: handwashing before

eating, showering, changing clothes after work.

- Protective clothing and separate laundering instructions.
- Understanding Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and employer communication programs.
- First aid and medical/emergency response protocols.
- Heat illness prevention and first aid, per Title 8 CCR § 3395.
- Restricted entry intervals (REI), posting requirements, and exclusion zones.
- No under18 workers in earlyentry roles during (REIs).

Employers must train their fieldworkers annually, and whenever a new pesticide is used. They also must display at the worksite and all permanent decontamination facilities a copy of the completed **Pesticide Safety Information Series** (PSIS) handout **A-9** (*Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working in Fields*); Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and use records for pesticides applied must also be accessible to field workers at a central location at the workplace.

Providing pesticide safety training is not optional – it's a legal obligation and essential for worker health and operational stability. Employers must train fieldworkers at least annually and in understandable language; supply multilingual safety leaflets and SDS; maintain decontamination facilities, ensure heat illness prevention, and strictly enforce REIs and application exclusion zones; and keep records of trainings, postings, and safety materials for compliance audits.

Consistent training and adherence to state regulations not only safeguards workers, it also reduces risks to your workforce and protects your operation's reputation and regulatory standing. By prioritizing pesticide safety training, Santa Cruz County farms can cultivate both safe working environments and continued agricultural success. ■

# 33RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We're back at  
Seascape Golf Club!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

11:30am - Check-In Begins

1:00pm - Shotgun Start

Price Per Player

**\$250**

**Friday, September 25, 2026**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU

**33rd Annual  
Golf Tournament**

at Seascape Golf Club

For further information please contact Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

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Find us on Eventbrite: "33rd Annual Golf Tournament" in Aptos



## Save the Date

Third Annual Pitch In All  
County Clean Up Day

May 9, 2026

sign up at: [pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org)



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THOUGHT**



**"At the end of the day all that really matters  
is that your loved ones are well, you've done  
your best, and you're  
thankful for all you have."**

**Unknown**



# Poster & Poetry Winners



2026 Poetry Contest Winner, **Isaiah Medina**, 12th Grade, Renaissance High School



2026 Poster Contest Winner, **Julieta Vazquez Adan**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame

## 2026 Poster Contest Winners

1st place - **Julieta Vazquez Adan**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville

2nd place - **Violet Gianelli**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville

3rd place - **Melissa Ayala Diaz**, 3rd Grade, Watsonville Charter School of the Arts

### Honorable Mention

**Dane Bonus**, 3rd Grade, Bonny Doon Elementary School; **Noelle Davilla**, 4th Grade, Green Acres Elementary School, Santa Cruz; **Valeria Estrada**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville; **Anika Gelter**, 6th Grade, Scotts Valley Middle School; **Kamila Munoz**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame, Watsonville; **Max Ramos**, 5th Grade, Moreland Notre Dame

## 2026 Poetry Contest Winners

1st Place - **Isaiah Medina**, 12th Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

2nd Place - **Misael Heras Torres**, 12 Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

3rd Place - **Layra Ruiz Martinez**, 12th Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

### Honorable Mention

**Kevin Torres**, 12 Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

**Yoselin Dordona Angeles**, 11th Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

**Michael Rodriguez**, 11th Grade, Renaissance High School, La Selva Beach

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# Between the Furrows

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## CALENDAR

**THURSDAY - APRIL 2**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - APRIL 10**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 2

**THURSDAY - APRIL 30**  
Board of Directors' meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MAY 6**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 3

**THURSDAY - MAY 7**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY - MAY 14**  
Down To Earth Women  
Luncheon

**MONDAY - MAY 25**  
Memorial Day Holiday  
observed - Office Closed

**THURSDAY - JUNE 4**  
Policy & Resource  
Committee meeting

**FRIDAY - JUNE 3**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 4

**THURSDAY - JUNE 25**  
109th Annual Dinner/  
Meeting

**FRIDAY - JUNE 26**  
Focus Agriculture, Session 5

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