

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

AUGUST 2016  
VOLUME 40, ISSUE 8

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Enjoying a great day of golf is the Sambrailo Packaging team of  
(L-R) Chase Vargas, Matt Manfre, David Vasquez and Tony Cadiente

## Golfing to Support Local Agriculture

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau and Agri-Culture held its 23rd Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, July 15, 2016 at Spring Hills Golf Course in Watsonville. The weather was great for the more than 100 sponsors and golfers who supported the tournament.

The tournament kicked off with a shotgun start. The players were treated to a great lunch before the tournament with sumptuous

buffet served at the reception following. There were many nice raffle prizes donated and distributed. The money raised supports educational programs in both legislative and public endeavors.

Thank you to all the sponsors, players, committee members and volunteers for making the golf tournament a success.

Please be sure to see the enclosed flyer for tournament and contest winners.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SCCFB.COM](http://WWW.SCCFB.COM)



# President's Message

DAVID VAN LENNEP, PRESIDENT

**"It is fundamentally unfair to ignore the concerns of local elected officials and the public, while saddling them with long-term financial and infrastructure pressures. Elected officials and the people of the county deserve more respect."**

## We Deserve More Respect

For the last nine months the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau has been working with a coalition of groups, businesses and individuals to highlight some real-world concerns associated with the potential designation of the former Coast Dairies property on the north coast as a National Monument.

In April of last year, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors penned and unanimously approved a resolution with a list of conditions for their support of the National Monument designation. These included: comprehensive planning for the additional traffic; need for adequate parking and safety concerns; assurances that fire, law enforcement and rescue services are not overburdened to name a few. The Santa Cruz City Council agreed and approved a similar resolution. These conditions are reasonable, appropriate and will serve residents and visitors alike. These reasonable conditions for the Supervisor's support have been largely ignored by Legislators in D.C. and rejected by the Monument Campaign.

Concerned citizens have been informed that despite the rejection of the Supervisor's conditions, all of these issues will be addressed in a Management Plan process. Without the specific conditions included in either the legislation or the proclamation language, there are no guarantees; no specific direction for the Bureau of Land Management to address any

of these issues in that process. You cannot rely on a smile and a handshake in these situations. Concrete direction needs to be established and the only way to ensure this is to include the language within the proclamation itself.

The Monument campaign has touted the designation as a boon for tourism, but Santa Cruz is already a destination spot. Our tiny county has about 77,000 acres in conservation status right now; about 30% of the county. The North Coast is woefully underserved in fire, police and sanitary services, so who will step up to bear the burden for the potential 100,000 to 400,000

**President's Message - Continued on Page 5**

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# ASK LAURA

Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor, UCCE

## The Outlook For Water And Labor In Agriculture?

### Q: What is the outlook for water and labor in agriculture?

**A:** In the most recent issue of the Giannini Foundation's Agricultural and Resource Economics Update there are two really interesting articles that discuss water and labor. The first article is titled "Water Pricing for a Dry Future: Pricing Policies from Abroad and Their Relevance to California" (authors: Dinar and Zilberman). It discusses how four countries, Australia, Chile, Israel and Spain, which have a history of water scarcity, have developed their water policies over time. Each country has responded to its own unique situation with such strategies as water-use quotas, water-rights trading, water conservation technologies and water pricing. Considerations for agriculture, urban and environmental uses, as well as efficiencies, equity, technologies and economics are included. The article suggests that California, in its current quest to develop sound water management strategies, could benefit from "lessons learned" from abroad.

The second article is "California Agriculture: Water, Labor and Immigration" (author: Martin). It shows that the recent drought, which resulted in roughly half a million acres being fallowed, about 10,000 fewer agricultural jobs, and more costly water and labor, did not negatively impact the value of the state's total agricultural production. Instead, the value of production increased by 23 percent, growing from \$43.4 billion in 2011 to \$53.5 billion in 2014. Factors to consider for the longer term water outlook for California agriculture, and its potential impact, include climate change, demand for water given various crops grown (for example

tree crops vs row crops), and water markets. With respect to labor, the article indicates that statewide agricultural employment has been increasing to meet the needs of labor-intensive crops such as berries (and vegetables). One trend noted has been for employers to hire more workers using labor contractors rather than hiring directly at the farm. Labor challenges, including worker shortages and changes to the minimum wage, along with a brief history of immigration, are further discussed.

The Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics publishes the Agricultural and Resource Economics Update once every two months. It includes articles from a wide range of topics with an economics perspective. The two articles from the most recent issue of Update, along with many others from previous issues, can be found at:

<http://giannini.ucop.edu/publications/are-update/issues/2016/>



Laughter is a tranquilizer with  
no side effects.  
Arnold H. Glasow

# THE WATER NANNY

## Tinkerbell

Once upon a time, in the far off land of Sacramento, our ever wise legislators enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). It is designed, or at least intended, to implement regulation of groundwater usage in all regions with a groundwater dependency (every farm community).

First off, this is well overdue. Every other western state has regulated groundwater extraction for decades, California not at all. As the drought cut off canal water deliveries to thousands of farms in the Central Valley, many turned to their wells to keep perennial crops alive. Water tables dropped and the ground sank. While the San Joaquin Valley aquifer is truly gigantic, it does have limits. Common estimates for average over pumping are 1,900,000 ac. ft. per year. Prof. Andy Fisher, of UCSC, looking at DWR published data, figures it ranges from 5.1m ac. ft. in wet years to 10.7m in dry. On the coast the Pajaro aquifer is over drafted by about 12,000 ac. ft. and the Salinas by about 35,000 ac. ft.

So a solution is necessary. Here is where things get muddy. The problem is immediate, so the changes need to be made soon. SGMA requires all high and medium impacted groundwater basins to form a Sustainable Management Agency (SMA) by June 30, 2017. The PVWMA already qualifies. If the basin is critically over-drafted, like the Soquel, lower Salinas, Pajaro and almost all of the San Joaquin Valley, a management plan (SMP) needs to be submitted to the State Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2020.

You must truly believe in fairies to see Tinkerbell; likewise, communities must really believe in the wisdom of SGMA to quickly form a SGA within a year or two. Santa Cruz formed a JPA between the Soquel, Central and Santa Cruz water districts, obviously because Santa Cruz is a pixie dust kind of place. Salinas and King City, not so much. The Salinas Valley is undergoing mediation, but without the benefit of a psychiatrist. For the extreme, take a look at Paso Robles, they had a head start and spent years working on forming a SMA, went through LAFCO review, all supported by Ag, only to have it be rejected by 73%.

If local regulation of groundwater was easy, we would have

done it 150 years ago. Local press about the process, while important, many times ends up being a poison knife with voters during a later election. In Paso Robles there was a rumor that a large vineyard owner was going to use the new agency to export water to his pistachio orchards in Fresno. The Monterey Herald reported in June that the new Salinas agency would have a starting budget of \$4 million, with the director making \$500,000 a year, which most taxpayers think is highly extravagant.

This is where the legislature's wisdom failed. If the timelines are not met the State Water Board gets to remedy the situation by placing the basin into Probationary Status, kind of like a time out with monetary fines. So what if your area has been working diligently toward the deadlines, but didn't quite make it? Then the State Board may go in a totally different direction. There is an unusual provision that any law suit stays action by the state. Not unlikely when dealing with water. However, what is really needed is a period where DWR or the State Water Board tries to work with the locals to salvage the local plan prior to probationary limbo.

*"... and every time a child says, 'I don't believe in fairies,' there is a fairy somewhere that falls down dead."* So it is too with local control of Sustainable Groundwater Agencies.





# FAVORITE RECIPES

## Tumbledowns

Note from the Editor: We are out enjoying the beauty of our country and recently spent nearly a month in Minnesota and Wisconsin. I usually look for interesting new recipes with a catchy name that uses local commodities. I know...nothing unusual about these ingredients; but I loved the catchy name and the cookies sound good. It came from Wisconsin's "Best of the Best" Cookbook. We're heading for the Northeast in the next week and hopefully I'll have a tasty recipe for you next month from the eastern shore of the United States.

1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
1/2 cup shortening or butter  
1/2 cup peanut butter  
2 tablespoons milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 egg

1 (6 ounce) package chocolate chips  
1 (6 ounce) package Heath bits  
1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows  
1 3/4 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt



In a large bowl, combine sugar, brown sugar, shortening, peanut butter, milk, vanilla and egg. Blend at medium speed until smooth. Stir in flour, soda and salt. Mix well. Add the chocolate chips, Heath bits and marshmallows and mix.

Using a teaspoon, drop cookie mix two inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375°F for 8-12 minutes until light golden brown. Let cool slightly before removing from pan. Makes 36 cookies.

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

projected visitors? Most likely the taxpayers of the county.

Speaking of money, there has been talk of extra funding to accompany the designation. This amounts to about \$18,000, (\$3/per acre) according to those who have done the math. That level of funding is not even enough to construct a proper bathroom, no less provide extra law enforcement, or traffic control, or monitor environmental conditions as visitation increases.

Coast Dairies, owned by the Bureau of Land Management, is already protected through stringent deed restrictions and

a limiting Coastal Development Permit, issued by the Coastal Commission. Monument status will add little or nothing to protect the land, and in fact may precipitate more user-related impacts than are occurring now.

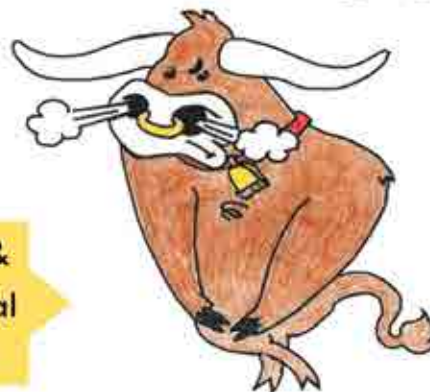
If the Monument idea has merit, then it is worth doing correctly, and the supervisors have some good ideas on how to proceed. It is fundamentally unfair to ignore the concerns of local elected officials and the public, while saddling them with long-term financial and infrastructure pressures. Elected officials and the people of the county deserve more respect.



# 5TH ANNUAL ITS ALL IN THE SAUCE CONTEST

8th Annual  
Testicle Festival  
August 27, 2016  
Estrada Deer Camp  
196 Hazel Dell Rd.

Amateur &  
Commercial  
Divisions



## DIPPING SAUCE FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTERS

- One quart of sauce
- Bring to the event by **2:30 p.m.**
- Entry form provided at the event.
- Please name your sauce— clever wording can be fun

How to  
Enter

### Cooking Rules:

- Just have a ball with it!
- Sauces can be hot, spicy, mild, ethnic, traditional and/or wild!

### Judging:

- Everyone is a judge. Those who attend will be able to vote for their favorite sauce

### Contest Schedule:

**3:30-4:45 PM**

### Awards

**"It's All in the Sauce"**

1st Place Trophies

**Commercial Division  
Amateur Division**

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# NATIONWIDE SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Margie Piercy, Director, Business Development

## Summer Driving Risks (and How to Avoid Them)

**W**hile we hear plenty about the dangers of winter driving, we often ignore the hazards that come with summertime driving. Statistics show summer is actually a riskier time to be on the road. The Insurance Information Institute shows the highest number of fatal car accidents occur in August. While summer offers some of the year's best driving and weather, it's important not to take it for granted.

Jose Alberto Ucles of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) explains that several factors can increase summer dangers. Here's a look at some common dangers of driving in the summer, and how to avoid them:

**Construction:** Along with more drivers on the road, there's often more work being done on the road. Nearly 700 fatalities each year occur in construction or maintenance areas, so stay alert, heed warning signs and slow down in construction zones.

**Blowouts:** Hot weather can wreak havoc on your tires since the hot air expands inside of them. If your tires are well worn, it poses an even more imminent threat. Check your tires for wear on a regular basis and always make sure you check them when temperatures spike.

**More traffic:** Summer is the time for family vacations, which means more congested roads – and everything that goes with them. That can include traffic jams that lead to impatient drivers. Do your part to avoid actions that could irritate other drivers. Keep in mind vacationing drivers are often unfamiliar with the roads and may make sudden stops, lane changes or drive slowly. Be patient!

**Watch out for other people on the road:** Cars aren't the only culprits in increasing congestion on the road; Ucles says warmer weather also attracts more pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists.

"These road-users are more vulnerable because they do not have the protection of a car or truck," he says. "Leave more distance between your car and motorcycles, as they are much lighter and can stop in much shorter distances."

**A tricky time for teens:** According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), 38 percent more deaths of

teenage drivers occur during June-August than during the preceding three months. There are many reasons it's such a dangerous time for teens, according to experts. For starters, teen drivers are less experienced, so they are at a higher risk for car accidents.

Insurance stats show teens are more likely to be involved in accidents than any other age group. They are also the group of drivers most likely to text or use a cell phone while in a moving vehicle.

Investing in a safe driving course for your teen driver is a great way to make sure that they're aware of the hazards and dangers around them. And, since the IIHS reports that most fatal accidents involving young drivers happen between 9 p.m. and midnight, it's also a good idea to limit the amount of driving they do after 9 p.m. – particularly on the weekends.

**Safety to go:** Finally, Ucles reminds us emergency kits aren't just for winter. Summer driving can cause a car to over-heat or, as mentioned earlier, could result in blown-out tires. Rather than risk being at the mercy of strangers on the side of the road, the NHTSA recommends carrying the following items with you at all times:

- Cell phone and car charger
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Flares and white flag
- Jumper cable
- Tire pressure gauge
- Jack
- Work gloves and change of clothes
- Nonperishable food, drinking water and medicines
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Maps
- Emergency blankets and towels

Driving responsibly is an important part of staying safe, but in the event of an accident, the right car insurance is key. Learn more about the benefits of Nationwide car insurance today at [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com).

# "Agriculture, the Original Green"

# SAFETY FIRST!

By Mike Burns, Farm Bureau Group Manager

## Machine Safeguards Are There For A Good Reason

**M**any accidents on farms and ranches can be traced back to machines, and improperly trained or careless operators are often the victims. As a farm employer it is important to emphasize to workers that unless they are trained on a machine and authorized to be working on it, they should stay away from it.

Machine safety requires a combination of things—proper training, safeguards, good judgment and concentration.

Before a piece of agricultural equipment is to be used, employers should examine it carefully to ensure that it is properly oiled, gassed, sharpened, grounded, repaired or replaced. If the machine has parts that frequently break or need to be replaced on a regular basis, then spare parts should be readily available. This is so workers won't be tempted to make do with unsafe equipment or attempt to make an improper repair. By doing advance maintenance, machines are safer to use and more productive.

A recent U.S. Department of Labor analysis of accidents involving injuries to persons performing maintenance or set-up work on machinery revealed that in 80 percent of those incidents the proper lockout/tagout procedure was not followed.

Lockout/tagout means that the energy source for the equipment—electrical, mechanical, hydraulic or other—must be disengaged or blocked. If a worker simply throws a switch or turns off the key, a short in the switch or someone else turning on the machine may start it running again. Failure to disengage the equipment can result in electrocutions, amputations, and other serious—sometimes fatal—accidents.

When a piece of equipment has been locked out, a person should never remove any locks or tags other than his or her own. In addition, a worker should never enter an area where he is not authorized. And most important, a person should never try to start equipment that has been locked out or tagged out unless authorized to do so.

Injury prevention comes down to having the proper procedures in place and requiring that they are carried out. Lockout/tagout injuries can be prevented by doing things

right. Insist that everyone follow proper lockout and tagout procedures, even for a quick or minor repair.

State Fund has a wealth of information on safety topics available for easy access on our website at [www.statefundca.com](http://www.statefundca.com). Click on "Employers" and then "Resources" to find the extensive list of topics.

Today, State Fund is the largest workers' compensation carrier in California. State Fund has regional offices throughout the state, which provide a full range of services to policyholders and injured workers. We provide coverage to employers of all sizes, from "mom and pop" operations to major organizations.

Since 1943, the California Farm Bureau and State Fund partnership has provided farmers with affordable worker compensation insurance coverage and accident prevention training for agricultural employers and their employees. In addition to providing farm and ranch employers with workers' compensation insurance protection, we also have taken on the mission of assisting employers in providing safe places to work.



### Calendar of 2016 Events



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  
Saturday, August 27, 2016  
\$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](http://www.sccfb.com) or [www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)



## Nutrient Management Improves Productivity and Cuts Costs

Every year local growers make a huge expense towards fertilizers and nutrients for crops grown on their farms. Unfortunately, many farmers do not realize that they may be spending more on fertilizers than they need. The Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) offers assistance in preparing nutrient management recommendations that will help farmers save money and prevent waste of fertilizer.

Proper timing and application of nutrients often results in increased productivity and decreased expenses. Nutrient Management is about applying the 4R's: (1) Right amount (rate), (2) Right source, (3) Right placement (method of application), and (4) Right timing. NRCS can assist growers with the information needed to appropriately apply commercial fertilizers, soil amendments, and organic by-products to their

land. By providing crops with the right amount of nutrients, not only will farmers save money, but they will also be protecting surface water supplies and/or ground water quality from excessive nutrient leaching or runoff. Other practices such as: cover crops, irrigation water management, and reduced tillage can also help growers use less fertilizer and/or reduce the possibility of runoff and water quality issues.

Maintaining healthy land does not have to be expensive. For more information about nutrient management and/or other practices to help save soil, water and money, please contact the Capitola office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County at: NRCS: 475-1967 ext. 101 or RCD at: 464-2950.

## Santa Cruz County State Fair Booth Wins Silver Medal



An elaborate exhibit featuring Santa Cruz County received a **Silver Medal** at the California State Fair in Sacramento. The exhibit was among many county displays that were shown at the State Fair, July 8-24,

following the theme of the county fair, "Cows, Plows & Oh Wow!".


This unique program was first introduced at the State Fair in the 1870's and has evolved into one of the most favored attractions because of its unique ways of highlighting California's agriculture, diverse landscape, economy and culture. It is the only competition of this kind in the country to showcase all of the counties within a single state.

The **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee** and the organization **Agri-Culture** coordinated the exhibit along with the professional booth designers at **Mikon Productions**.

For those local residents who didn't make it to the State Fair this year, the Santa Cruz County exhibit will be on display as part of the **Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau** booth at the **Santa Cruz County Fair** in Watsonville from **September 14 - 18**.

***See you at the Fair!***

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# Santa Cruz County Fair Events

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Annual Pie Baking Contest

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**Entry forms are available at the  
Santa Cruz County Fair Office**

### Opening Day Barbecue

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**12:00 Noon at Paddy Smith Park**

**\$16 Adults, \$15 Seniors**

**\$10 Children 5-11**

**Tri-Tip, Beans, Salad, French Bread, Coffee or Lemonade**



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## CALENDAR

# Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

**WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 10**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**THURSDAY - AUGUST 25**  
Agricultural Policy Advisory  
Commission

**SATURDAY - AUGUST 27**  
8th Annual Testicle Festival  
Call (831) 722-6622 or visit  
[www.agri-culture.us](http://www.agri-culture.us)

**WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 31**  
Focus Agriculture, Session #7

**MONDAY- SEPTEMBER 5**  
Labor Day Observed  
Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY-SEPTEMBER 7**

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

**MONDAY- SEPTEMBER 12**  
Public Relations & Information  
Committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 14**  
Young Farmers & Ranchers  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 14**  
Santa Cruz County Fair  
Opening Day BBQ  
Apple Pie Baking Contest

**SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 17**  
Santa Clara County Farm to  
Table Dinner

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