e furrov **Neen** A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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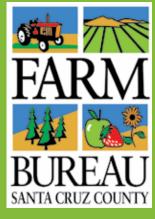
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26th Annual Golf Tournament



Tournament Team Winners 1st Place Gross: McSherry & Hudson Insurance 1st Place Net: Santa Cruz County Bank (pictured above) 2nd Place Net: Coastside Printers 3rd Place Net: Sundance Berry Farms

> Closest to the Pin: Men - Matt Bloom 5' 8" Women: Karen Semingson 29' 2"

Longest Drive: Bobby Wall & Suzanne Mine-Eguchi



BRENDAN MIELE. PRESIDENT

President's Message

Until 1946, Where Was All The Food?

"The first supermarket supposedly appeared on the American landscape in 1946. That is not very long ago. Until then, where was all the food? Dear folks, the food was in homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. It was near kitchens, near tables, near bedsides. It was in the pantry, the cellar, the backyard."

--Joel Salatin, Folks, This Ain't Normal: A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People, and a Better World

We are but a mere two generations away from what was once a much different food system. Sadly, most of our society no longer enjoy the <u>President's Message - Continued on Page 8</u>





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BETWEEN THE FURROWS

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Mark Bolda, County Director, Strawberry & Caneberry Farm Advisor, UCCE

The Lewis Mite

Q Can you tell me a little bit about the Lewis mite? I hear it's becoming a pretty major problem in Central Coast berries.

A Yes, Lewis mite, formerly a pest mite mostly limited to greenhouses, has been a vexing problem this year for berry growers, especially those of strawberries.

To start, Lewis mite looks very much like the twospotted spider mite, and growers are advised from here on out to take a closer look at their mite infestations since decisions of efficacious management as always will depend on correct identification.

Compared to the other pest mite extent in berry fields, twospotted spider mite, Lewis mites tend to be a bit smaller and also have several spots (almost like a mottling of larger spots) on the side of the their body rather than one on each side as is the case with twospotted spider mite (see figure 1 included below). Much like twospotted spider mite, Lewis mite eggs are spherical, but can be orangish in color. Just like twospotted spider mite, Lewis mite females are prolific egg layers, and produce 60-90 eggs over the course of a month, and these eggs generally take two weeks to reach maturity.

Damage on the individual strawberry plant looks quite similar to that of twospotted spider mite, that is to say stippling on the tops of the leaves and a general decline in the plant. Lewis mites tend not to form as much webbing as two spotted spider mite and so it will only really become visible in larger infestations.

Distribution within the field of Lewis mite is quite different than that of twospotted spider mite. Rather than infestations coming in from the sides as, with twospotted spider mite, Lewis mite infestations appear in seemingly random spots in the field and spread out slowly from there. Additionally, plants do not recover very well from heavy Lewis mite infestations, so it is imperative that growers and farm managers correctly identify and address Lewis mite infestations early.

The book of tested control methods for Lewis mite is yet very slim for California berry growers. Going to other commodities where work has been done for Lewis mite control indicates that miticides that are efficacious for twospotted spider mite should be efficacious for Lewis mite, but anecdotally this has not been the case for berry growers this past year.

Lastly, the use of predatory mites does vary. Laboratory work done in UC Cooperative Extension Ventura County has found that the common twospotted mite predator *Phytoseiulus persimilis* prefers not to eat Lewis mite, at the same time that *Neoseiulus californicus* does eat them, perhaps not that efficaciously though.

The above has been a brief description of Lewis mites in strawberry. For more information on this mite and other issues affecting berries on the Central Coast of California, please contact Farm Advisor Mark Bolda at 831-763-8025 or mpbolda@ ucanr.edu.

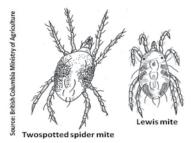


Figure 1: Comparison by size and color of twospotted spider mite and Lewis mite.

Midsummer Dreams

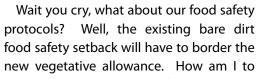
Puck, Mustard seed and Cobweb are a few of the magical fairies that inhabit Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream. The adjective puckish is derived from Shakespeare's theatrical hallucination. We are now confronted by our own summer hallucination, which far from whimsical, or puckish, is more like something out of Dante's sixth level of hell. This is produced, not by the Globe Theater, but our friends at the Regional Water Board. (I must confess that without the RWQCB's various draft regulations your Nanny would be forced into early retirement for lack of material.)

The apparent goal of the Water Board is to return our environment to pre-anthropomorphic times, before European settlers screwed it all up. Times then were idyllic and pure, as long as we disregard floods, drought, plagues etc. Somehow this imaginary time included tree lined English streams, not the parched summers of our Central Coast. The Californian reality, as described by William Brewer of a California State Geologic Survey team in May, 1861,



(Monterey population, 1,600) while riding up the Salinas valley from San Antonio, that with the exception of the Salinas River, they did not cross a single brook, nor see a single spring, save at one or two ranches with small springs. This environment did not, and will not, naturally support "riparian vegetation".

Moving deeper into this dream state, there is a cure for nature's oversight, regulatory mandates. Yes, you too as a farmer can, and shall, participate. If your ranch borders a stream or lake, the proposed Ag Order 4.0 may mandate the installation of prescribed vegetation depending on the ranking of the waterbody you adjoin. Fortunately, if you only border an ag ditch, now known as a Strahler Class 1 stream, nothing is required. Class 2 deserves a 50' grass setback, which you not only get to plant, but maintain since there is no summer rain to keep the turf green. Class 3 and 4 get 80' with grass and shrubs, please pick a variety that rodents like. Class 5 gets 150' of trees, shrubs and grass. And for the lottery winner, Class 6 or higher and anything bordering a wetland, estuary or lake, 250'. The Strahler system, which may make sense for Maryland, is based on the number of tributaries, so the confluence of two ditches results in a class 2 stream, with the Salinas and Pajaro Rivers, 8 or 9. Who knows if there is a downgrade because the creek is ephemeral? The lower Salinas Valley Blanco area may be all class 6+ due to the drainage sloughs, or maybe I'm just having another seasonal hallucination.



conserve on irrigation now if required to keep green the new fescue turf? Another great question. Are "shrubs" invasive? Glad you asked. What about birds flying about all those trees? While Walmart and salad companies may not like bird droppings, just explain to them that's just part of mandated nature, and suck it up.

Eventually Theseus did wake from his summer's dream, after a single night. It will take longer to bring rational thought to the fantasies in the proposed Ag Order. However, you can play a role here (just think local farmers as cast in the play). The RWQCB is holding a full day workshop in Watsonville, at the City Council's chamber, on Thursday, September 19, 2019, to discuss possible conflicts between idyllic riparian forests and safe and reliable food system, think Superman vs. Batman, let the carnage begin. Please set aside time to attend and participate in public comment. "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." (Will Rogers)

1 *Up and Down California in 1860-1864*, William Brewer





FAVORITE RECIPES

Fresh Raspberry Salsa

With the bounty of fresh raspberries in our area this time of year, this is a tasty alternative to tomato salsa. It is wonderful served over chicken, fish, pork or with chips.

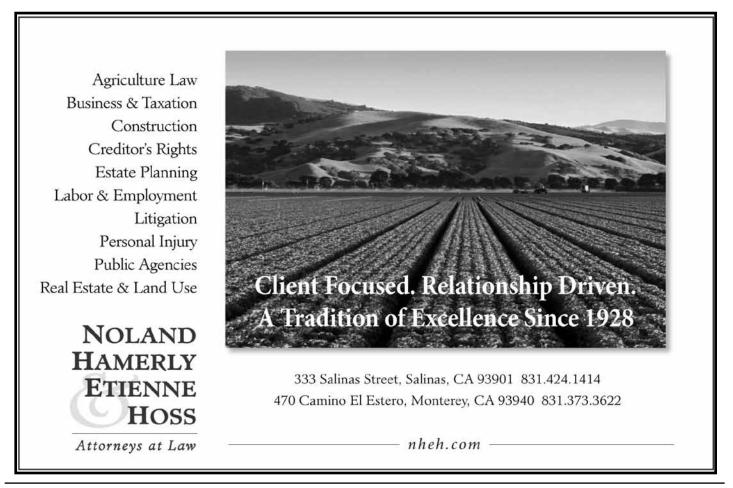
- 5 cups fresh raspberries, washed & dried
- 3/4 cup diced sweet onion
- 1 large jalapeno, seeded and diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 cup cilantro, chopped1 1/2 teaspoon white sugar1/2 cup lime juicepinch of salt



Combine all ingredients in a large, non-reactive bowl. Allow to sit in refrigerator for 1 hour. No need to mash as the acid in the lime juice breaks down the berries. Serve with tortilla chips or over chicken, fish or pork. Eat and enjoy!!





BETWEEN THE FURROWS

The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.*

Understanding Farm Succession Planning

inding time to talk to your family about succession planning for your farm may be difficult. You may also be uncomfortable with the thought of selling your farm or handing over control to family members.

Make the time to develop a solid transition plan for your farming business. You'll help ensure that your family's wishes are met, and emotional stress is minimized.

What you should know up front about transitioning your farm

Unlike estate plans, which concentrate on tax liabilities and the various ways to lessen the tax burden, succession plans focus on the future of the farm. They're an integral part of an estate farm plan.

When you decide to retire, your farm succession plan may include:

- Transferring or selling ownership to a vested family member. To be fair to non-farming heirs, you may leave them with equal settlements of money, stock or other assets.
- Liquidating farm assets, such as auctioning equipment and livestock or selling land.
- Renting or leasing your land and equipment.
- Selling or contracting the property.

Determine the desired end result

Concentrate on the desired final outcomes of the succession. Among the important questions, you should ask yourself:

- What do my spouse and I envision for the future of the farm?
- Do I want to stay involved with the operation on a smaller scale?
- What kind of income might I need for retirement or health care costs?

If you have a family member who could and may want to take over the operation, you should be comfortable that they have the knowledge and skills to run it profitably. Also, think about siblings who might each want a piece of the farm. Are you being pressured to sell by those who don't share your love of the land?

Getting it right the first time

Succession plans sometimes fail because certain risks were not considered during the planning stages, including:

- Inadequate cash flow
- Liquidation of some assets to provide for retirement
- Poor farm estate planning
- Unresolved issues between family members or a successor who's not prepared to lead and manage the farm business

It's important to enlist the help of qualified professionals who don't have a stake in the final decisions. They can help you make sound, unbiased decisions for your farm estate. Qualified professionals may include:

- A financial or estate planner who specializes in farm estate planning
- A moderator or arbitrator to help with family discussions
- Your banker to help with finance resources
- Your accountant who has income records and projections for your business
- Your personal attorney, or one who specializes in tax issues



AG COMMISSIONER

Submitted by Juan Hidalgo & Pamela Cassar Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights & Measures



n late April, the State finalized the \$900.00 annual registration fee for Industrial Hemp growers and breeders. Shortly thereafter, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) authorized industrial hemp registration and application forms for growers and breeders and these were made

available on the agency's website. California's industrial hemp law requires that industrial hemp growers and breeders register with the County Agricultural Commissioner before any cultivation can take place. Our office began accepting and approving registrations in early May. Growers and breeders are required to submit a complete industrial hemp registration application to our office. An inspector on staff will review the information for completeness and will call the applicant for clarification if additional information is needed. Once the application is complete, the inspector will schedule an appointment with the applicant to collect the registration fee and issue a registration card as proof of registration.

While industrial hemp is defined an agricultural commodity, California counties are handling allowances to cultivate hemp differently with some implementing ordinances restricting cultivation and others setting cultivation moratoriums until USDA can finalize the industrial hemp federal regulations. Santa Cruz County does not currently have an industrial hemp cultivation ordinance; however, industrial hemp can only be planted in zoning where commercial agriculture is permitted. Like other commercial agricultural commodities, industrial hemp can be cultivated in the following zoned districts: Commercial Agriculture (CA), Agriculture (A), Residential Agriculture (RA), Special Use (SU) and Timber Production (TP). Industrial hemp cultivation in RA and SU zoning must comply with Santa Cruz Planning Department's interpretation of "small-scale commercial agriculture." This policy interpretation can be found on the Planning Department's website under their "Zoning & Development" tab or may be requested from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Industrial hemp cultivation in TP zoning may require a conversion permit from the Planning Department before any commercial agricultural production can take place. Industrial

Industrial Hemp Program Information

hemp growers and breeders interested in cultivating within TP zoning will need to provide documentation showing compliance with this requirement with their industrial hemp application to the Agricultural Commissioner before they can be registered.

In June, CDFA adopted emergency regulations that establish methods for sampling and testing industrial hemp prior to harvest. Registrants are required to obtain a laboratory test report indicating the THC content is less than or equal to three-tenths of 1 percent prior to harvest. Registrants must contact the county agricultural commissioner 30 days before the intended harvest for further guidance. Crops that exceed the allowable THC will be destroyed at the expense of the registrant. For more information, visit CDFA's Industrial Hemp Program website at: <u>https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ industrialhemp/</u> or call our office at (831) 763-8080.



FOOD FOR THUUGHT

"Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke."

Will Rogers



President's Message - Continued from Page 1

intimate connection of soil and toil that is food production. Seasonally some people return to a more self sustaining

way of life; some out of nostalgia, others necessity. In the midst of summer in Santa Cruz County, many gardeners have thriving vegetable gardens providing a bounty. If you planted more than one zucchini plant in your garden you are likely on the giving end of some of that bounty to family, friends, and neighbors. Tomatoes, strawberries, blackberries and cucumbers can often outpace personal consumption. One option to maintain your own food supply is to save and store what you have grown. Dehydrating, canning, jarring and pickling are all options to keep seasonal locally grown foods feeding the family throughout the year. Local businesses such as Mountain Feed in Ben Lommond offer classes on food preservation and have a great selection of all the supplies needed to get started.

"It's not too late in the season to plant a garden, who knows you may even be able to submit a prize winner to the **Santa Cruz County** Fair; but if you haven't the time or space, the farmers of Santa Cruz County have got you covered with the highest quality and most flavorful produce in the world."

their families year round. For those who lack gardening skills, access to a plantable space or time to garden, we are

blessed with an abundance of options from where to get the fresh fruits and vegetables needed for a healthy diet, that can still be preserved. Seasonal favorites like dry farm early girl tomatoes and berries await you at one of our many local farmers markets and grocery stores, such as New Leaf and Staff of Life, that support local growers. Many local farmers have started creating value-added products by jarring the fruits of their labors. Live Earth Farm, Prevedelli Farms and The Homeless Garden Project all have developed incredible jams, jellies, and preserves.

It's not too late in the season to plant a garden, who knows you may even be able to submit a prize winner to the Santa Cruz County Fair; but if you haven't the time or space, the farmers of Santa Cruz County have got you covered with the highest

Many people are able to capitalize on a green thumb from spring to fall, but unable to produce home grown food for

quality and most flavorful produce in the world.



RCD NEWS & INFORMATION

Submitted by Dr. Gerry Spinelli & Erin McCarthy Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

What Can You Gain From Monitoring Your Irrigation?

Huno the Driging!

You're Invited

11th Annual Testicle Festival

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

"All in the Sauce" Contest Horseshoe Contest

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS



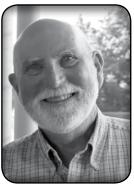
Adults - \$50 Children (5-12) - \$20 Children under 5 - Free

For more information: Call Agri-Culture at (831) 722-6622 email @ agri-culture@sbcglobal.net online at www.agri-culture.us or www.eventbrite.com and search for Testicle Festival, Watsonville



I'm a Farm Bureau Member because...

"Even though California is the leader in agriculture in the United States, we still don't have much say on agricultural issues on the national level. We need an organization like Farm Bureau that will represent our farmers on all levels of local, state and national government."



Jim Rider, Rider Flowers, Watsonville

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

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

11th Annual Testicle Festival Estrada Deer Camp 194 Hazel Dell Road, Watsonville, CA August 24, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Focus Agriculture 30th Anniversary Suncrest Nurseries

400 Casserly Road, Watsonville Saturday, September 7, 2019 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 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

MONDAY - AUGUST 13 Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 14 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

SATURDAY - AUGUST 24 11th Annual Testicle Festival

FRIDAY - AUGUST Focus Agriculture, Session 7 "A Day on the Farm"

THURSDAY - AUGUST 29 Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 4

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

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 7 Focus Agriculture 30th Anniversary

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 9 Public Relations & Information Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 11 Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 11

- Santa Cruz County Fair
- Opening Day BBQ
- Apple Pie Baking Contest

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 27 Focus Agriculture, Session 8

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 28 Board of Directors' meeting

Between the Furrows A Santa Cruz County Farm Pureau Monthly Publication

AG IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

We see things from the ground up, all of the small details that go into the big picture of farming. Because agriculture is what we know, it's all we do.



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