

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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

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President's Message

BRENDAN MIELE, PRESIDENT

STAND UP FOR SCIENCE



"Nor am I less persuaded, that you will agree with me in opinion, that there is nothing, which can better deserve your patronage, than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. In one, in which the measures of government receive their impression so immediately from the sense of the community as in our's, it is proportionably essential." This excerpt from George Washington's first state of the union address to Congress in 1790 shows how, at the earliest period of our nation, science was valued. Our country was founded as an agrarian economy and today's modern agriculture system was built upon sound and solid science.

In 1887, Congress passed the Hatch Act, which provided for agricultural research to be conducted by the state colleges of agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agricultural experiment stations were established in 16 states between 1875 and 1885, and they now exist in all 50 states. These, along with USDA research centers around the country, comprise an extensive network of coordinated research in the agricultural sciences. Contributions of science to agriculture have resulted in the bounty that our industry produces daily. Chemistry, biology, engineering, hydrology, meteorology, horticulture, entomology,

ecology, genetics, forestry, biotechnology, agroecology, geography, and plant pathology are all scientific disciplines applied in agriculture today. Science has made our world what it is today, we rely on it in the farming industry and could not live without it in our daily lives.

Yet, as reliant as our society is upon science, a divide over its validity has filled the sphere of public discourse. Our individual beliefs in science are driven by cultural differences, family, education, socioeconomics, political affiliation and religion. When inconvenient or contrary to desired economic, political and social agendas, scientific findings have been discounted and ignored. Modern science

is driven by the scientific method; where systematic observation, measurement and experiment, and the formulation, testing and modification of hypotheses drive conclusions. Rigid dogma based upon anecdotes lacking

data are the bastion of ignorance that promotes unproven conspiracy theories, drives poor public policy, and results in destructive outcomes. We each need to make our own decisions when presented with information and decide what is real and what to believe. When it comes to science, get your information from scientists, look for multiple sources, and think critically. The science is there, the Earth is not flat, vaccines work, climate change is real, face coverings make a difference, do your part; stand up for science.

"When it comes to science, get your information from scientists, look for multiple sources, and think critically. The science is there, the Earth is not flat, vaccines work, climate change is real, face coverings make a difference, do your part; stand up for science."

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ASK MARK

Michael Cahn, Irrigation and Water Resources Advisor, UCCE
Gerry Spinelli, Agronomist, RCD of Santa Cruz County

Need Irrigation Assistance?

As an effort to step up capacity to assist growers with improving irrigation management in Santa Cruz county, UC Cooperative extension has teamed up with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County. With funding from the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency we have staff to assist grower operations in several ways.

Irrigation questions: If you have a question about irrigation, we are available to provide you with answers. It can be as simple as how to choose the optimal drip tape or sprinkler nozzle for your field or how to calculate how many inches of water your irrigation system applies per hour. Due to COVID-19 however, we are not offering in person office hours, but we are available by phone.

Onsite consultation: For more complex questions, a site visit may be needed. We are available to visit your ranch. We follow COVID-19 protocols such as wearing face masks and observing physical distancing. Often by examining the site, irrigation equipment, and discussing problems we can narrow down the most cost-effective solution. We can often follow up by assisting with the implementation of a new technology or practice.

Irrigation uniformity evaluation: We can evaluate the application uniformity of irrigation systems. This is done to assess if an irrigation system is distributing water evenly in a field or to evaluate a new irrigation technology. If you do not measure it, you do not know if an "improved" type of sprinkler head or drip tape is better than a standard product. Whether you are using drip, sprinklers, or

micro-sprinklers we have equipment for conducting these evaluations.

Irrigation scheduling evaluation:

Matching irrigation with crop water requirements can be challenging. Over applying water wastes money and leads to losses of nutrients such as nitrate-nitrogen. Under applying water can reduce crop yield. If you are curious to know how closely your irrigations match the water needs of your crop, we can conduct an evaluation in your fields. This requires the installation of a flowmeter on an irrigation block and in some cases soil moisture sensors. We use online software to automate the collection of irrigation and soil moisture data and to estimate crop water requirements from evapotranspiration data. The software called, CropManage, is an important component of the evaluation. Besides facilitating data collection and calculations, this online tool allows participating growers to view the irrigation and soil moisture data so that they can see how well they are irrigating.

If you are interested in any of these services, please contact us.

Michael Cahn: mdcahn@ucanr.edu Office
831-759-7377; Cell: 831-214-3690

Gerry Spinelli: gspinelli@rcdsantacruz.org
Office 831-464-2950 ext 14;
Cell: 530-304-3738

THE WATER NANNY

Fantasyland

Come all my children, it is time to gather in the back yard for wondrous stories that exercise your imagination, since we are all confined at home and cannot go outside and actually play. It is not hard to be a good story teller because children are so ready to fill in all of the gaps. I cannot recall the color of the princess's tiara, Karen knows it was bright blue. Steve can see the slime green scales on the dragon. It is much like Giovanni Boccaccio's novel *The Decameron*, about a group isolated on a hilltop (social distancing for sure) outside 14th century Florence during the plague, the stories told had strong moral themes, but were colored with fantasy.

Calm down the tale is about to begin. Once upon a time long ago, in 2011, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) assembled a noble group of citizens to divine a new Basin Management Plan, the objective of which was to bring balance to our aquifer. To keep things lighthearted, it met at the sewage treatment plant, where they were safe from outside influences, their hilltop over Florence.



The tale has oft been told, to balance the aquifer the agency needed to find 12,000 acre feet of water, either from new projects or reduced irrigation. The back story here is that the PVWMA had already successfully built large projects, like the recycling and coastal distribution system to reduce demand on the aquifer, so the home stretch, like the

last part of a pilgrimage up a mountain, is the hardest, and most expensive. The cost of various projects was discussed at length, with Power Points so colorful Pixar animators would be put to shame. New projects would account for 7,000 acre feet, but each one was more expensive per acre foot of water saved or produced than the last.

Farmers are sometimes accused of poor imaginations, but those on this hilltop retreat rose to the occasion when it was their time to spin a delightful story. The remaining 5,000 acre feet would come incrementally from perpetually reduced irrigation, a little more each year over the ten

year BMP. Through statistical wizardry the annualized cost of conservation was divined to be \$1,000,000/yr. or \$200/af.ft. and no capital input by the PVWMA. This compared very favorably with the final great project, College Lake, with construction pegged at \$28,500,000 (more on that in future articles) with an annualized cost of \$1,000/ac.ft. of water. Farmers, and the agency, heard this and began dreaming of dancing sugarplums.



"Fantasy and reality often overlap" (Walt Disney) Regrettably here, reality never arrived. It is hard to measure conservation due to large yearly variations in climate and rainfall. The agency does not even know how many acres each metered well irrigates. While it is true that some growers are very water frugal, applying a mere 1.8 ac.ft of water per acre of strawberries, others use up to 5 ac.ft. The key to encouraging conservation is not to squeeze more out of the already penurious, but to identify profligate irrigators and help them with better techniques to grow successfully with less water. This process requires work, hard work, just like designing the College Lake reservoir or a new coastal distribution system. Instead there is a creative belief that conservation will arrive on its own. Fat chance, conservation over the first five years of the BMP (2015-2020) is about 1%, not the targeted 10% of prior water consumption.

The Beast needed to find true love before the last petal of the rose fell to the floor in order to be restored to a Prince. Time was of the essence. Likewise the PVWMA needs to soon spend the time and money to achieve water conservation or we, the growers paying for their service, will pay many times more for future projects. But as they say: *"The gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge."* (Albert Einstein)

Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S".

See Answer on page 10



FAVORITE RECIPES

Crunchy Noodle Salad

I recently tried this recipe for a family dinner and it ended up being quite popular, even with the kids. I had hoped there would be leftovers for my lunch the following day; however, they cleaned it all up and left not even one strand of spaghetti noodle. The recipe uses several of the wonderful vegetables grown in the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County. I added freshly grated carrots for additional flavor and color. For a more hearty lunch or dinner, I might add some shredded chicken and a little cilantro. The original recipe came from Ina Garten. We found it delicious...Hope you do too.

Kosher salt
1/2 pound thin spaghetti
1 pound sugar snap peas
1 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
1/3 cup soy sauce
3 tablespoons dark sesame oil
1 tablespoon honey
2 garlic cloves, minced

1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
3 tablespoons toasted white sesame seeds, divided
1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
2 red bell peppers, cored and seeded and thinly sliced
4 scallions (white and green parts), sliced diagonally
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves



1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the spaghetti and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, bring another large pot of salted water to a boil, add the sugar snap peas, return to a boil and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, until crisp tender. Lift the sugar snap peas from the water with a slotted spoon and immerse them in a bowl of ice water. Drain.
3. For the dressing, whisk together the vegetable oil, rice wine vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil, honey, garlic, ginger, 2 tablespoons sesame seeds and peanut butter in a medium bowl.
4. Combine the spaghetti, sugar snap peas, peppers and scallions in a large bowl. Pour the dressing over the spaghetti mixture. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of sesame seeds and the parsley and toss together.

Eat and enjoy!!

Laugh like you're 10
Party like you're 20
Travel like you're 30

Think like you're 40
Advise like you're 50
Care like you're 60

Love like you're 70
Live like life will never end while 80
Make each day full of pleasures while 90!

Interesting Trivia

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'



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2020 Events

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

26th Annual Golf Tournament

Seascape Golf Club

11:00 a.m. - Tee Times Start

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

National Agriculture Day Spring Luncheon

Heritage Hall, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

103rd Annual Meeting

Location to be determined

Watch for date - Fall 2020

California State Fair - Canceled

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Santa Cruz County Fair - Canceled

September 16 through September 20, 2020

Annual Directors' Dinner - Canceled

November 5, 2020

CFBF 102nd Annual Meeting

Reno, NV

December 6 - 9, 2020

Agri-Culture

13th Annual Down to Earth Women Luncheon - Cancelled

12th Annual Testicle Festival

Estrada Deer Camp

Take-Out Dinner Event

Saturday, August 15, 2020

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

24th Annual Progressive Dinner

Take-Out Dinner Event

Saturday, October 24, 2020

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Responsible Pesticide Safety Reminders During The Covid-19 Pandemic



Recently, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District announced that the 2020-21 school year will start with Distance Learning for all grade levels. Many other school districts throughout California will be doing the same. As the pandemic continues, regulations found in 3CCR 6690 – 6692 restricting the use of pesticides near schools remain place. These include in summary:

Providing annual notification by property operators farming within ¼ mile of all school sites of pesticides that are expected to be used from July 1 of the current year through June 30 of the following year.

Pesticide applications within ¼ mile of all school sites are prohibited Monday thru Friday during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for all pesticides and application equipment that has a high potential for drift (e.g., aerial applications, airblast sprayers, dusts, fumigants).

Although children may not be present at schools or daycare centers, there are other activities taking place on school sites to support distance learning. For instance, most of our local schools will continue to do meal distributions on a daily basis, teachers will continue to distribute homework assignments to parents and children, and other personnel will continue to be present at school sites to perform a number of critical school-related functions. The requirements that apply in agricultural settings, performing pest control in a careful and effective manner and evaluating the application site and its surroundings, also apply for all pesticide applications near school sites and near homes. This includes thinking ahead about the potential impacts the application may have on neighboring properties. Important factors pesticide handlers must consider when preparing to apply pesticides include:

- Proximity of neighboring properties to the treatment site.
- Timing (day, hour) of a pesticide application to minimize impacts on neighboring properties.

- Evaluation of the weather forecast for the anticipated time of the application and several hours after the application is expected to be completed (e.g., wind direction and speed, unexpected shift in temperatures that may lead to volatilization of the product or weather inversions).
- Evaluation of pesticide(s) to be used and their impact on neighboring properties during and after the pesticide application (e.g., tendency of the material to drift, volatilize or create odors that may lead to persons becoming ill).

Lastly, I encourage all of you to look at this unprecedented crisis as an opportunity to reach out to neighbors in your community. Let your neighbors know who you are, what commodities you grow and take the opportunity to talk with them about our local agricultural practices. Consider communicating with neighbors that may request notification ahead of a pesticide application on the farm. In my experience, I find that people are more at ease when they know that a pesticide application will take place on the neighboring property, giving them the opportunity to make arrangements or decisions at home that help them feel safe. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



Limits on Quarantines



An article published March 18, 2020 in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) (<https://tinyurl.com/yysko9eg>) on the “The Law and the Limits of Quarantine” by Wendy E. Parmet, J.D., and Michael S. Sinha, M.D., J.D., M.P.H identified an interesting early 20th Century Federal Court case on medical quarantines that is relevant and still binding pre-

cedent today

On May 28th, 1900, the San Francisco adopted a resolution ordering San Francisco’s Chinatown (bounded by Broadway, Stockton, California and Kearney) be quarantined due to nine deaths from bubonic plague.

Mr. Jew Ho lived at and operated a grocery store at 926 Stockton. He filed suit in Federal Court to stop enforcement of the quarantine. He said that although the resolution was worded in general terms, the quarantine was enforced against the “Chinese race and nationality only”, and not against persons of other races. He alleged that stores, residences, and other buildings within the quarantined area occupied by non-Chinese were not subjected to any of the restrictions or limitations of the quarantine, but the Chinese were.

Mr. Ho said the City neglected to quarantine or otherwise isolate from the other residents, persons alleged to “have been so exposed to the danger of contagion, and therefore likely to transmit the germs of said bubonic plague to others, but have included in said quarantined district an unreasonably large and populous district, namely, 12 blocks, containing . . . more than 15,000 persons, thereby increasing rather than diminishing the danger of contagion and epidemic”

Mr. Ho won. The Federal Court’s June 15, 1900 decision (103 F. 10) held that the quarantine operated against the Chinese population only, and the reason given was that the Chinese may communicate the disease from one to the other. The Court found that explanation inadequate and in effect, unlawful discrimination.

The Court held that assuming that the City had just grounds for quarantining the district, the City, in executing the ordi-

nance, left out persons of races other than Chinese.

The NEJM article then points out that the federal quarantine power is limited to preventing the spread of communicable diseases into the country from other countries or across state lines. Otherwise, the matter is generally left up to the states, praised by the great jurist Louis Brandeis as “laboratories of democracy.” *New State Ice Co. v. Liebmann* (1932) 285 US 262

The NEJM article Aya there are four basic rules. First, as the *Jew Ho* case held, quarantines cannot be imposed in a racially invidious manner. Second, governments must have a strong basis for the restrictions. Looking to case law regarding civil commitment, many scholars and some lower courts have concluded that isolation and quarantine are constitutional only when the government can show by clear and compelling evidence that they are the least restrictive means of protecting the public’s health. Third, persons who are detained, or whose liberty is otherwise restricted, are entitled to judicial review — traditionally under the writ of habeas corpus. Finally, when governments detain people, they must meet those people’s basic needs, ensuring access to health care, medication, food, and sanitation. Such standards are not only constitutionally compelled: they are critical to ensuring that detained persons comply with orders.

The NEJM article also says that quarantine measures may have limited efficacy with a highly contagious disease such as Covid-19.

When I say, “The other day,” I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

Windfighters Apply Just As Much Water As The Rainbirds (if you choose the right nozzle!)

Nelson Irrigation produces rotary sprinkler heads made of plastic that are claimed to improve distribution uniformity, particularly when it's windy. Field trials conducted in the Salinas Valley (Improving Distribution Uniformity of Sprinklers Under Windy Conditions, M. Cahn et al.) showed that Distribution Uniformity improved when comparing the Nelsen Windfighter (model R200WF) with the popular RainBird 20JH sprinkler heads. The improvement in Distribution Uniformity was observed at low and high wind speeds.

Additionally, Nelsen manufactures pressure regulators and drain check valves in a single unit that can be installed directly below the sprinkler head. This device allows each sprinkler head to operate at the same pressure and improves distribution uniformity. Also, the drain check valve shuts off the sprinkler head until the pressure reaches 5 psi below the operating pressure. This allows the system to pressure up faster at the beginning and at the end of the irrigations and minimizes leaks. For the pressure regulator and check valve all-in-one, the model number is MRDC #10406-050 for the 50 psi regulator.

Some growers in Santa Cruz County have adopted Windfighter sprinkler heads to improve their irrigation efficiency. However, there are concerns that the Windfighters apply less water than the RainBirds and that you have to irrigate longer to apply the same amount of water.

In Figure 1 below, we report the flowrate of RainBird sprinkler head 20JH for various pressures and nozzle sizes. Note that at 50 psi for 1/8" nozzles, each sprinkler head puts out 3.20 gpm. In Figure 2, we report the flowrate of the Windfighters with the red nozzle and red plate (model #9920-016 and #9931). The flowrate of this option at 50 psi is 3.23 gpm, just the same as the Rainbirds, and even a little more. Make sure that you use the red nozzle and the red plate because the green nozzle and green plate will indeed apply less water than the RainBirds!

With 3.20 gpm and heads spaced 30 x 30 ft, the application rate is 0.35 in/hr, so the irrigation system applies about one inch of water in three hours.

For more information, questions, comments, or for irrigation management assistance, contact Gerry at the RCD of Santa Cruz County: (831) 464-2950, info@rcdsantacruz.org.

Straight Bore Nozzle (SBN-1) Performance*								
psi @ Nozzle	NOZZLE SIZE (Stream Height: 6 ft.)							
	7/64"		1/8"		9/64"		5/32"	
	Rad. (ft.)	Flow (gpm)	Rad. (ft.)	Flow (gpm)	Rad. (ft.)	Flow (gpm)	Rad. (ft.)	Flow (gpm)
35	38	2.05	38	2.68	39	3.39	39	4.19
40	38	2.19	39	2.86	40	3.62	39	4.47
45	39	2.32	39	3.03	40	3.84	40	4.73
50	39	2.45	39	3.20	40	4.05	40	5.00
55	39	2.57	40	3.35	40	4.24	40	5.23
60	39	2.68	40	3.50	41	4.43	41	5.47

Figure 1. Performance characteristics of RainBird 20JH (from rainbird.com)


Plate Options	Recommended Nozzles	Model & Radius	PSI									
			25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	
	Tan #15 #9306-117	R2000LP Rad. 34-37"	1.98	2.17	2.35	2.53	2.67	2.82	-	-	-	
	Nozzle/Body Assy. (15/128") #9920-015	R2000WF Rad. 39-41"	-	-	-	2.53	2.67	2.82	2.97	3.11	3.24	
	Red #16 #9306-125	R2000LP Rad. 36-38"	2.28	2.50	2.70	2.89	3.07	3.23	-	-	-	
	Nozzle/Body Assy. (1/8") #9920-016	R2000WF Rad. 39-41"	-	-	-	2.89	3.07	3.23	3.40	3.54	3.68	

Figure 2. Performance characteristics of Nelson R2000 "Windfighters" (from nelsonirrigation.com)

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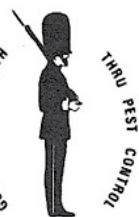
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Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

CALENDAR

THURSDAY - AUGUST 27
Board of Directors' meeting

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 26
Annual Golf Tournament

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 7
Labor Day Observed - Closed

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 16
National Agriculture Day
Spring Luncheon

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 24
Board of Directors' meeting



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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