# Beckeen the Furrows A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

#### AUGUST 2021 VOLUME 45, ISSUE 8

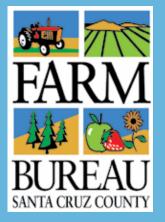
# INSIDE this issue

- 3 Ask Mark Rodents on the Central Coast
- 4 Water Nanny The Force is Strong Here

5 Recipe Luscious Apricot Bars

### **12** Calendar





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

> Mary Walter, Editor ess Brown, Managing Edito

141 Monte Vista Avenue Watsonville, California 95076. (831) 724-1356 sccfb@sbcglobal.net Website: www.sccfb.com



ARNETT YOUNG, PRESIDENT

these celebrations have become an annual milestone. Last year, these milestones were missed for reasons we all understand, and they left a hole. I reflected on this hole and the importance of our yearly agricultural festivals when I was recently reminded of the Watsonville Strawberry Festival happening on August

celebration of agriculture. Over the years

The Watsonville Strawberry Festival is an annual celebration of Pajaro Valley's largest agricultural commodity, the strawberry. Pajaro Valley's unique soils and climate provide the perfect conditions for this simple berry. These conditions allow farmers to produce the finest quality strawberries in the U.S., if not the world. This quality allows our

President's Message

### **Summer Festivals Return**

ave you ever noticed that community festivals are often centered around agriculture? A festival centered around a food item (i.e., Wheat, Apple, Artichoke, Garlic, Grape) is a community

ave you ever farmers to ship their product throughout the noticed that U.S. and internationally.

Strawberries are a huge economic boon for our local community. In the 2019 Crop Report, produced by the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the strawberry crop was valued at \$180,884,000. Much of this earned money is directly pumped back into our local community, for example in cooling, administration, transportation, R&D, advisors and labor, to name a few.

"For every \$1 spent in the community, from strawberry crops, an additional \$1.64 of economic value is created in the local economy.." Returning this earned money to our community creates a multiplier effect which adds economic value to our local economy. As such, strawberries' value is worth considerably more. For every \$1 spent in the community, from strawberry crops, an additional \$1.64

of economic value is created in the local

economy. This means that if \$90,442,000 of 2019 strawberry crop value (half) was spent within the local community, an additional \$148,324,880 of economic value was created locally. Now consider that this value was created with only 2,308 acres. Every acre counts! The Watsonville Strawberry festival is an important way to show our community's

Continued on Page 2



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

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

# President's Message

#### **Continue from Page 1**

support to protect this valuable asset.

On August 8th, please join neighbors and friends to celebrate and show support for our agricultural region, which produces the strawberries of the nation. There will be food, music, art and activities for the whole family. What a great way to connect with and honor our community! See you there!

And, if you enjoy festivals, please remember the **13th Annual Testicle Festival** 

Saturday, August 28th Estrada Deer Camp

See Page 9 for details!

Hope to see you there!

"Patience is bitter but its fruit is sweet"

Jean-Jacques Rousseau



The Sturdy Oil Company wishes to encourage everyone to get out and support the Santa Cruz County Fair, September 15 -19 and the Junior Livestock Auction which will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Let's show them their community cares!!

Thank You

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BETWEEN THE FURROWS

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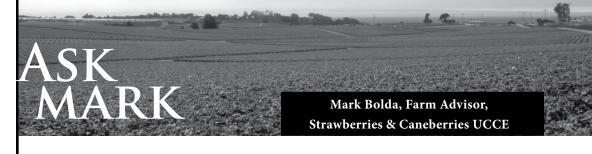
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### **Rodents on the Central Coast**

Rodents on the Central Coast are a constant problem. Is there anything available from Cooperative Extension to help us manage them, in particular for situations where maybe we don't want to use poisons like organic farms?

Yes, for sure this information is available, and the update of "Burrowing Rodents: Developing a Management Plan for Organic Agriculture in California" was just released this past April. You can contact this office at the information given in the last paragraph to get a hard copy, or find it online also, by typing "burrowing rodents uc anr" or other combination of the title into any search engine on the Internet.

This publication, authored by a UCCE Farm Advisor and a UCCE Wildlife Specialist, begins with how to identify the rodents which are pests in our agriculture: California ground squirrels, pocket gophers and voles (also known as meadow mice), and then goes further in understanding their life cycles which among other things is critical to being able to control them. The management section is tailored for organic solutions, and biocontrol is examined at length, with a long section on the use of barn owl boxes. Additionally habitat modification by altering the desirability of an area for the pest rodents, either by removing or adding certain types of plants can be effective as a strategy, and this guide instructs one how to do this.

Cultural practices can be effective as well. For example, flooding an area or deep ripping of a minimal depth to destroy squirrel burrows are strategies to restrain numbers of these animals. Exclusion of course is a strategy, and the guide also reviews extensively different types of traps and their relative efficacies for the different species of the Central Coast. The guide has many pictures, which are quite useful in the case of discussing different types of traps.

The above has been a discussion of the new publication from UC Cooperative Extension "Burrowing Rodents: Developing a Management Plan for Organic Agriculture in California". For more information on this or other areas relating to agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay area, please contact Mark Bolda at UC Cooperative Extension, <u>mpbolda@ucanr.</u> edu or (831) 763-8025.

The second largest salt-water lake in the United States, after the Great Salt Lake in Utah, is named after the French Minister of the Marine, chancellor of France and minister of finance during the reign of France's "Sun King," Louis XIV.

See answer on page 7

# The Force is Strong Here

G background music, rev up the drones, cue the baritone voice dude "Only one Agency..." everything but dancing Ewoks. A little self-aggrandizement works well as we encounter another prolonged drought. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) produced a micro-drama (commercial) extoling the billions of gallons of water recycled for irrigating valley crops. All is true, and does indeed represent a galactic accomplishment for our small valley.

**It's Agricultural:** A long time ago, in a field far, far away, the PVWMA was created to solve a water problem unique to the Lower Pajaro Valley through local action, state legislation and to prevent adjudication of the aquifer. Indeed, the PVWMA has done very well in this regard, particularly when measured against SGMA objectives. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires each significant aquifer in the state to be sustainable and creates a local framework to accomplish this by 2040 (with extensions to 2060). The PVWMA, in large part due to already completed projects (zoom in on large pumps again), is almost 95% of the way there.

In another part of the galaxy: SGMA mandated groundwater reductions in the San Joaquin Valley will result in a loss of 535,000 acres by 2040, possibly more if droughts become the new norm. In contrast, the entire Central Coast only farms about 400,000 acres. PVWMA was able to almost reach this goal, which was unknown when it was created in 1984, without water cutbacks or imported water. Unfortunately, not all ag regions will be able to solve all water issues without acreage or well restrictions.



The thrill of a drone video of farm fields is the antithesis of a **zoom**<sup>®</sup> meeting with canned PowerPoints. In order for PVWMA to remain in compliance with SGMA, it must also plan for preventing additional salt water

Meanwhile, back on Tatooine:

incursion and an unsustainable reduction in the Aromas

aquifer. The scene cuts to a zoom meeting somewhere in Pajaro Valley featuring the Ad Hoc Sustainable Groundwater Committee, a committee assembled to advise the Agency Board on this matter, and to write a draft amendment to the BMP.

To accomplish this they hired the usual suspects; consultants, facilitators, etc. who orchestrate zoom meetings of interested appointed citizens. Highlights included a salt water intrusion map (apparently from



Alderaan, see insert), repeated instructions that the goal is to devise measurements to determine that the aquifer remains sustainable, and that the committee and Agency are not charged with assuring that no wells ever fail, only to address the sustainability of the aquifer. Given local political participation, the last item reappeared more often than X-wing Starfighters.

The Committee will reach its conclusion by the end of summer. The PVWMA Board will most likely adopt its recommendations regarding maintaining the sustainability of the Aromas aquifer, possibly resulting in a sequel to "*It's Agricultural*". But it needs to also make clear that it is not the guarantor of all wells in the valley. Maybe the best way to approach this important matter is for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties to determine the extent of poor well water quality or quantity. Monterey County has developed concepts for the Granite Ridge area of North Monterey County, but most of the impacted residents did not like the proposed solution due to its cost. Some of these impacted well are within the boundaries of the PVWMA as well.

A long time ago our local government fragmented into many small, overlapping and often conflicting agencies and jurisdictions. While it is tempting to complain to which ever one allows the longest public comment period (witness the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors), each agency needs to clearly communicate the limits of their authority to improve public clarity. *"Many of the truths that we cling to depend on our point of view."* (Yoda)



# FAVORITE RECIPES

# **Luscious Apricot Bars**

This recipe comes from Charla Gold, wife of Marty Gold who shared the office with the Farm Bureau for many years. I remember these bars from years ago and I can tell you that they are delicious. Charla tells me that she found this recipe in the newspaper back in the day when they actually printed recipes in the newspaper. Marty loves apricots so it was a natural for her to cut it out and bake them up. It has turned out to be a family favorite and made quite often. Thank you for sharing Charla.

2/3 cup dried apricots	1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup softened butter	2 eggs, well beaten
1/4 cup granulated sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/3 cups flour - divided	1/2 cup chopped nuts
1/2 teaspoon baking powder	confectioner's sugar

1/4 teaspoon salt

Cover apricots with water; boil 10 minutes. Drain, cool and chop apricots.

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Grease an 8" square pan.

Mix butter, sugar and one cup flour until crumbly. Press into pan and bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned.

Combine 1/3 cup flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Beat brown sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Mix together with flour mixture, vanilla, nuts and apricots. Spread over baked layer and bake 40 minutes more.

Cool and cut into bars. Roll in confectioner's sugar. Yummy!!



## Interesting Trivia

ere are 30 (this is 7 - 13. No. 12 would have been a repeat.) awesome facts about California, the sunniest state in the U.S. California locals never call it "Cali" – they either say "NorCal" or "SoCal" in reference to Northern and Southern California.

- California is known for its vast production of fruit and vegetables. It yields the majority of the country's peaches, plums, artichokes, and broccoli, although almonds are the biggest export.
- Out of the 59 national parks in the United States, California contains 9 of them. There are more national parks in California than any other state.
- Death Valley is also the hottest and driest place in the country. Summer temperatures often reach over 115 degrees!
- Many popular inventions have come out of California including skateboards, fortune cookies, Barbies, Apple, blue jeans, and video arcade games.
- There are over 100,000 earthquakes in California every year, however, the overwhelming majority of them are very minor leaving no damage behind.

### Agriculture, the Original Green

# SAVE THE DATE!

# Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

September 15 - 19, 2021

Santa Cruz County Fair Apple Pie Baking Contest - **Sept. 15th** Opening Day Barbeque - **Sept. 15th** 

**Thursday, September 30, 2021** 104th Annual Meeting

# **Agri-Culture**

**August 28, 2021** 13th Annual Testicle Festival Estrada Deer Camp

October 23, 2021 24th Annual Progressive Dinner

# Small Office for Rent in Watsonville

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

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"protecting our farmers' interests sustains the fabric of our communities."

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## Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is a vital part of our community, providing an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to apply for Farm Bureau membership and receive the many benefits and services available. By joining the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau you help support agriculture in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

#### HOW TO JOIN

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

> Questions? Contact the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau 141 Monte Vista Avenue Watsonville CA 95076 sccfb@sbcglobal.net (831) 724-1356

#### BETWEEN THE FURROWS

THE AG COMMISSIONER

David Sanford, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Santa Cruz County

## **Pests of Agricultural and Economic Concern**



n 2017, the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office detected the presence of both European Gypsy Moth (EGM) and Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in the County. The detections were the result of ongoing seasonal monitoring which our office undertakes with assistance from

the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in order to determine if pests of quarantine concern are present in the County. The finds in 2017 precipitated more extensive monitoring with a process called delimitation - the placement of hundreds of additional insect traps which are lured specifically for EGM and AGM within a four-square mile radius of the initial detections. A second AGM was trapped in July 2018 in proximity of the initial find the previous year. This find reset the delimitation timeline for this USDA Federal Quarantine pest through the fall of 2021. USDA requires that there be no additional finds of this pest for three consecutive years before the county can be declared free from it. Fortunately, we have not had any additional detections since 2018 and we hope to conclude this additional trapping work this year. Both subspecies of gypsy moth, if either were to become established, would pose a major threat to the region's forestry and agriculture, and the economic impact would be significant. Gypsy moths can lay up to 1,500 eggs and the caterpillars are voracious feeders capable of eating up to one square foot of leaves per day. The Asian subspecies is particularly concerning because the female can fly up to 25 miles per day increasing its ability to quickly spread.

The scenario described above is an example of the measures that are taken by our office and other County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) offices throughout the state to mitigate the establishment of pests that could do untold damage to our agricultural industry if left undetected. Another recent example of an invasive pest with the potential to cause great harm is the spotted lanternfly (SLF), a highly destructive pest which is native to Asia, and which was first found in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since then, it has spread across the east coast and is now being found in the Midwest. CDFA and CACs are already preparing action plans for when this pest is detected in California and doing everything possible to prevent its introduction.

CAC offices and CDFA do what they can with the resources they are provided to keep these pests at bay, but both the consumer and agricultural industry play essential roles in this effort as well. By understanding the potential economic and environmental impact that the introduction of a destructive pest could have, individuals and businesses can help reduce the risk by ensuring they do not transport or ship produce or materials that could harbor a pest of economic concern. This includes plants and plant products, but also nursery or farm equipment, and even things like outdoor furniture (EGM is established on the east coast and its egg masses have been found on such items as lawn chairs, planters, and wheelbarrows when people move to California; SLF is believed to have arrived in Pennsylvania on shipments of stone from China).

With warming weather, the distribution of agricultural pests is predicted to expand, a problem that is further exacerbated by the inadvertent movement of pest-harboring produce or material. Santa Cruz County's temperate climate would be conducive to the spread of many pests of concern, which is why it is so critical to keep them from becoming established in our region. With the continued monitoring and detection work done by CAC offices and CDFA, coupled with the vigilance of California's agricultural industry and the public, we can prevent the introduction of destructive and invasive pests and protect both our growers and the environment. :



#### Answer:

Lake Pontchartrain is technically an estuary and not a lake. It is the second largest salt lake in the United States. It has 4,838,400 acre ft or 1,576,599,544,396.8 gallons. It borders New Orleans, Louisiana.

# **13TH ANNUAL TESTICLE FESTIVAL**

# Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Testice Festival Fundraiser Barbeque



"Do they really taste like chicken?" Saturday, August 28, 2021 Estrada Deer Camp 196 Hazel Dell Rd., Watsonville 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Hors d'oeuvres: Rocky Mountain Oysters All you can eat! (3:00-4:45pm) Dinner: Chicken, Sides, Salads, Bread & Dessert



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

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Beer & Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, Silent Auction Open......3:00 PM Dinner, Raffle, Live Auction.......4:45 PM



**Cow Pie Bingo** (\$50 per Square) – Experience the "sweet smell of success." A cow will be turned loose in a fenced-in area which has been marked off into 64 squares. The cow determines the winner by making the first "deposit" on one of the squares. Chances on each square are sold for \$50. The winner receives 50% of the sales, Kids and adults will both love this fun event.

We're serving up USDA inspected bull testicles. (aka - Rocky Mountain Oysters, Cowboy Caviar, Prairie Oysters, Swinging Sirloin, Calf Fries, Huevos del Toro and Criadillas). These are truly a delicacy of the American West

### No bull...join us for balls of fun!

RSVP to get your tickets by <u>Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup></u> Checks Payable to: Agri-Culture ATTN: YF&R Send Payment to: 141 Monte Vista Ave., Watsonville, CA 95076 Tickets are also available at the Agri-Culture Office (722-6622); from YF&R members; or online at <u>www.eventbrite.com</u> Questions? Please email YF&R at <u>sccfb@sbcglobal.net</u>.



# ANNUAL ITS ALL IN THE SAUCE CONTEST



# **DIPPING SAUCE FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTERS**

- 1 1/2 quart of sauce
- Bring to the event by <u>2:30 p.m.</u>
- Entry form provided at the event.
- Please name your sauce- clever wording can be fun...and Best Name wins!



#### **Cooking Rules:**

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

#### <u>Judging:</u>

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

# SHOW OFF YOUR AWARD TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY





#### Contest Schedule:

3:30-4:45 PM

#### Awards

"It's All in the Sauce" <u>1st Place Trophy</u>

&

### **Best Name**





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### CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY UGUST 28 13th Annu **Festicle Festival** Estrada De r Camp 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 15 Santa Cruz County Fair **Opening Day BBQ - starts at** noon in Paddy Smith Park

Apple Pie Baking Contest -Check in is 8:00 am

The Fair runs from Wednesday, September 15 to Sunday, September 19. Be there to check out all of the fun activities and be sure to visit the Farm Bureau booth.

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 30** Santa Cruz County Farm **Bureau Annual Meeting** 

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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