

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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Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau 30th Golf Tournament

And the Winners Are...



First Place Net Team: RDO Equipment - Congratulations!

Low Gross: Dobler & Sons

Anthony Dobler
Manuel Diaz
Charles Etheridge
Mike Oliverio

1st Place Net: RDO Equipment

Art Lopez
Bryan Feemster
Hugo Medrano
Brian Hanner

2nd Place Net: Pacific Ag Pak, Inc.

Dave Baum
Mark Hiura
Ron Harris
Charlie Staka

3rd Place Net: Scurich Berry Farms, Inc.

Dane Scurich
Fernando Alvarez
Christopher Toledo
Sean Murphy

Congratulations Winners!

And thank you to all who joined us for a fun tournament!



Dobler & Sons



Pacific Ag Pac



Scurich Berry Farms, Inc.

President's Message



Dennis Webb, President

Never Stop Learning!

It's August, which means kids are already headed back to school across Santa Cruz County. This time of year, I always reflect on my own childhood and how much I loved summer vacation. Now that I have my own kids, I finally realize how incredible it is to go to school and to be able to spend every day devoted just to learning. Of course, you should never stop learning – but how great would it be to once again go to school and be able to focus on learning and nothing else?

Every year in August, I participate in a different kind of class. Focus Agriculture is a program put on by the non-profit organization Agri-Culture to educate local leaders about farming in our county. One day each month for a year, members of the class tour a different agricultural operation. In August of each year, I host one class member for a "day on

the farm" – my farm being the forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. It's a fun opportunity for me because I get to share my work, and I always use it as an opportunity to learn about the person I am hosting, their background and their own work.

Focus Agriculture is similar to another local program called Leadership Santa Cruz, which I participated in as a class member. I have also hosted the class for lunch and forestry tour every June for the last few years. Since I became involved with both programs, I have realized how important it is to make time for learning about your community. And you don't have to be in such a structured setting to make time for that

President's Message - Continued on Page 5



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ASK THE UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

Failed Strawberry Flowers

Q. Do you have any ideas about what is going on with the many failed strawberry flowers of some of our varieties right now? I've seen this problem and have also been hearing about it from others also.

A. While I do not have empirical evidence as to why more strawberry flowers than usual are failing, in the interest of offering information that could be helpful I can share some of my own hypotheses.

There are several reasons for the failed flowers, better known by growers and crop managers as aborted fruit or duds. These aborted flowers are flowers with blackened centers which are the dead floral reproductive parts and subsequently will no longer make as a fruit. Most commonly this is the result of extended period of very high temperatures (roughly above 90°F) or, for certain varieties, the higher ultraviolet radiation (UV) of the longest days of the year at the end of June.

This past year has been different since we have not had very hot days so far and it has been often quite cloudy or foggy all the while that there has been a remarkable amount of fruit loss attributable to aborted flowers. This indicates a different reason

than the excessive heat or UV radiation described above, and from the situations of failed flowers that have been shared with me I am thinking there is a weakening of the plant from a lack of nitrogen nutrition at cause here. In addition to plants which appear less green, tissue samples that I have seen associated with failing flowers have had leaf blade nitrogen percentages under the recommended 2.5, and soil nitrates under the 10 ppm which is often seen as a minimum for good strawberry plant performance. I am certain that these low levels of nitrogen in the soil and the plant clearly have a direct relation to the leaching effects of the heavy rains and flooding of this past winter.

In turn, the call for additional nitrogen to correct these deficiencies would not be a bad one, and could very well minimize the amount of flower abortion as well.

The above article has been a presentation of several hypotheses for why currently many of the flowers of strawberries are aborting on the Central Coast. For questions on this topic or others concerning strawberries, raspberries or blackberries, please contact UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor Mark Bolda at mpbolda@ucanr.edu.

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THE WATER NANNY

Denial

Tipis in the Plaza, mud huts in Ramsay Park, scenic riverside tents overlooking the Pajaro? We seem to have a housing problem, we seem to have a homeless problem, we seem to avoid this problem. *"Denial ain't just a river in Egypt."* (Mark Twain) Santa Cruz County is the "most expensive rental market in the nation." Monterey County, in a rare show of regional commitment, is financing 34 tiny homeless housing units for people displaced by the Pajaro floods, against the usual objections. If built today the tiny abodes would cost about \$115,000 each, if built tomorrow, who knows. Just as the Salvation Army is losing funding, diverted to support the tiny homes, and will close its 24 bed shelter.

Way back in 1930's the Federal government started to provide public housing through the depression era PWA. Armed forces enjoyed steeply subsidized home loans upon returning from WWII. Suburbia boomed and housing projects were built in the cities. In the 70's and 80's support for public housing went off a cliff, and state and federal mental hospitals closed in a show of fiscal restraint. In the western US two creative appellate court cases held it was cruel and unusual punishment to enforce an anti-camping ordinance if there are no shelter beds available (*Martin v Boise*) and



public vagrancy is again confirmed allowing sleeping and camping on public property (*Johnson v Grants Pass*), although an appeal to the Supreme Court is likely.

One way or the other society needs to allow housing for everyone, we can't just have high end ocean view homes while everyone else, including our farm workers, commutes from Los Banos. NMBY and tolerance of homeless stifle any progress toward a solution to our denial. Housing and homeless, like commutes to work, require regional cooperation & zoning, and actual implementation. A solution needs to address zoning and land use availability, financing (which is beyond the government scope), and an insurmountable plague of delays with perpetual reviews.

Any project, whether multi family, low income or homeless housing, is besieged by a plague of delays in CEQA, lawsuits, Coastal Commission, planning reviews and multiple appeals.

Even well thought out projects for housing at UCSC has been delayed for many years through repeated appeals, even though it is funded and ready to be built. Reducing CEQA challenges to one per project, and a tight timeline for the Coastal Commission will at least allow for financing, and construction. Calling all these hurdles part of the construction process is a denial of any construction. *"How many legs does a dog have if you call his tail a leg? Four. Saying that a tail is a leg doesn't make it a leg."* (Abraham Lincoln)



However, the key is any city or county willingness to consider the many multi-family projects needed to solve the housing shortage. It is difficult to overcome hardened denial unless our civic "leaders" have courage to do anything beyond mere discussion of new projects. This will take a broader approach to housing. Based on past performance it is difficult to imagine this type of leadership. Denial is easy for established residents, while traffic increases, rents rise and homeless armies abound, but this soon will become an over-arching quality of life concern. Then again denial is our standard operating procedure, our shelter from change. *"Delay is the deadliest form of denial."* (C. Northcote Parkinson)



Interesting California Trivia

Oil Built Los Angeles

A half-century after the discovery of gold and silver caused the population of California to boom, huge oil fields were discovered underneath the small town of Los Angeles in the 1890s. By 1930, a forest of oil derricks dotted the Los Angeles area, and the state was pumping one-quarter of the world's petroleum output. According to the Los Angeles Daily News, there are still more than 3,000 active oil and gas wells in Los Angeles County, many of them operating in the middle of residential neighborhoods and retail developments. ■



FAVORITE RECIPES

Dave's Meat Loaf

In 2003, Soroptimist International of Watsonville, published a cookbook titled "A Taste of the Pajaro Valley". The following recipe was submitted by Dave Brumfield and he calls this recipe "Dinner for the Gods".

- Small baby carrots and small red potatoes or large potatoes, scrubbed, unpeeled and cut into pieces (enough for six)
- 2 pounds very lean ground beef
- 2 handfuls of low fat saltine crackers, crushed into small pieces
- 2 whole eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 medium-size red onion, diced
- 2 bell peppers, diced
- 1/4 cup of your favorite barbecue sauce
- 1 small can tomato sauce
- Salt, pepper and garlic powder to your liking

Wash hands thoroughly and except for tomato sauce, potatoes and carrots, mix all ingredients together (by hand) in a large bowl. Shape into a loaf and place in baking dish large enough for vegetables..Top the meat loaf with 1 small can of tomato sauce. Roll the potatoes and carrots in 2 teaspoons of melted margarine or use olive oil (this helps them to soften as they bake). Place in baking dish around meat loaf, season with salt and pepper to taste. Bake for approximately an hour and 15 minutes in a 350°F oven or until done. To make a smaller loaf, cut recipe in half. Remember recipes are only a guide. There is always room for improvement. Now head for the kitchen! P.S. Make the big one; it makes wonderful sandwiches. ■

President's Message - Continued from Page 2

learning. Each month, you can explore a different aspect of your community by doing your own research, attending an event, or getting involved as a volunteer. It's most important to make time to learn about aspects of the community you are not normally exposed to. This leads to a broader understanding of the people and systems around you. If we all made time for that understanding, I think our community would be a lot better off. ■



COW PIE BINGO

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
Young Farmers & Ranchers
15th Annual Testicle Festival
Saturday, August 26, 2023
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Estrada Deer Camp, 196 Hazel Dell Road, Watsonville
For reservations: [www.eventbrite.com/testicle festival](http://www.eventbrite.com/testicle-festival)
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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
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Save the Date

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

California State Fair

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 30, 2023
Cal Expo, Sacramento

Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17, 2023
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 2, 2023
Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Reno, NV

Agri-Culture

15th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 26, 2023
Estrada Deer Camp

27th Annual Farm Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Location to be determined

I'm a Farm Bureau Member/ Supporter because...



"The Farm Bureau is the effective local voice of agriculture. Our local agriculture is unique. I rely on the Farm Bureau to efficiently inform me how new developments in business and government affect local agriculture. I need to be informed and understand, The Farm Bureau is an important tool to help me do that.."

Alan Smith

Attorney at Law, The Grunsky Law Firm PC



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Invasive Mosquitoes in Santa Cruz County



The Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control Division of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office helps keep our communities safe through responsible management of mosquitoes and other vectors. A vector is any pest that can spread disease to humans or cause

discomfort or injury.

In October 2022, we received a call about mosquitoes aggressively bothering a resident while spending time in their yard (at all times of day). Follow-up surveillance traps were set, and we collected a species that had not yet been found in Santa Cruz County: the invasive mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. *Aedes aegypti*, commonly known as the Yellow Fever mosquito, is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the world where it is a vector for diseases such as Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, and Zika. Although this invasive mosquito has made its home in various parts of California in the past decade, we have thankfully not yet seen local transmission of these diseases.

Invasive *Aedes aegypti* is still a threat though, even in the absence of current disease transmission in California. These mosquitoes specialize in living among humans and are a nuisance that can leave painful itchy bites. *Aedes aegypti* are out at all times of day (not just dusk and dawn like our native mosquitoes), require less than a bottle cap's worth of water to reproduce, and lay eggs that can lie dormant for years in our belongings. Although there is no disease transmission by *Aedes aegypti* in California at this time, the risk will remain wherever a population of these mosquitoes exists: it could simply require a person, who has been infected with Dengue or Chikungunya while traveling, to return home to their neighborhood that has an active *Aedes aegypti* infestation.

Since finding *Aedes aegypti* in Santa Cruz County, our mosquito program has expanded to help fight this dangerous mosquito. We work closely with the residents in the detection area as we conduct State-mandated surveillance, focus on eliminating this mosquito species, and look for it in other areas of the county to monitor for spread. The greatest challenge in

controlling this mosquito is its cryptic behavior and expert ability to live among our homes and neighborhoods. We have adapted our surveillance and control tactics to combat this new mosquito, however our agency's efforts alone are not enough—we need the public's help.

All residents are encouraged to be on the look-out and report unusual or elevated mosquito activity around their home to their local Mosquito & Vector Control, especially if the mosquitoes are active at all times of day or are found inside the home. Other good mosquito prevention habits that work to exclude both native and invasive mosquitoes include:

- Eliminating standing water around the household and yard
- Refreshing birdbaths or pet water bowls at least once a week to disrupt mosquito breeding
- Using pumps/aerators/free mosquito-eating fish for ponds or unused pools or spas
- Be aware of belongings that can carry water when travelling throughout the State

Community participation is key to prevent the spread of invasive mosquitoes and reduce the potential transmission of serious disease viruses.

For more information on these exotic mosquitoes and where they can be found in California, visit the California Department of Public Health website at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Aedes-aegypti-and-Aedes-albopictus-mosquitoes.aspx>

For more information about mosquitoes and other vectors in our County, or to order free mosquito-eating fish, visit the Mosquito and Vector Control Division website at: <http://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/MosquitoAbatementVectorControl.aspx> ■

Privacy



Is it OK for people and businesses to use technology to secretly record the conversations of possible adversaries or witnesses so that if the person's story changes, the recording can be used as evidence? It used to be occasional and now seems to be more common, probably due to the increase in easy-to-use technology, often in smartphones, remote microphones, and tiny cameras.

Such recordings are not only inadmissible as evidence in California courts but illegal to obtain. This article is intended to describe the statutes and case law applicable to the secret recording of conversations.

California has some of the strongest wiretapping laws in the US: absent consent of all parties, such conversations are not admissible as evidence, and it is a crime to obtain. Damages are often hard to prove in such cases so the statutes include a multiplier of damages should an unauthorized recording case be brought by the non-consenting party. Given the cost of litigation and the fact that the act is a crime, the exposure can be significant.

The statutes also protect consumers in a world of mass telemarketing. Contracts were sometimes claimed to have been made by customers in telephone calls and "proven" by secret recordings. That type of practice was eliminated but the law went much further in its effects.

California Law Penal Code § 632, the California Invasion of Privacy Act, makes it illegal for an individual to eavesdrop or record a "confidential communication" whether the conversation is carried on among the parties in person or by telephone, or another device. California is a "two-party" state. This means that recordings are not allowed unless all parties to the conversation consent.

Subdivision (c) of § 632 defines, "confidential communication" as a communication carried on in circumstances as may reasonably indicate that any party to the communication desires it to be confined to the parties. The definition excludes communications in a public gathering or in any legislative, judicial, executive, or administrative proceeding open to the public, or in any other circumstance in which the parties to the communication

may reasonably expect that the communication may be overheard or recorded.

Under Section 632.7, it is illegal to record conversations where one or both parties to the call are on a cell phone. Section 632.7 does not have a confidentiality requirement; it is prohibited to record or eavesdrop on any cellular or cordless telephone call without providing a warning.

Sections 632 and 632.7 are just two of many state and federal laws that protect the privacy of Californians. The California Legislature has passed laws to protect residents and consumers in contexts including electronics (smart TVs), automobiles (license plate information; "black boxes"), radio frequency identification (RFID) data; and many others.

Violation of Penal Code § 632 can lead to a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or imprisonment for up to a year. The violator may also be subject to civil liability of \$5,000 or three times the amount of any actual damages sustained.

Subdivision (II)(A)(5) of California Public Utilities Commission General Order 107-B allows recording if there is a "beep tone" warning. This requires an automatic beep that occurs in the conversation during the entire recording and is supposed to provide notice and demonstrate consent.

Section 632 has uncertainty. Such recordings are perfectly legal if the parties did not reasonably expect privacy. The court decides what is reasonable. Cases often involve conversations on street corners by passers-by or in restaurants or bars. The question is: would an average person consider the contents of the conversation to be private? Presence in a public place does not mean there is no expectation of privacy. Many private conversations occur over a restaurant table. The person recording such conversations bears the risk if consent is not clearly obtained.

Telephone conversations are almost always considered "private" conversations. Ambiguous references to possible recording is not consent. Consent should be clear and unambiguous. If consent is clearly given, the "beep" noise is not required.

It is disappointing to learn that not only can you not use the recording as evidence to prove your case, but the recording exposes you to civil and criminal liability. You could find that instead of using the recording to prove your case, you have to defend a charge of violating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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PRIVACY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the law. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

The urge to use technology to prove one's case is compelling. Managers and employers are tempted to use technology to find out "what is happening" on the job.

Sections 632 and 632.7 also prohibit persons outside of California from recording conversations with California residents without their knowledge or consent. This was the decision of the California Supreme Court in July 2006 in *Kearney v. Salomon Smith Barney, Inc.* In *Kearney*, the California Supreme Court held that California's more restrictive law took precedence over that of Georgia, a one-party recording state because otherwise California's interest in protecting its residents' privacy would be impaired more than any interests of Georgia.

Privacy laws are powerful. Even if criminal prosecutions are few and far between, the evidence developed is tainted, your reputation is at risk, and the Judge and jury are unlikely to ever hear it, much less support that approach. One cannot use it to threaten the other side with exposure since that very threat is based on an illegal act and could be considered extortion.

There are better ways to seek to develop good evidence. Bring a reliable witness with you. If you expect admissions, eavesdropping negates consent so make sure the witness is not in hiding. The witness can be listening in on an extension if it is clear that others are on the line, or in the room when the speakerphone is on. But whether you find an alternative method or not, do not violate the law to develop evidence of extremely limited value. ■

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CALENDAR

FRIDAY - AUGUST 23

Focus Agriculture, Session 7

SATURDAY - AUGUST 26

15th Annual Testicle Festival

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 7

Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 20

Focus Agriculture, Session 8

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 4

Policy & Resource
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FRIDAY - OCTOBER 13

Focus Agriculture, Session 9

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21

27th Annual Farm Dinner

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