

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication

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

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32nd Annual Golf Tournament And the winners are...



Congratulations to the 32nd Annual Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Golf Tournament winner, AVID Water, 1st place net. Team members were Saul Medrano, Ryan Pehle, Noel Isla and Isreal Nava. See additional winners on page 11.

President's Message: Membership Matters



**Dennis Webb,
President**

Every time I attend a public meeting, I'm reminded of the importance of a strong, organized voice for agriculture. That's what the Farm Bureau is. It's not a club, and it's not

who farm, ranch and manage working lands in one of the most complicated places in the country to do it.

Being a member means you're part of that coalition. It means you recognize that while every crop and operation is different, we share a common need: to be able to make a living from the land.

a social group (though we do enjoy our gatherings). It's a working coalition of people

Membership matters because people listen differently when we show up

Continued on Page 2

Don't Get
Left Out! Get
your tickets
now.

You're Invited! So get your tickets early!

17th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Estrada Deer Camp



29th Annual Farm Dinner

Friday,
October 10, 2025
You don't want
to miss it!

President's Message - Continued from Page 1

together. When Farm Bureau directors speak at a County hearing, or when our Executive Director writes a letter, it carries weight. Not because we shout the loudest - we don't. Rather, it's because we represent real people, with real operations, and deep roots in this county.

It also matters behind the scenes. Our staff tracks policies and proposals that most of us wouldn't see coming until they were already a problem. That early warning allows us to respond, not react. Whether it's nitrate rules, road access, land use policy, or groundwater planning, Farm Bureau helps us stay ahead of the curve.

For working producers, the value is practical. Farmers can't afford to be in every meeting or read every policy draft.

But as members, we pool our resources so that someone is in the room, paying attention, and keeping us informed.

This year, we've had strong representation from all corners of the ag community: berries, vegetables, livestock, timber, cannabis, organic growers, apples. That diversity makes us better. We don't agree on everything, and that's fine. But we do agree that agriculture has a future here in Santa Cruz County if we keep working together to defend it.

If you're reading this and you're already a member, thank you. You're part of what keeps this organization going. If you're not a member yet, consider joining. It's not just about what Farm Bureau can do for you - it's about what we can do together.



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• **Congratulation to our
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Festival - August 23, 2025**

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ASK BRIAN

Brian Woodward, PhD, UCCE Forest Advisor
Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County

How Can I Best Prepare My Property For Wildfire

Q. How can I best prepare my property, including buildings and forestland, for wildfire?

A. With fire season just around the corner, I've received several recent questions about preparing small to mid-sized forested properties, farms, and ranches for wildfire. While wildfire risk in our region is unavoidable, proper stewardship of your forest and infrastructure can significantly reduce your risk if a fire comes near.

I always say to make sure your house is in order first, and I mean that literally. One of the simplest ways to reduce wildfire risk and minimize losses is to prepare your structures, including your home, barn, or outbuildings. This includes hardening structures through simple design modifications and creating defensible space by consciously removing and managing vegetation.

Once your house is in order, it's time to implement broader stewardship of your forestland to reduce fuels, lower wildfire risk, and promote long-term forest health. Activities supporting these goals include forest thinning, prescribed fire, targeted grazing, woody vegetation management, and maintaining strategic fuel breaks. These practices can help reduce fuel continuity and improve firefighting access to your property.

While I can't cover all these strategies here, our friends at the UCCE Fire Network have put together fantastic materials on land stewardship and vegetation management specifically tailored for forested properties, farms, and ranches. I encourage you to explore these resources and reach out to me or our local fire advisor for further assistance: <https://ucanr.edu/statewide-program/ucanr-fire-network/defensible-space-farms-or-ranches>. ■

You Are Invited to Join



Unique Experiences

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**Giraffe tongues can be
20 inches long. The tongues' dark
bluish-black color probably
helps prevent sunburn.**

Excerpts from the Readers Digest

THE WATER NANNY

Cutting Edge Change

In July we celebrated our country's birthday, a mythical Santa Cruz County permit streamlining process, and the eventual end of flood control for Pajaro. We also experienced mass, understandable, hysteria by our field crews every time a helicopter or armored SUV drives by.

Locally three big issues will impact us. First is the decadal realization by the Santa Cruz County Supervisors that the county permit and planning process is "costly, time consuming, and exasperating". Some of the comments by the public could not be printed, as this is a family oriented Furrows. They vowed change, complete with hiring a business consultant. Second, the State has reduced CEQA mandates for new buildings in urban areas, which may allow more apartments and low income housing, in the future. Third, and more important for Pajaro and Watsonville, the Army Corps of Engineers funding for the levee has been eliminated by DOGE, or Congress, who never experienced a natural disaster. It is unclear if the ongoing work on the Corralitos/Salsipuedes Creek will be completed, but levee restoration on the Pajaro, with multiple failed levees, mostly funded by the Corps, is totally back on the counties and state.

Automatons were a big hit 150 years ago; wind up mechanical devices that allowed toy dolls to dance a jig, or the Boardwalk's Laughing Sal to amaze us at the beach. Now we have driverless Waymos piloting the hills of San Francisco, and Amazon has over one million unsupervised robot vehicles in distribution centers, many in California. For years farming centers in California have had expositions of automated tractors that can zap weeds, plow fields and shake almonds out of their trees. These are great inventions, but they are expensive and come with extensive labor restrictions

from CalOSHA. One of the largest impediments to automation is the requirement for an operator to be present with the tractor, because to do otherwise would be a safety hazard, even if there are no other employees in the field.

Larry Jacobs, your 2025 Farmer of the Year, articulated on TV why this California 50 year old regulation (1975 was before portable computers, maybe even computers) should be abandoned, allowing adoption of labor saving driverless tractors in California. Well said, after all nationally there are over 88,000 unfilled ag jobs, before the new INS deportations.

News Flash: USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins stated on July 8th that "there will be "no amnesty" for migrants and mass deportations will continue to achieve a "100% American workforce. ... Ultimately, the answer on this is automation, also some reform within the current governing structure, and then also, when you think about that there are 34 million able-bodied adults in our Medicaid program, there are plenty of workers in America. ... So, no amnesty under any circumstances, mass deportations continue, but in a strategic and intentional way, as we move our workforce towards more automation and towards a 100% American workforce."

It takes quite a while to manufacture new robotic equipment, millions will be necessary, as a workforce of former Medicaid recipients is not a viable source of labor in rural ag areas. Maybe only 2 million people nationally are actual unemployed and healthy enough for a full time job, much less field work, most live in the cities. Of course, Secretary Rollins knows all about farming, during the egg shortage, and in her official capacity, she recommended we all start raising our own hens as an alternative. "It's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt" and "Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself." (Mark Twain) ■





FAVORITE RECIPES

Creamy Pasta with Asparagus & Smoked Fish

This recipe was given to me by Frannie Colendich. It is a fast and fresh, easy, delicious recipe for dinner any night. Hope you'll give it a try, sit back and enjoy paired with a lovely glass of white wine. Yum!

12 ounces of pasta, such as bucatini, penne or farfalle

1 cup heavy cream

8 ounces asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces

4 to 6 ounces smoked fish, such as trout or salmon, skin removed and flaked into pieces

2 lemons, zested and juiced

Cook the pasta according to package directions.

Drain pasta, reserving 1/4 cup cooking liquid. Add cream to pasta pot. Bring to boiling. Add asparagus, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper. Reduce heat to medium, simmer, uncovered, 3 minutes or until asparagus is bright green. Add pasta and fish. Heat through, Stir in lemon zest and juice. Add cooking liquid until sauce reaches desired consistency. Season to taste. Serves 6

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau CULTURE

- The SCCFB is firm in its **COMMITMENT** to provide responsive and effective services to its members, and to be a positive and integral part of the broader community through collaboration, education and social interaction.
- The SCCFB grows on a foundation of **TRUST**, bringing expertise, experience and good faith action to bear on topics related to agriculture, which can be relied upon by farmers, the agricultural community, and the community at large.
- The SCCFB honors and keeps its **TRADITION** of service to the diverse people, commodities and production systems that comprise the unique and complex agriculture community in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.



Being a Member Pays Off!

BECOME A FARM BUREAU MEMBER

Join the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau



The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau is an important voice for the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley agriculture industry. Everyone is eligible to be a member 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
sccfb@sbcglobal.net
(831) 724-1356
(831) 818-1193 - Text



Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

Santa Cruz County Fair

Wednesday, September 10 to Sunday, September 14, 2025
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Annual Directors' Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2025
Location to be determined

CFBF Annual Meeting

TBD

Agri-Culture

17th Annual Testicle Festival

Saturday, August 23, 2025
Estrada Deer Camp

29th Annual Farm Dinner

Friday, October 10, 2025
Land Trust Little Bee Barn

I am a Farm Bureau member because...



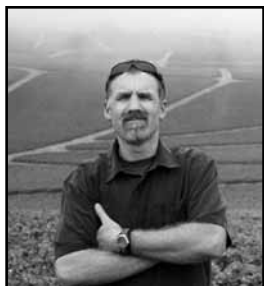
Mara Miller-Spahn
Royal Oaks Farms LLC
Rancho Royal Oaks, LLC

I joined the Farm Bureau because our family has long had ties with the Farm Bureau, as my father was a past president. I realize the importance of the Farm Bureau to our business and wanted to carry on the legacy of preserving family farms and what they bring to the community.



Come Celebrate
Agriculture With Us!

Safe and Effective Pre-Plant Field Fumigations



David Sanford

Late summer to early fall is a period when some berry growers in Santa Cruz County are planning pre-plant soil fumigation as part of their field preparation for next year's planting season. Growers intending to fumigate must have a Restricted Materials Permit from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office

and are required to submit site-specific work plans for any proposed fumigations. It is essential to include accurate maps of both the application site and the surrounding areas with the work plan and the final Notice of Intent (NOI) for the fumigation.

The details necessary for the work plan and NOI are extensive, addressing all fumigant label requirements alongside state regulations and specific permit conditions established by our department. Compiling a fumigation work plan and NOI necessitates careful consideration to ensure compliance with site-specific conditions and the fumigant used. Typically, these tasks are performed by the fumigation company's Pest Control Adviser (PCA) on behalf of the grower. This delegation enables growers to maintain focus on their various production responsibilities, while the PCA prepares and submits the required documentation for the proposed fumigation. Nonetheless, it remains crucial for growers to collaborate closely with their PCAs and maintain consistent communication during the development of the fumigation work plan and prior to the submission of the NOI. Clear communication between growers and PCAs is vital to ensure accuracy regarding factors such as site characteristics, application rates, buffer zones, acreage, and the timing of the fumigation.

To protect your workers and neighboring growers, here are key elements to consider:

- Provide a minimum of 48 hours notification to adjacent growers, businesses or residents that have given you fumigation buffer zone encroachment or property vacating agreements.
- Ensure that buffer zone postings on neighboring fields and properties are in place before the fumigation starts

and that they remain in place for 48 hours following completion.

- Ensure your employees are aware of areas under your control that will be fumigated and areas that are off limits due to the fumigation. Work with your PCA to post buffer zone signs in areas under your control to ensure your employees do not enter or park vehicles in buffer zone areas.
- Monitor the weather conditions at least 48 hours before the fumigation and on the day of the fumigation. Pay close attention to any forecasted temperature inversions or wind advisories and plan accordingly. If you suspect the weather may impact the safety and effectiveness of the fumigation, work with your PCA to reschedule the job for another day.
- Be proactive. If you suspect there is a problem at your fumigated field that could lead to the exposure of nearby fieldworkers, contact the grower to get those workers away from the area, and contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- If a fumigation tarp is compromised (e.g., hole in the tarp, tarp pulling out of the soil, large bubbles, torn tarp) contact your PCA and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office immediately.
- Remember that when an employee complains of pesticide related symptoms or exposure that might reasonably be expected to lead to an employee's illness, the grower (employer) is responsible for ensuring that the employee is taken to a physician immediately.
- Work with your PCA to comply with all Mandatory Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) required on the fumigant product label, including proper soil preparation and soil moisture to ensure safe and effective fumigation.

Growers and their licensed applicators must consistently assess surrounding properties before and during the application of field fumigants, or any other agricultural pesticides, and must conduct pest control carefully and effectively. It is crucial to always remember that agricultural pesticide applications must prioritize safety above all else. ■

NEWS FROM RCD, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Written by Cameron McDonald, Agriculture Program Specialist
Resource Conservation District, Santa Cruz County

“Planning For Smarter, Not Harder: Irrigation System Design & Selection”

It is a beautiful and exciting time of year! Fields are filled with crops, production is in full swing. Growers are planning fall field preparations and are beginning to purchase equipment that will be used in future seasons. This is the time for improvements to irrigation systems that would be more difficult to make mid-season when crops are in the ground. Before purchasing new equipment or installing a new irrigation system, it is worth considering the different options available. Are there different ways to be more efficient? What could work better next year?

Irrigation system components, water, energy and labor are becoming increasingly more expensive. Oftentimes the initial costs will give growers “sticker shock”. This can result in buying undersized or cheaper components or reusing worn out equipment. However, these higher initial costs can often be offset by higher potential efficiencies, yields, and better crop quality that can lead to an improved return on investment over time.

A key consideration would be purchasing the correct pipe or oval hose size. It is not uncommon to see undersized pipes or oval hoses. This can lead to friction loss and pressure variations that cause low uniformity. Using the correct size hoses and pipes minimizes pressure loss throughout the system. This means each emitter is operating under the same pressure delivering similar flowrates to all areas of the field (even the furthest beds), leading to a higher distribution uniformity (DU). When crops are being irrigated with a higher DU it helps reduce water use and improves scheduling. The diameter of pipes should be sized based on pipe length and flowrate. A correctly sized irrigation line can lead to less irrigation “sets” being run, saving on labor and reducing energy costs by decreasing the overall run time.

Another consideration when purchasing drip tape, would be matching **application rate** (in/hr) to **soil type** (e.g infiltration rate). Heavy clay-based soils have a much lower infiltration rate and higher water holding capacity. In this case it is more important to use low flow tape or sprinklers with a lower application rate. This results in more efficient water use, decreased runoff, and optimal crop growth. Sand has a much higher infiltration rate and drainage capability, but a much lower water holding capacity than clay. In this case a higher

application rate (high flow) drip tape could be appropriate but would also require different irrigation scheduling. In general, sandy soil needs more frequent, shorter irrigations, and clay soils should be irrigated less frequently.

Other components that can pay off in the long run are parts such as pressure regulators, check valves, pressure compensating (PC) tape (to deal with challenging slopes) and others.

Our team at the RCD is happy to assist with design considerations for your site-specific needs. To learn more and connect with RCD programs and services contact: Cameron McDonald (cmcdonald@rcdsantacruz.org), Dan Hermstad at (dhermstad@rcdsantacruz.org), or Sacha Lozano at (slozano@rcdsantacruz.org). The RCD also has programs related to forest health, fire prevention and environmental restoration. You can learn more about all our work at www.rcdsantacruz.org. All RCD services and programs are voluntary and non-regulatory. ¡Hablamos Español!org. All RCD services and programs are voluntary and non-regulatory. **¡Hablamos Español!** ■



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

**“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality
to be experienced.”
—Unknown**

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Celebrating Local Agriculture Placemat Sponsorship Form

Deadline: Friday, August 8, 2025



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More Golf Tournament Winners!



2nd Place Net - Pacific Ag Pak
David Baum, Charlie Staka, Mark Hiura, Ron Harris



3rd Place Net - Gonzales Irrigation
Jeff Rianda, Hector Marquez, Wade Rianda, Dru Holquin



Low Gross - West Coast Community Bank
Fred Caiocca, Greg Mainis, Chris Hogan, Bryon Finney



Closest to the Pin - Michael Hearne (L)
Sundance Berry Farms



Mens Longest Drive winner - Noel Isla
AVID Water



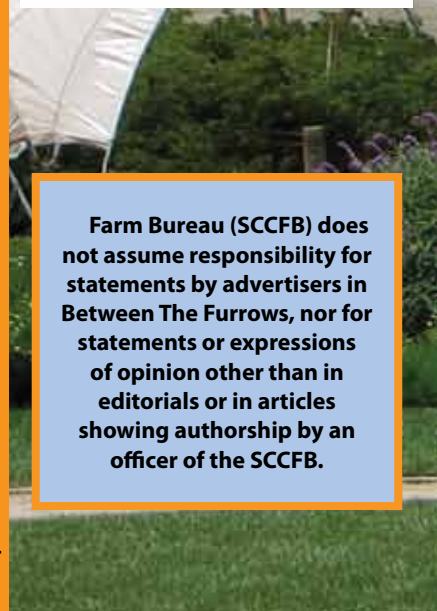
Womens Longest Drive winner - Stephanie Kleiner
Driscoll's

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY - AUGUST 7
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 20
Focus Agriculture, Session 7

SATURDAY - AUGUST 23
16th Annual Testicle
Festival

THURSDAY - AUGUST 28
Board of Directors' meeting

MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 1
Labor Day Observed
Office closed

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 4
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 10 - 14
Santa Cruz County Fair

WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 10
Opening Day Barbeque

WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 10
Apple Pie Baking Contest

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 25
Board of Directors' meeting

FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 26
Focus Agriculture, Session 8

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 2
Policy & Resource
Committee meeting

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 10
Agri-Culture's Farm Dinner

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 24
Focus Agriculture, Session 9

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 30
Board of Directors' meeting

Between the Furrows

A Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly Publication



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