

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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Establish or Support an Endowment Fund with Agri-Culture

Agri-Culture, formed in 1990, is an organization dedicated to educating the public about agriculture. It's circle of influence originally was Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley, but two years ago widened its boundaries to include Santa Clara County.

Educating the public about agriculture is important to the farming community. To help carry out the mission of the organization, various endowment funds have been established.

The money for the funds are from individuals, families and businesses that would like to see a particular area of agricultural education, farmworker housing, and land preservation funded. These funds help ensure that agriculture remain a viable industry in Santa Cruz County.

Agri-Culture President, Steve Bontadelli, stated "Agri-Culture wished to thank those who have established funds. We encourage others to do the same, or support an existing fund." Bontadelli further stated, "Our staff can work with individuals, families and businesses to establish a fund that best fits the purpose of the proposed gift."

All of the endowment funds are housed at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. An insert has also been placed inside this newsletter for your convenience.

All twelve existing funds are:

Farmworker Housing Agriculture Education Fund: This fund provides loans for the construction of farm labor housing. Since its inception, loans have exceeded \$700,000:

helping make 185 new units available to farm workers and families in Santa Cruz County/Pajaro Valley

J. J. Crosetti, Jr. Memorial Fund: This fund was established with a \$25,000 gift from the sister and three daughters of JJ Crosetti, Jr. This is a two-part fund. The first half is to be used as a scholarship to encourage and support the youth going into the field of agriculture. The second half of the fund is to be used as a grant for local organizations who support local farmers.



"Communicating Agriculture"

Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness.

(A quote from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, 1787)

Jeannie Witmer Memorial Scholarship Fund: This fund was established in 2009. To be eligible, students must currently (or the past) be active in California High School Rodeo Association, District 4 or California 4-H Horse program, may apply for this scholarship to be used at a college, or professional technical school of choice.

Sand Hill Bluff Conservation Easement Monitoring Fund: This fund provides financial support to Agri-Culture to monitor the conservation easement held by the organization on Sand Hill Bluff.

Santa Clara County Agriculture Education Fund: The Agricultural Education in Santa Clara County Fund was established to provide financial support for agricultural education programs and projects in Santa Clara County.

Dottie Tyler Fund for Agrarian Oral History: This fund was established in memory of Dottie Tyler with a gift of \$25,000 from her daughter, [Ag Education- Continued on Page 7](#)

President's Message

THOMAS BROZ, PRESIDENT



We Are All In This Together – Happy New Year!

As we approach the end of another seasonal cycle, we slow down to acknowledge the agricultural abundance of our farms and ranches and the community of people who dedicate their lives to support the health of our industry. There is never a better time to give thanks for this bounty as when we gather around a meal with family and friends.

2017 has been an important landmark as we celebrated our 100th anniversary. It is testimony to the county's rich agricultural tradition, but also confirms the organization's role in supporting the interests of agriculture upon which the continued wellbeing of our community depends.

As we look ahead, Farm Bureau's work is more important than ever on issues affecting farmland protection, groundwater management, urban and agriculture interface, transportation, crop protection, food safety, ag education and probably the most challenging issue of all at the moment (besides climate change), the shortage of reliable and skilled agricultural workers.

To a large extent, the continued success of growing high value and labor-intensive crops in our county will depend on strategies that improve the benefits, incomes and working conditions that will attract, retain and reward agricultural employees. Farmers and ranchers will not only depend

on improved agricultural technologies and mechanization, favorable immigration policies and more affordable housing, but inevitably will have to continue to increase wages that meet the high cost of living in our region.

As we look ahead to 2018 and beyond, SCCFB is committed to lead and continue to help meet the agricultural challenges we face. We invite everyone to join us in this important work as we rely on the innovative and resourceful contributions of all involved.

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

“ As we look ahead to 2018 and beyond, SCCFB is committed to lead and continue to help meet the agricultural challenges we face. We invite everyone to join us in this important work as we rely on the innovative and resourceful contributions of all involved.”

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ASK LAURA

Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor, UCCE

“Supplemental Chill”

Q. Can you explain a little bit more about what “supplemental chill” is in berries? I know it’s an important step of berry culture, but I just don’t understand what it really means.

A. Supplemental chill, also known as cold conditioning, which you refer to, takes place after harvest of the transplants, which have gone dormant because of their exposure to the decreasing daylength and lower temperatures of the nursery fields of Northern California where they are grown. Postharvest supplemental chill occurs in a constant near freezing temperature, in the dark and when the transplant has no to very few leaves left on it.

What supplemental chill is actually doing is breaking plant dormancy, which in turn promotes vegetative growth and slows down flowering. Petioles grow longer, leaf blades get bigger and more runners are formed as dormancy is broken. All of this is consistent with the industry understanding that a longer period of supplemental chill results in more plant vigor, again meaning more vegetative growth and less fruiting. The challenge for the berry grower is to strike a balance between the vigor of vegetative growth and fruiting.

Growers already know this, but berry cultivars vary greatly in their sensitivity to the dormancy breaking supplemental chill. Generally speaking, short day strawberry varieties need very little supplemental chill – something on the order of one to three days - to break dormancy and in fact most become tremendously vegetative with an excess of chill. In contrast, day neutral varieties need substantially more chill, most

often in the range of one to two weeks, to develop the normal balance of vigor and fruiting following planting. Since longer periods of chill are associated with greater vegetative vigor, organic growers tend to assign their plants somewhat longer periods of chill, in the range of 30% longer, so as to enable the plant to handle less hospitable soil environments.

The above has been a brief guide to understanding supplemental chill in berries. Please contact Mark Bolda at UCCE Santa Cruz if you have more questions on this topic or any other topics concerning blackberry, raspberry or strawberry production.



Just before Christmas, two brothers were spending the night at their Grandma’s house. At bed time, they knelt down to say their prayers.

As they closed their eyes, one boy said in a loud voice, “Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Wii, a telescope and a new bike.”

His older brother said, “Why are you shouting? God isn’t deaf.”

“I know,” said his brother, “but Grandma is.”

THE WATER NANNY

Reefer Madness or Bags of Cash

Back in my salad days booze was illegal and marijuana wasn't. Back even further, growing hemp was encouraged in the colonies for the production of rope and cloth. Virginia in 1619 passed a law requiring every farmer to grow hemp. Hemp could be used as legal tender in three colonies. Time passed and the Mexican Revolution in 1910 caused a "flood" of Mexicans (obviously no wall) into the U.S, along with the first recreational marijuana. The 30's brought the Depression, and a new fear of immigrants, the Marijuana Menace was born. Reefer Madness was released in 1936.

From 1919 to 1933 the U.S. was dry. This resulted in great material mobster movies, landing of boot leg booze in Davenport and a "tea room" at Deer Park. It ended, not out of a change in moral values, but because the brewers, who staunchly resisted taxation before prohibition, encouraged taxes on legal alcohol to feed government coffers during the Depression. Marijuana, on the other hand became a Schedule I drug in 1970, joining LSD and heroin, meaning it has "no medical use" and a lack of accepted safety under medical supervision. As a result revenue is not "bankable", cash is king.



Christmas will come a little late this year for some in Santa Cruz County. The new California adult recreational cannabis law becomes effective the first of the year. Anticipation of this proverbial date has caused a land rush on old greenhouses in Monterey County, and it has also awakened governments at every level to the tax value of a well rolled joint. As farmers, we too have recognized the value of a new crop. ABC News determined that in the U.S. "marijuana production, at a value of \$35.8 billion, exceeds the combined value of corn (\$23.3 billion) and wheat (\$7.5 billion)."

California is the fifth or sixth state to legalize recreational marijuana; oops, it's now called cannabis, seems more wholesome and retail ready. While Santa Clara County has banned commercial grows, it mandated that its dispensaries source their pot from adjacent counties. Harborside, maybe the largest medicinal dispensary with stores in Oakland and San Jose, has a 700,000 sq.ft. greenhouse in Salinas to fill

the demand. Watsonville has seven indoor grows. Both Watsonville and Monterey County have new municipal revenue as a result. Santa Cruz County, late to the trough, will adopt a cannabis scheme early in 2018. Every politician dreams of a new source of tax revenue, cannabis taxes are the future.

To maximize tax returns and create the highest level of regulatory chaos, the cannabis trade is broken down into four categories, growing, retail stores (not to mention recreational pleasure palaces), manufacturing (creating consumer ready products) and distribution. Each is taxed, and each is taxed by multiple State agencies and local jurisdiction. For reasons that no farmer can fathom, taxes on cultivation are measured by the flowering plant canopy. The maximum size for an indoor grow in Watsonville is 5,000 sq.ft, of canopy which pays \$100,000 per year. Monterey bills out at \$15/sq.ft. per year. Remember, this is only the farm gate tax and many more taxes will add into the final manicured retail sale.



The State of California may be the biggest beneficiary. The Emergency Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulations were released on November 16th. CDFA will regulate grows, Dept. of Public Health gets manufacturing and Bureau of Cannabis Control (way too 1984) has oversight of stores. Here are the dry numbers. The State Water Board will charge each grow \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$10,000 depending on the threat level. The CDFA fee structure is something only an accountant could appreciate. There are a plethora of categories including Specialty Cottage, Specialty, Small and Medium. Each is broken down into outdoor, indoor and mixed (greenhouse). Application fees range from \$135 to \$8,655 plus annual fees of \$1,205 to \$77,905, most likely all paid with grocery bags of cash. On top of that is a tax of \$9.25 per ounce of trimmed bud.

"Finding things to tax is becoming quite a problem. You see when taxes first started, (who started 'em anyhow?) Noah must have taken into the ark two taxes, one male and one female, and did they multiply bountifully! Next to guinea pigs, taxes must have been the most prolific of animals." (Will Rogers, 1934)



FAVORITE RECIPES

Molasses Cookies

2 cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 3/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground ginger
3/4 cup butter, melted
1 cup plus 1/3 cup sugar, divided
1 egg, room temperature
1/4 cup molasses

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves and ginger; set aside. In medium bowl, with an electric mixer on low speed, blend together the melted butter, 1 cup sugar and egg until smooth. Stir in molasses. With the mixer still on low speed, gradually add the flour mixture to molasses mixture and mix until completely combined. Cover and chill dough in refrigerator for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Roll dough into walnut size balls, using a cookie scoop if available. Roll each ball in remaining sugar. Place 2 inches apart on a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake 8 - 10 minutes just until tops are cracked all over, but cookies are still a bit gooey inside the center cracks. Cool on wire racks.

Editor's note: I truly don't remember where this recipe came from, but has been in my recipe box for many years. It's an easy cookie to make for those holiday cookie trays and cookie exchanges. Best yet, it's always tasty!

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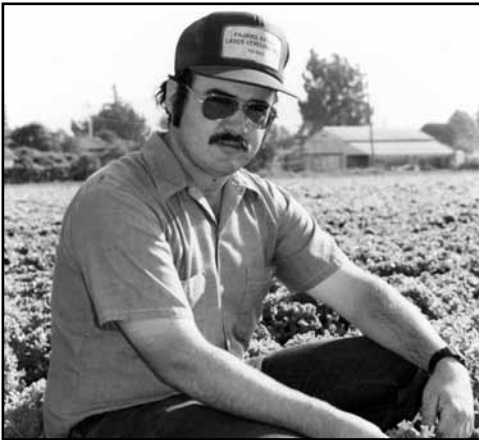
Photo Memories from the Past



From the SCCFB Annual Meeting, 2000 (L-R) Thomas Am Rhein, Sherry Mehl, Kirk Schmidt, Mike Jani, Bob Harris, Elia Vasquez, Michel Theriot and Don Hagerty



(L-R) Clint Miller, 1985 Farmer of the Year and Sherry Mehl

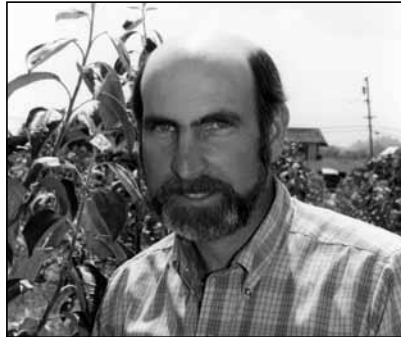


Farm Bureau Presidents and Directors from the Past:

Top L-R: Dick Peixoto, Nita Gizdich and Mike Jani

Center L-R: Kirk Schmidt and Jim Rider

Bottom L-R: Silvia & Frank Prevedelli and John Pisturino



Continued from Page 1

Lynn Sanderson. The purpose is to provide financial support to record, via film or similar medium, subjects of interest to the history of ag and important issues connected to Santa Cruz County ag.

Jimmie Cox Memorial Scholarship Fund: This college scholarship is for students majoring in agriculture. The student must live in either Santa Cruz County or within the boundaries of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District or be a member of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The scholarship has awarded thousands of dollars to college students since its inception.

Peixoto Organic & Sustainable Farming Education Fund: This fund was established with a \$2 million gift from Lakeside Organic Gardens, LLC. The purpose of the fund is to develop an organic and sustainable agricultural learning center in the Pajaro Valley to educate, train, teach or otherwise advance public knowledge of all aspects of organic and sustainable farming practices, including, jobs and career.

Ron and Dottie Tyler Fund for Restored Agrarian Equipment Maintenance: This fund was established with a \$25,000 gift from Lynn Sanderson in memory of Ron & Dottie Tyler. It provides financial support for the ongoing maintenance of restored agrarian equipment such as, but not limited to, tractors, carriages, machinery and implements. The equipment must be connected with agriculture in Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley.

Rose Kevern 25th Anniversary Focus Agri-Culture Fund: Established in memory of long-time employee Rose Kevern. The earnings from this endowed fund will pay for scholarships to participate in Focus Agriculture.

T.H.A.N.K.S. Agricultural Education Fund: The nonprofit T.H.A.N.K.S., which stands for Together Helping Americans Nationwide Keep Strong, transferred its assets to Agri-Culture in May 2013 for the purpose of starting the "T.H.A.N.K.S. Agricultural Education Fund". Its purpose is to provide financial support to Agri-Culture for educational programs administered by the organization.

Watsonville High School Agriculture Education Fund: The purpose of this fund is to help Watsonville High School educational programs train our future leaders in the industry.

Both scholarship applications are available through Agri-Culture, 141 Monte Vista Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076. The phone number is (831) 722-6622, or you may visit our website at www.agri-culture.us

What Diameter Mainline Do I Need? Estimate It From The Dripline Flowrate

Written by Gerry Spinelli,
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

Sizing PVC mainlines for irrigation systems is challenging for designers, since they face the tradeoff between high costs of the pipes (if the diameter is too big) and high pumping costs (if the diameter is too small). A rule of thumb to estimate the correct size of your pipe is keeping the water velocity below 4.5 ft/s. The table below shows the highest flowrate that a PVC pipe of various diameters can carry.

This is just an estimate, for a detailed design of an irrigation system, contact an irrigation engineer.

Diameter	Maximum Flowrate	
inch	gpm	
1	11	To calculate the flowrate of your irrigation system setup in gpm/acre use the following formula: Flowrate = 5227.2 X # of lines per bed X dripline flowrate ÷ bed width in inches.
1.5	25	
2	44	
3	99	Dripline flowrate is expressed in units of in gpm/100ft and can be found on the label of the tape roll.
4	176	
5	275	
6	397	For example, for 2 driptapes/bed, 0.67 gpm/100ft dripline flowrate and 52 inch beds, the formula gives:
8	705	
10	1102	
12	1586	

Flowrate = 5227.2 X 2 X 0.67 ÷ 52 = 134 gpm/acre

Another example, for 48 inch beds with one driptape and a 0.5 gpm/100ft dripline flowrate, the flowrate per acre is:

Flowrate = 5227.2 X 1 X 0.5 ÷ 48 = 54 gpm/acre.

Usually your irrigation system flowrate will be between 50 and 150 gpm/acre.

To calculate the flowrate that a mainline needs to carry, multiply the gpm/acre calculated above by the area of the blocks served by the mainline. For example if the mainline serves 3 blocks of 1.5 acres each (total 4.5 acres), the mainline in the first example needs to carry 4.5 x 134 = 607.5 gpm. According to the table, the mainline must be at least 8 inch in diameter. In the second example, if the mainline serves 4.5 acres, it needs to carry 4.5 X 54 = 243 gpm so a 5 inch mainline would be sufficient.

For more assistance, contact the RCD of Santa Cruz County at (831) 464-2950, info@rcdsantacruz.org

Cannabis Update



In June, the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) was signed into law in California. This law creates a single regulatory system for both medicinal and adult-use (recreational) cannabis. State agencies responsible for regulating cannabis licensing

withdrew their medicinal cannabis regulations and will now be drafting a set of emergency regulations to comply with the new law. The California Department of Food and Agriculture CalCannabis Division anticipates releasing the emergency regulations for cannabis cultivation later this Fall. Any public comments previously provided on the draft medicinal cannabis cultivation regulations will be evaluated and considered for incorporation into the emergency regulations. The emergency regulations will be in effect for 180 days. Adoption of permanent regulations will proceed through the regular rulemaking process giving the public an opportunity to comment, this will take place next year. CalCannabis plans to start issuing temporary cannabis cultivation licenses on January 1, 2018. These temporary licenses will allow businesses to conduct commercial cannabis activities for a period of 120 days. Issuance of a state license is dependent on the applicant having a valid license, permit or authorization from the local jurisdiction in which the business is located. In anticipation of issuing cannabis cultivation licenses, CalCannabis has recently released various informational handouts to get cultivators ready for the license application process. These handouts can be found on the CalCannabis website at www.calcannabis.cdfa.ca.gov The handout titled *A CalCannabis Checklist of Some Steps to Start Working On Today* is of particular importance because it contains a list of various requirements and agency permits cultivators will need to have obtained prior to applying for a license. The application process will be conducted online and cultivators will be able to submit an application prior to January 1, 2018. CalCannabis will be providing license application training to cultivators at various locations throughout the state from late November to early December to help with the application process. To stay informed on the latest cannabis regulatory

requirements and to find the location of a license application training near you please visit the CalCannabis website.

FOOD FOR THUGHT



"A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all, But softly gives itself away;
While quite unselfish, it grows small."

– Eva K. Logue

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"However bad agriculture is today in California, it could be much worse without the Farm Bureau's voice of agriculture in our state."

*Edward Ortega, Past President (2004-2005)
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau*

Proposed State Water Resources Control Board Decision Impacting ALL Irrigated Agriculture in California

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) issued its second draft order on October 10, 2017, revising the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). Although the WDR is part of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Boards' Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) to address runoff from irrigated agriculture, the **proposed revisions will impact ALL irrigated agriculture in California**. These revisions are in response to three petitions the State Water Board received challenging the coalition's WDR.

The draft order goes beyond nitrogen management recommendations from the statutorily mandated Nitrogen Tracking Task Force and Agricultural Expert Panel, and incorporates the State Water Board's own judgment on items such as nitrogen reporting and water quality monitoring.

Opportunities for Public Participation: The State Water Board will hold a workshop with Board members on **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**, commencing at 9:30 a.m. at the Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I Street in Sacramento. Two staff-led workshops will also be held on **Monday, November 27, 2017**, 10:00 a.m. at the Clovis Veterans Community Hall Liberty Hall, 808 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612, and **Thursday, November 30, 2017**, 10:00 a.m. at the Shasta County Board Chambers, 1450 Court Street, Redding, CA 96001.

Written comments on the proposed order must be received by noon on **Friday, December 15, 2017**. The State Water Board will then take final action on the order in a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018**, commencing at 9:30 a.m. at the Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I Street in Sacramento.

Farm Bureau will testify at the Sacramento workshop and the hearing as well as submitting written comments. **Farm Bureau urges all County Farm Bureaus, as well as members, to attend the workshops, public hearing, and submit written comments.** Given the precedential nature of this order, it is important to have a strong agricultural response and turnout. Information on the comment period and public workshops can be found at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/a2239_sanjoaquin_ag.shtml

Statewide Implications: According to the State Water Board, a majority of the components of the draft order are precedential in nature and will apply statewide. Specifically, the draft order would give direction to the Central Valley Water Board and **ALL other Regional Water Boards** to update (or develop) their irrigated lands regulatory programs to be consistent with the draft order. For this reason, the draft order has significant implications for irrigated agriculture statewide and **will directly affect all growers throughout the state** whether enrolled in coalitions or complying as individual dischargers.

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of us
to all of you*



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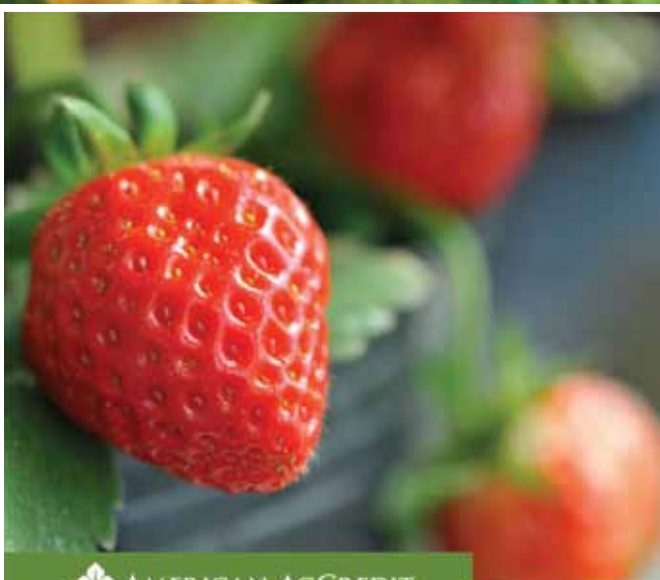


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CALENDAR

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3-6
CFBF Annual Meeting

MONDAY - DECEMBER 25
Christmas Observed
Office Closed

MONDAY - JANUARY 1
New Year's Day Observed
Office Closed

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 3

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

MONDAY - JANUARY 8
Public Relations & Information
Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 10
Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting

MONDAY - JANUARY 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed -
Office Closed

THURSDAY - JANUARY 27
Board Retreat